

# A\*STAR Pre-Graduate Scholarship

## 1. Eligibility

1.1 The A\*STAR Pre-Graduate Scholarship is opened to Singaporeans, Singapore Permanent Residents<sup>^</sup>, and nationals of ASEAN countries<sup>^</sup>, who undertake to embark on Ph.D. studies in Engineering and Science disciplines, as approved by A\*STAR.

1.2 Applicants must be full-time second year onwards students from NTU Engineering and Science programmes (as approved by A\*STAR), who are expected to obtain at least Second Class Upper Honours degree.

1.3 Applicants are not allowed by A\*STAR to concurrently hold any scholarship, fellowship, award, bursary or study loan. If they are currently holding Tuition Fee Loan and NTU Study Loan, they are not precluded from applying for the PGS. However, if they are awarded the PGS, they will be asked to give up the Tuition Fee Loan and the NTU Study Loan.

<sup>^</sup> *Must be willing to take up Singapore citizenship if offered A\*STAR scholarships for their Ph.D. studies.*

## 2. Terms and Conditions

2.1 The award covers the following:

- (i) A stipend of \$460, \$560 and \$760 per month for up to 12 months during year 2, year 3 and year 4 respectively of the programme, or up to the date of graduation, whichever is earlier.
- (ii) Tuition fee subsidy for the respective year(s) of award.

2.2 During the period of the award, the recipient may not accept employment, whether or not he/she is remunerated, or hold concurrently any other scholarship, fellowship, award, bursary or study loan without the prior approval of A\*STAR.

2.3 PGS recipients are expected by A\*STAR to attend their events and activities when invited.

2.4 Upon graduation, the award recipients are required to apply for a Ph.D. programme in the month immediately after graduation i.e. January or July for those who graduate in December or June respectively.

2.5 Award recipients are to embark on Ph.D. studies no later than 6 months after obtaining their first degree and should seek scholarships for their graduate programme via the following schemes, in the following order of preferences:

- (i) A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship<sup>^</sup> (AGS)
- (ii) NTU/NUS Research Scholarship (RS)

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2.6 Award recipients are required to submit documentary evidence of enrolment in a Ph.D. programme and the organization sponsoring his/her graduate studies to A\*STAR and NTU within a maximum of 12 months after graduation.

2.7 The University reserves the right to terminate the award:

- (i) At any time without notice if the recipient's progress is not satisfactory or for any misconduct or any other similar causes;
- (ii) At any time without notice if clause 2.2 is not complied with.

2.8 The recipient may terminate the award by giving one month's notice in writing to the University. Refer to para 3 for details.

2.9 The award will cease upon the following:

- (i) Lapse of the award or degree award date, whichever is earlier; or
- (ii) Withdrawal from/termination of the programme of study.

### **3. Refund**

3.1 An award recipient who breaches the conditions of the scheme in any of the following ways will be required to refund the total award amount and tuition fees subsidy received plus 10% interest:

- (i) The recipient fails to apply for and commence Ph.D. studies at NUS/NTU or an overseas university under the schemes set out in clause 2.5.
- (ii) The recipient fails to submit documentary evidence to A\*STAR of his/her enrolment in a Ph.D. programme and the organization sponsoring his/her graduate studies within a maximum of 12 months after graduation.
- (iii) The recipient obtains at least Second Class Upper Honours degree and is unwilling to embark on Ph.D. studies thereafter.
- (iv) The award is terminated under clause 2.7(i), 2.7(ii), 2.8 or 2.9(ii).

3.2 An award recipient who breaches the conditions in any of the following ways will be required to refund the total award amount and tuition fees subsidy received plus prevailing bank charges as advised by A\*STAR's Finance. Award recipient is required to submit documentary evidence to ascertain the following circumstances.

- (i) The recipient fails to obtain at least Second Class Upper Honours degree.
- (ii) If an award recipient succeeds in obtaining at least Second Class Upper Honours degree and yet is unsuccessful to obtain A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship or NTU/NUS research scholarship.

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### **4. Exemptions & Revisions**

4.1 A\*STAR shall be entitled to make and issue additional guidelines/revisions with respect to the award from time to time, and to revise or amend such guidelines/revisions as it deems fit. All such guidelines/revisions shall be deemed to be part of the terms and conditions of the award.

### **5. Continuance of Award**

5.1 Review of the Award shall be done on an annual basis by A\*STAR. Candidates with GPA score falling below 4.25 in Year 2 and subsequent years or not on track for at least Second Class Upper Honours (if on CWAMP grading system) will have their Pre-Graduate Awards terminated by A\*STAR. Penalties for termination will be governed by terms as described in para 3.