

Government Tuition Fee Subsidy for Part-time Bachelor of Technology Programme at NUS

[Efforts have been made to ensure that the information presented here is accurate at the time of publication.]

Purpose of the Tuition Fee Subsidy (TFS)

1) What is the tuition fee subsidy for part-time degrees?

The Ministry of Education will provide subsidies for part-time degree programs at the three publicly-funded universities and UniSIM for Singapore citizens and permanent residents who meet certain eligibility criteria. These subsidies will be up to 40% for Singapore citizens and up to 20% for permanent residents for applicable tuition fees.

2) What is the purpose of this tuition fee subsidy?

This is part of the nation's efforts towards nurturing every skill and talent and helping Singaporeans and Singapore permanent residents who take the initiative to upgrade themselves through continuing education and training (CET).

3) When will the subsidy start?

The subsidy will be provided for all eligible students enrolled in these part-time programmes from Academic Year 2008 onwards. The subsidy will not cover fees payable in academic semesters prior to this but which is still unpaid.

Eligibility criteria

4) Who will qualify for the tuition fee subsidy?

All BTech students, including those already enrolled, who meet the following criteria will qualify:

- a) Singapore Citizen and Singapore PR who has not previously received a government subsidy/sponsorship for a first degree (local or overseas), e.g., first degrees from NUS/NTU/SMU/UniSIM, or from an overseas university funded through a government scholarship/bursary;
- b) At least 21 years of age; and
- c) Has either 2 years of full-time work experience or is currently employed on a full-time basis¹.

¹ *Part-time employment will not be considered as full-time work experience. A part-time employee is one who works for less than 30 hours a week, under contract of service with an employer.*

5) I already have a first degree. Can I still qualify for the subsidy?

No, you will not qualify if you have received a Singapore government subsidy/sponsorship for your first degree. .

Please see also the section on "Students who had previously received subsidy" below.

6) Is there a cap on age to qualify for the subsidy?

No, there is no cap on age to qualify for the subsidy.

Subsidy Cover and Quantum

7) What will the subsidy cover?

The tuition fee subsidy will cover only tuition fees for the remaining basic number of modular credits (MCs) or modules required to graduate, and up to an additional 25 MCs to cater to failed or repeat modules, over the maximum candidature period, which is 8 years.

8) What about other fees such as admission fees, miscellaneous fees?

Only tuition fees for the modules registered will be subsidised. All other fees will not be subsidised. These include admission fee, registration fee, administrative fee, miscellaneous fees and penalties.

9) I will be starting my BTech course in August 2008 and have not been given any advance placement credits, or exemptions, beyond the 40 MCs given to all BTech students. What is the maximum number of MCs that I can have subsidy for in my case?

To satisfy your BTech degree requirement, you will need to accumulate a minimum of 120 MCs with at least 16 MCs of ULR, 92 MCs of Programme Requirement and 12 MCs of UEM. All of these will enjoy the tuition fee subsidy. If you should fail some modules and have to repeat them or take others in their place in order to graduate, the additional modules you take in place of these failed modules, up to a total of 25 MCs, will also enjoy the subsidy.

10) I was admitted to BTech before 2007. Because of financial difficulties, I still owe the university my previous semester's fees. Can I get a subsidy for the tuition fees I still owe?

No. Only tuition fees payable from Semester 1 of AY2008/09 onwards can enjoy the tuition fee subsidy.

11) I was admitted to BTech before 2007 and my degree requirement is based on modules rather than on MCs. I have completed part of my degree requirements but I have also failed a few modules which I need to retake. How will the tuition fee subsidy apply to me?

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will enjoy tuition fee subsidy for the minimum number of remaining modules you need to pass in order to graduate. In addition, you will also enjoy the tuition fee subsidy for additional modules you need to take, up to an equivalent of 25 MCs, to cater to failed or repeat modules.

12) The minimum requirement for my degree is 120 MCs. I have taken 140 MCs to date and have achieved passes for 119 MCs, failing the rest. I only need one more MC to graduate and, for this, will be selecting a 4-MC technical elective module. Will the subsidy cover the remaining 4 MCs or only 1 MC?

