

## **SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy (for Singapore Citizens only) for Part-time Undergraduate Degree Programmes offered by Singapore University of Social Sciences**

This has been agreed between the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), and the information is correct at the time of publication.

### **Purpose of the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy**

#### **1) What is the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy about?**

In line with the objectives of SkillsFuture to support and encourage lifelong learning and help Singapore Citizens (SCs) stay responsive to a changing workplace, the MOE and SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) have enhanced course subsidies for individuals to encourage and support their skills development.

SCs aged 40 and above will enjoy higher subsidies for MOE-funded full-time and part-time courses ranging from diploma to postgraduate level in publicly-funded universities, polytechnics and ITE for course semesters commencing from 1 July 2015, and for SSG-funded courses with effect from 1 October 2015.

The Government is increasing the subsidy in recognition that mid-career SCs often require significant re-skilling in the middle of their careers. This additional support from the Government helps address the opportunity costs they face. The increased subsidies will help to encourage mid-career individuals to upskill and reskill, thereby helping them to remain competitive and resilient in the job market.

#### **2) When does the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy take effect?**

The SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will apply to new students admitted to SUSS from the July 2015 intake, and all current students (as of 1 July 2015) pursuing MOE-subsidised undergraduate degrees awarded by SUSS. Students must meet the eligibility criteria listed in (3) below. There is no retrospective claim for the fee subsidy.

### **Eligibility and Benefits**

#### **3) Who are eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

Singapore Citizen (SC)\* students who are at least 40 years of age, and are pursuing MOE-subsidised (i.e., receiving government subsidy) undergraduate degrees awarded by SUSS will be eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy.

*\* Non-Singapore Citizens (i.e., Permanent Residents and Other Residents) are not eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy*

**4) I have already obtained a first degree. Can I still qualify for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

Those who already have a first degree may qualify if the criteria listed in (3) above are satisfied.

**5) How does the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy benefit me?**

Eligible student will enjoy a higher subsidy and therefore pay lower course fee for his/her programme of study.

**6) What does the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy cover?**

The subsidy covers course fee.

The subsidy does not cover:

- a) Resit fee
- b) Extra courses taken beyond the requirements for the undergraduate degree programme
- c) Auxiliary charges like administrative fees (e.g., course choice amendment, deferment, etc.)
- d) Transfer of programme, examination appeal fee, challenge examination fee, overseas examination fee, etc.
- e) Any penalty charges (e.g., late fee payment)
- f) Any other miscellaneous fees

**7) Is the amount of the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy the same for every semester of my studies?**

Yes, the subsidy is the same for every semester, subject to annual course fee increase which may be imposed by the University.

**8) Different courses may have different fees. Does the same amount of SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy apply?**

Yes, the subsidy applies to all MOE-subsidised degree courses, subject to students meeting the subsidy eligibility criteria.

**9) Is there a cut-off date to fully utilise the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

The SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will be available subject to students meeting the eligibility criteria listed in (3) above. The subsidy cut-off date for the government subsidy is either the maximum 8 years candidature period, or upon consuming the maximum claimable registered credit units, whichever is earlier.

### **Changes in Eligibility Status**

**10) Is the eligibility for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy considered only at the point of admission?**

No. The SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will be available in the year you turn 40 years old, if you are an existing student (admitted before the age of 40) and is pursuing the MOE-subsidised degree and receiving the government subsidy.

**11) I am currently a non-Singapore Citizen. If I were to obtain the Singapore citizenship mid-way during my studies with the University, will I be eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

Yes, if you fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in (3) above, but the subsidy would only be effective for course fees payable from the next academic semester onwards. No retrospective claims will be allowed.

### **Programmes Covered**

**12) Which programmes offered by SUSS are eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

All MOE-subsidised undergraduate degree programmes leading to a SUSS award are eligible for the subsidy, subject to students meeting the subsidy eligibility criteria listed in (3) above.

**13) If I am simultaneously taking an undergraduate degree programme at one of the autonomous universities (NUS/NTU/SMU/SUTD/SIT) and with SUSS, do I still enjoy the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy for the programme?**

No, each student is eligible for the subsidy only once, i.e., for his/her first government subsidised undergraduate education (local or overseas).

### **Number of Credit Units (CUs) Subsidised**

**14) What is the number of registered CUs which can be subsidised?**

For a new student who meets the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy eligibility criteria, the MOE will provide the subsidy for a maximum of:

- a) 200 registered CUs over 8 years maximum candidature period, if pursuing an honours or direct honours degree; OR
- b) 160 registered CUs over 8 years maximum candidature period, if pursuing a basic degree.

For an existing student who meets the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy eligibility criteria, the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will apply to the remaining CUs required to complete his/her degree programme plus an additional 30 CUs for repeat courses (if required). For example, if a student has 40 CUs remaining before completion of the degree programme,

the student will receive a maximum of 70 claimable registered CUs (40 CUs remaining and 30 additional CUs for repeat courses). No retrospective claim is allowed.

If an existing student is invited to take an honours programme, his/her maximum claimable registered CUs for the honours courses will be the unused CUs from the allocation of 200 CUs for an honours programme as listed in 14(a). For example, a student who has used up 130 CUs + 10 CU buffer to complete his/her basic degree programme will be able to claim up to 60 CUs (40 CUs + 20 CUs buffer) for the honours portion. The subsidy will be available within 8 years from the date he/she started the basic degree programme with the University.

**15) I have fully utilised the government fee subsidy and am currently paying full course fees for my courses. Will I be able to enjoy the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

No, if you have fully exhausted the government subsidy for your programme of study, you will not be eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy for your remaining the courses.

**Others**

**16) Do I have to pay back the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy or serve any bond?**

No, there is no need to repay the subsidy and there is no requirement to undertake a service bond.

**17) I am currently a recipient of the sponsorship (e.g., SUSS-NTUC sponsorship). Will I still be eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

Yes. Students receiving such sponsorships will also be entitled to the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy, subject to meeting the subsidy eligibility criteria.

**18) I am entitled to the university's concessionary course fee, will I still enjoy the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy?**

The SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy and course fee concession scheme are mutually exclusive. As such, students who enjoy the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will not enjoy any fee concessions.

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