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A. Tuition Grant Application and Procedures

A1. When do we apply for the MOE Tuition Grant?

Your institution will provide you with the dates for both the Application and Signing period. You may refer to the <u>Get it Right for a Smooth TG Application Guide</u> and <u>Tuition Grant and Applicant and Recipient Guide</u> for the step-by-step instructions registration and submission of your application.

A2. What is Singpass?

Singpass is Singapore citizens' and residents' trusted digital identity for convenient and secure access to thousands of government and private sector services, online and in person, including the TG&S portal for Tuition Grant application and signing. Please refer to Singpass' website for more information.

A3. What is NRIC/FIN?

You may refer to ICA's website for more information.

A4. Do my sureties need to be physically present in Singapore to sign the Tuition Grant Agreement?

No, your sureties do not have to be physically present in Singapore to sign the agreement. You and your sureties will receive email notifications to sign the agreement digitally after the application window has closed. The link to the digital agreement and signing instructions will be included in the email. The signing will be done via a sequential order, where the Tuition Grant applicant will sign first, followed by Surety 1 and Surety 2 respectively.

A5. I had already selected the option with Tuition Grant/ Indicated that I want to apply for Tuition Grant during admission. Am I guaranteed the Tuition Grant or do I have to do any additional steps?

You are required to apply for Tuition Grant and complete signing the agreement with your sureties during the stipulated period before you can be successfully awarded with Tuition Grant.

A6. How can I confirm if my Tuition Grant has been approved?

Your application status should be updated to the "Award" stage approximately <u>eight</u> weeks after the online signing period <u>ends</u>.

A7. Must I wait for my student pass before applying for the Tuition Grant?

As an international student, you are required to have a valid Foreign Identification Number (FIN) to register for Singpass to log in to the TG&S portal. The FIN will be issued to you by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) after your Student's Pass application has been approved.

A8. Will my Tuition Grant application be rejected?

Your Tuition Grant application will be rejected if you and your sureties fail to complete signing the Tuition Grant Agreement during the stipulated signing period.

A9. What are the criteria for sureties?

Please refer to the Freshmen Tuition Grant Briefing video and slides on the list of criteria for sureties.

A10. Can my friend be my surety if he/she is also a student taking Tuition Grant?

Your sureties **must not** be a Tuition Grant applicant or recipient who has yet to complete serving his/her bond obligation. You are encouraged to nominate your immediate family members to be your sureties. Please refer to A9 on the list of criteria for sureties.

A11. If a surety has signed for another University Tuition Grant for another student, is he/she eligible to be my surety as well?

You should <u>not</u> nominate someone who is a surety of another Tuition Grant recipient with the exception as stated in A19. Please refer to A9 on the list of criteria for sureties.

A12. What documents are needed from my sureties and me?

Please refer to the Freshmen Tuition Grant Briefing video and slide on the documents that you and your sureties need to prepare for the application.

A13. I am a Singapore PR, I have been staying in Singapore since I was very young (more than 10 years) and I do not have home country address. Can I submit my Singapore address?

Yes, if you have been in Singapore for more than 10 years and do not have home country address, you may submit your Singapore address.

A14. If my sureties' and I have identification documents that are not in English, do we also need to submit an English translation with the Notary Public's seal?

You are not required to submit additional documents so long as the photo identity documents (ID) clearly displays the home country address. Nonetheless, for documents that are in a foreign language, you may inquire whether the relevant office can provide the documents in English, or you could arrange for a certified translator to translate the necessary information into English.

A15. Will I get notified if my surety does not meet the criteria and will I have the opportunity to amend my surety details?

Please refer to A9 and ensure your sureties meet the list of criteria. You can nominate another surety or change the details of your surety so long it is within the stipulated online application period.

A16. Can my surety be unemployed (e.g. student, housewife, retired)?

Please ensure that your surety has the financial ability to assume the liability if you fail to fulfil your TG bond obligation.

A17. Can I be a surety for the Tuition Grant agreement?

No, you cannot be your own surety. Please refer to A9 on the list of criteria for sureties.

A18. Do I need to apply for the MOE Tuition Grant every semester?

No. After you have been successfully awarded with Tuition Grant, you will receive the grant throughout your undergraduate studies as long as you remain eligible.

A19. Since the Tuition Grant signing starts after school started, how do we pay our school fees and will there be any late charges?

You will first be charged with the subsidised tuition fees. As such, you can proceed to make payment for the tuition fees. However, if you and your sureties fail to complete the signing of the agreement, you will be charged with the full unsubsidised tuition fees. Thus, check your email regularly so as not to miss our email invitation to apply for the MOE Tuition Grant.

A20. Can my parents be my sureties if they are sureties to my elder sibling's TG bond?

You are highly encouraged to get your immediate family members to be your sureties given their heavy responsibilities. If your parents are sureties for your elder sibling's TG bond, they can be your sureties for your TG bond.

