“Career success is when I give my best and I can see the fruits of my labour. I hope for a stable career and improve in my job. If possible, I would like to bring a smile to people through my work.”
— Miss Rachel Soon, 20, management trainee

“The necessity of a degree depends on what industry you’re in. I need a degree because I feel more assured in having a safety net.”
— Ms Enrico Chan, 25, advertising accounts executive

Salaries can also be measured in terms of personal achievements. Mr Ern Ser said degrees could be seen as a safety net.

Ms Adeline Lin, 24, a graduate from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) in information and digital technologies, said: “A degree helps with the training of one’s brain. Education should be more important than the candidate will have to the organisation’s existence stages that a degree is not everything. The skills and the training help you to go further in life.”

But for most who have a diploma, getting a degree is an essential next step.

The Singapore Association of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) has 1,460 members, said the chairman of the board of directors, Mr Baey Yam Keng, MP for Tampines GRC.

Salary comparison

THE Graduate Employment Survey by the Ministry of Education is conducted annually to find out about the career progress of students six months after they complete their first formal education.

A T H O R S D E F I N I T I O N S

A defensive attitude to the British and American universities held by some Singaporeans is one of the reasons why the nation has not become a country of graduates. The survey showed that graduates from local universities were more satisfied with their jobs than their counterparts from overseas institutions.

But for most who have a diploma, getting a degree is an essential next step.

The Ministry of Education is conducting an annual study of graduates about six months after they complete their first formal education.

A survey by OCBC Bank last year showed that 18 per cent of the university graduates polled wanted to become entrepreneurs after graduation, compared to 26 per cent who preferred a regular job.

One boss

“Personal achievements.”

Job agencies The New Paper spoke to said that while a degree holder will naturally be valued over someone with a diploma, employers do look at the candidate’s portfolio and relevant skills.

Mr Baey said degrees could be seen as a safety net.

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“In October last year, a survey by OCBC Bank saw the emergence of a new “five Cs” – control, confidence, community, bank and I’m my own boss. I feel that success can also be measured in terms of personal achievements.”

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