

## FAQs on PA Scholarship

### Applying for the PA Scholarship

#### 1. When can I apply for the PA Scholarship?

Application for the Undergraduate Scholarship will open in mid-December and close two weeks after the release of 'A' level results in March.

#### 2. What are the scholarship eligibility criteria?

- Singapore Citizens
- Demonstrate leadership qualities, community involvement and a strong interest to serve and make a difference to the community
- Loves to work with people
- Have excellent academic results: 'A' level, polytechnic diploma, undergraduate results and/or other equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate, NUS High diploma).
- Mid Term Scholarship applicants must also:
  - o Have completed at least one semester of your undergraduate studies and not be in your final year of studies.

#### 3. When will I know if I have been short-listed for selection?

The selection process will take place between March and May.

#### 4. What is the selection process like?

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed and thereafter to be assessed by the panel on their suitability.

#### 5. If I'm going for my National Service (NS), do I apply after I have received my GCE 'A' Level results or after I have completed NS?

For male applicants, you do not have to wait until you have completed NS. You can apply as soon as you received your GCE 'A' Level results. If you are successful in your application, an offer will be made to you. Upon accepting our offer, we will hold the scholarship for you until you have completed your NS.

#### 6. Can I defer my NS?

No. You are not allowed to defer NS to take up the Scholarship earlier.

## **Fees & Financial Matters**

### **7. What does the scholarship cover?**

- Full tuition and compulsory fees
- Monthly maintenance allowance
- Pre-studies allowance
- Sponsorship for approved student exchange programme
- Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met)
- Return airfare (for overseas universities)
- Medical/Health insurance (where required by the university)

### **8. How long is the bond?**

Upon completion of their studies, scholars will be bonded with the PA for a period of four years for local scholarship, five years for overseas scholarship (non-English speaking countries) and six years for overseas scholarship (English speaking countries). This is also applicable to mid-term scholars, regardless of the year of study, which the mid-term scholar is awarded the scholarship.

## **The University and Courses I choose**

### **9. What courses does PA support?**

Most disciplines, except Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture and Law.

### **10. What about a Master's degree?**

We encourage scholars to start work with PA after their bachelor degree to gain the important domain knowledge of field work. After working for a few years, the scholar can apply for the PA full-time/part-time in-service scholarship for postgraduate studies. However, overseas scholars who are keen to add diversity and depth to their undergraduate academic experience can apply for sponsorship of Master's programme, subject to considerations like attaining excellent undergraduate results.

### **11. Is there a list of approved universities that I should apply to?**

The undergraduate scholarships are applicable to courses at renowned overseas universities and six local universities, namely National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore Institute of Technology and Singapore University of Social Sciences.

## **Opportunities to experience life in PA (before I start work)**

### **12. Are scholars given the opportunity to intern with PA?**

Yes. As a guide, the first internship should be scheduled in the university break after Year 1, and the second after Year 3. The first internship should be at a CO so as to experience the PA's core business in community development and grassroots engagement. The other internship should be at a Headquarters level division where the scholars will be able to co-organise and understand the upstream programming and downstream implementation of bite-size engagement projects with the ground units.

### **13. What are the various engagement and developmental touchpoints with PA during studies?**

The scholars will:

- Be assigned to a PA buddy during studies. This PA buddy who is a PA staff will be the conduit for PA to engage the scholar;
- Be connected through sharing of scholars' experience in PA Intranet during internships;
- Invited to the annually-held PA Scholarship Awards Ceremony and PA/community events; and
- Invited to join PA Frenz and contribute to PA Facebook.

## **Scholars' Career Development**

### **14. What will the scholars' career development be like?**

The scholars will start their career with the Constituency Office (CO) for ground experience and to learn the general management perspectives of PA through job rotations and leadership developmental programmes. They will be able to tackle policy development better with this experience under their belt. As part of the engagement and developmental plans, scholars will also be actively involved in stretched assignments such as cross-divisional projects. Scholars may also be seconded to other public agencies. Such diverse leadership development opportunities will help them develop both their personal and professional leadership in community development to take on strategic roles in PA.