B. Tuition Grant Bond Obligations

B1. Are there any online calculators which allow me to calculate my liquidated damages? Please contact MOE via TG Enquiry Form on matters relating to your liquidated damages.

B2. If I have served my Tuition Grant bond for a period but have decided to break the bond, will I have to pay for the full liquidated damages?

You will be required to pay liquidated damages for your outstanding bond period. You may contact MOE via TG Enquiry Form on matters relating to your liquidated damages.

B3. How do I check if a local or overseas company is a Singapore entity?

You may do a check on the company via the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)'s <u>website</u> or contact ACRA for more information.

B4. If a company is registered in Singapore but the work location is overseas (e.g. overseas branch office), can it be counted as a Singapore entity?

If you have been located to work overseas by a Singapore entity, please visit MOE's <u>website</u> to find out more information about overseas employment or contact MOE via <u>TG Enquiry Form</u>.

B5. What happens if I am not able to find employment after graduation?

A job seeker typically takes about 6 months to find a job in Singapore. You should therefore start your job search early and expand the modes of finding employment.

B6. Can I fulfil my bond before I graduate (i.e. internships or working part-time during my undergraduate studies)?

Please note that only full-time employment <u>after graduation</u> will be considered towards serving your Tuition Grant bond obligation. Please visit MOE's <u>website</u> to find out more information on the acceptable employment.

B7. What factors will influence the outcome of a bond deferment request?

Please be informed that deferment requests will be assessed by MOE on a case-by-case basis.

B8. Can I defer my bond if I am required to serve National Service after I graduate?

You are not required to apply for bond deferment if you are serving National Service in Singapore after graduation.

B9. Can I defer my bond if I wish to pursue further studies after I graduate?

Yes. You must <u>apply for bond deferment</u> to pursue further studies. Please note that approval must be obtained before the start of the post-graduate studies.

C. Tuition Grant and Nationality

C1. I just received my Singapore citizenship and will be registering with ICA in a few weeks' time. Will I get the Tuition Grant automatically? What do I need to do?

You will need to inform your institution's Office of Financial Aid and MOE.

Please update MOE on your Singapore Citizenship status via TG Enquiry Form as well.

C2. If I become a Singapore Citizen mid-way during my studies, will I still be bonded for 3 years for the semesters when I was not a citizen and do I need to pay liquidated damages?

If you have obtained Singapore Citizenship, you will be released from the 3-year bond obligation.

C3. Do I need to sign the Tuition Grant if my citizenship is Approved/Approved-in-Principle but I have yet to collect my Singapore IC?

Please refer to C1.

C4. If my Singapore citizenship application is approved after my sureties and I have signed the agreement and my Tuition Grant application is approved, do I need to cancel my Tuition Grant application?

You do not need to cancel the application. Please refer to C1.

C5. If I am an international student who becomes a Singapore Permanent Resident, will I get the Tuition Grant automatically?

You will need to write in to your institution for advice.

C6. If I do not apply for Tuition Grant as a Singapore Permanent Resident, will I still get the Tuition Grant automatically if I change my citizenship to a Singapore Citizen?

No, you will not get the Tuition Grant automatically. Please refer to C1.

D. Miscellaneous

D1. If I have to leave for 2-year National Service overseas, how will my Tuition Grant be affected? You must apply for bond deferment via the <u>TG&S portal</u> before your enlistment if you are required to serve National Service in your home country.

D2. The student bills currently show the subsidised tuition fees. Do I still need to apply for Tuition Grant?

Most of the institution's student bills will show the subsidised tuition fees by default. However, if you do not apply for Tuition Grant and complete signing the agreement during the stipulated period, you will be charged with the full unsubsidised tuition fees.

D3. I will be applying for the Tuition Grant. The student bills show the subsidised tuition fees now. Should I go ahead and pay the subsidised tuition fees (deadline for non-GIRO payment)?

Yes, you may proceed to pay the student bills. However, if you do not apply for Tuition Grant and complete signing the agreement during the stipulated period, you will be charged with the full unsubsidised tuition fees.

D4: Do we need to re-apply for the Tuition Grant annually or does it cover the entire course of study at the same institution?

You do not need to re-apply for Tuition Grant once you have been successfully awarded with the grant.

D5. What happens if I transfer courses midway during my studies?

The Tuition Grant that you had received in your previous course will be taken into consideration when determining the remaining Tuition Grant eligibility for your new course of study (i.e. the normal course duration of your new course, minus the number of semesters or credit units of Tuition Grant which you had received in your previous course).

D6. What happens if I withdraw from my course midway during my studies?

You and your sureties will be liable to pay liquidated damages (LD) for the Tuition Grant received, computed based on the amount of grant you received, plus 10% compounded interest per annum. Late payment interest charged will apply. Hence you are strongly encouraged to consider the complications of not completing your studies.

D7. If I am returning to my home country during the semester breaks, do I need to inform MOE? No, you do not need to inform MOE.

D8. What mental health support is available?

You may visit MindSG for resources on mental health. You may also contact the SOS Hotline at 1-767 (available 24 hours).