

Social Service Scholarship FAQ

1. What is the bond period?

Type of Qualification	Local Universities	Overseas Universities
Bachelor Degree	4 years	6 years
Master Program	3 years	4 years

2. What are the courses that are supported?

The Social Service Scholarship supports full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies from local universities or overseas universities recognised by professional accreditation bodies in the following areas:

- Social Work
- Psychology (only applicable for postgraduate studies)
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Physiotherapy

3. Is there a specific list of recognized schools more commonly considered by NCSS if I were to apply for an overseas course?

For the list of recognized qualifications, please refer to the professional accreditation bodies. For social work, please refer to Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW). For therapy studies, please refer to Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC). For psychology, please refer to Singapore Psychological Society (SPS).

4. I am working in the sector, am I eligible?

The Social Service Scholarship is targeted at new entrants. For in-service professionals, you may tap on VCF Training Grants, PDMP or LDP.

5. I am currently working at a VWO as an executive, as I wanted to contribute and gain experience in the social service sector before pursuing my postgraduate degree. However, I will be terminating my employment once I gain admission into a Master programme in order to concentrate on my full-time studies. Would I be eligible for the Social Service Scholarship?

It is not encouraged for in-service professionals to terminate employment so as to be eligible for the Social Service Scholarship. The Social Service Scholarship is a sectoral scholarship i.e. if you are shortlisted and awarded the scholarship, you will be serving bond in one of the member agencies under NCSS. You should discuss with your current employer of your interest to pursue further studies, so that they can plan for your career path. There are available schemes for in-service professionals who wish to pursue further studies or upgrade their skills.

- 6. I recently graduated with a Diploma in Digital Film and Television and have always been passionate about addressing social issues. Is there any scholarship that I might be suitable for?**

You may apply for the SGIS Scholarship that supports management courses.

NCSS partners MOE to offer the SGIS scholarship that supports undergraduate studies in the following areas:

- Business Studies (Marketing / Human Resources / Business Management)
- Communication Studies (Communication Studies / Communications and New Media)

- 7. I am currently a psychologist with a SPED School and am looking to pursue a PhD to further my interest in children with special needs. Does the scholarship applies for PhD studies?**

No, PhD is not supported currently.

- 8. I am commencing course in March, do I apply for the Full-Term Scholarship or Mid-Term Scholarship?**

Please apply for the Full-Term Scholarship if you have yet to commence studies. If you have completed at least one semester, please apply for the Mid-Term Scholarship.

- 9. What does the scholarship package entails?**

The Social Service Scholarship is a 100% sponsorship that covers full tuition fees, monthly allowance, pre-studies allowance, overseas exchange programs, enrichment activity allowance and any other compulsory fees required to complete the course of study.

- 10. When will I be informed of the outcome?**

Applications received by 31 March will be assessed in April / May.

Applications received by 30 September will be assessed in October / November.

Please submit your application via Brightsparks.

We regret to inform that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

- 11. Does the scholarship supports overseas universities?**

Yes, so long the qualification is recognized by the professional accreditation bodies.

- 12. Does the scholarship supports part-time studies?**

No, the Social Service Scholarship supports full-time studies only.

13. What is the selection criteria for scholarship?

To be eligible for the Social Service Scholarship, you must:

- Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident
- Possess excellent GCE 'A' Level, International Baccalaureate (IB), Diploma and/ or University results
- Have applied to a university or gained admission into a recognised Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy or Psychology programme at the point of application
- Demonstrate leadership qualities, community involvement and a strong interest in charting a career in the social service sector

14. What does the mid-term scholarship entails?

The Social Service Scholarship (Mid-Term) covers full tuition fees from Year 1 Semester 1, prorated monthly allowance (from the year of award), pre-studies allowance, overseas exchange programs, enrichment activity allowance and any other compulsory fees required to complete the course of study.

15. What is the minimum criteria to maintain the scholarship?

Scholars are expected to graduate with honours, within the stipulated period of the course.

16. I submitted my application via Brightsparks. Under the "Additional Questions" section, it mentioned reference letters, but there was no indication of a template or where to upload them.

There is no template for reference letters. Please attach referral letters with all supporting documents.

17. How many awards are given out in each window?

The number of awards given out in each window depends on the quality of the candidates.

18. I have not apply for university, can I apply for the scholarship?

Please apply to the university and indicate the course of study and course commencement date, before applying for the Social Service Scholarship.

19. Pertaining to the scholarship applications which require letters from character referees, should my referees want to send in confidential letters via email, to whom should the email go to?

Your referees may email the letters to socialservicescholarships@ncss.gov.sg. Please indicate the name of the candidate, NRIC and the type of scholarship applied.

- 20. If I am a Masters in Clinical Psychology student who started his term in August 2017 and whose first semester ends in December 2017, would I be eligible to apply for the mid-term scholarship for the 30 September 2017 or would I need to wait for the next round in March / April?**

You may apply for the scholarship by 30 September 2017, and will be eligible for the Full-Term Scholarship if you are shortlisted and awarded.

- 21. Are successful applicants allowed to hold concurrent scholarships, with the assurance that there's no double funding? For example, if I was offered a partial scholarship (with no bond requirements) and was successful in the Social Service Scholarship application, am I allowed to be awarded both or would I need to give up the other one?**

No, scholars are not allowed to concurrently hold two scholarships.

- 22. Am I allowed to choose the agency I want to work in upon graduation?**

All scholars will be contacted 3-6 months prior to the completion of their studies. They will be given a voice to indicate their preference for the sub-sectors (namely, Children and Youth, Families, Seniors, Disabilities and Mental Health). The scholarship secretariat will work closely with the scholars on the job posting.