Since you need the 4 MCs in order to graduate, the subsidy will cover all the 4 MCs of your last module. However, since the maximum number of subsidised MCs cannot exceed (120+25) or 145 MCs, should you fail this 4-MC module and need to repeat it, the number of MCs you can enjoy for the repeat module will only be 1 MC since you have already enjoyed a total of 144 subsidised MCs.

13) I made a mistake and took one extra elective which I am now not able to use to count towards my degree requirement. As such, I need to take one additional module over and above my 120-MC degree requirement in order to graduate. Will I be able to receive a tuition fee subsidy for that module since I am allowed up to 25 MCs for failed or repeat modules?

No, the additional up to 25 MCs are only to cater for failed or repeat modules, not for additional modules taken over and above what is needed to graduate.

Students with additional advance placement credits

- 14) **On top of the 40MCs granted to all BTech students, I was granted additional advanced placement credits for some post-diploma advanced courses I took before enrolling. I have not before received any government subsidy for a first degree course. How will I be affected?**

The basic number of MCs that you will need to graduate will be reduced by the number of MCs that you have been granted exemption from. The maximum number of MCs which you will receive subsidies for will thus be correspondingly reduced. However, you will still be granted up to an additional 25 MCs to cater for failed or repeat modules.

Students who had previously received subsidy

- 15) **I completed a first degree before with government subsidy but it was a long time ago and in a non-engineering discipline. Is there any way I can appeal for government subsidy for my current BTech course?**

No, the tuition fee subsidy is only meant for students who have not received government subsidy for a first degree before.

- 16) **I transferred to the part-time BTech course after completing part of a full-time first degree course at local University A. I have been granted some additional exemptions in BTech because of this. Can you please let me know how the tuition fee subsidy will apply for my case?**

You will be eligible to receive the tuition fee subsidy for the BTech course for the remaining basic number of MCs you need to graduate, and up to an additional 25 MCs to cater for failed or repeat modules.

Maximum period of tuition fee subsidy

- 17) **Is there a cut-off date to fully utilise the subsidy?**

The subsidy will be the same as the maximum candidature period for the BTech degree, which is 8 years.

- 18) **Because of the leave of absence I took due to work, national service and other family needs, the University has granted my appeal to extend my candidature period by one semester beyond the maximum 8 years. Will I be able to enjoy the tuition fee subsidy during this additional semester?**

Yes, if for good reasons the university approves the extension of your candidature, the subsidy will still apply subject to the maximum eligibility.

Changes in Eligibility Status

19) Is the eligibility for the subsidy considered only at the point of admission?

No. If you have been admitted without the subsidy, but subsequently fulfill the criteria in (4), you will still be eligible for the subsidy from the following academic semester onwards. Please note that to be eligible for the subsidy from any semester onwards, you must inform the University, with the necessary supporting documents, of your change in status before a deadline at the start of that semester. This deadline will be made known to all students.

20) I am currently a Singapore PR and have applied for Singapore citizenship. Will I be able to receive the higher 40% subsidy once I become a citizen?

Yes, once you become a citizen, you will be able to enjoy the higher 40% subsidy. However, you will need to inform the University *before the deadline* at the start of a semester to qualify for tuition fee subsidy from that semester onwards.

Obligations - Bond, Non-completion of Programme and opting out

21) Do I have to pay back the subsidy or serve any bond after I graduate? What if I were to fail to graduate for whatever reason?

There is no bond attached to the tuition fee subsidy. Whether you eventually graduate or failed to graduate for whatever reason, you do not have to pay back the subsidy to either MOE or NUS.

22) I am being sponsored by my company in my BTech course. Can I have tuition fee subsidy and also retain my company sponsorship? How will that affect my fees?

Yes, if you are sponsored by your company for the BTech course, you can still enjoy tuition fee subsidy. The total fee that you need to pay for your BTech course comprises the subsidised tuition fee for the modules and other fees (administrative fee, miscellaneous fees, etc.) which are not subsidised. Depending upon how your company sponsors your course, it may pay for all or part of this total fee. This will be between you and your company.

23) If I qualify for the tuition fee subsidy, does this affect my eligibility to apply for other financial aids such as the Tuition Fee Loan and the NUS Study Loan?

If you are eligible, you can receive other financial aids while receiving the government subsidy for your tuition fees.

24) I am eligible for the tuition fee subsidy but would like to opt out. Can I opt out?

Yes, students who wish to opt out of the tuition fee subsidy can do so when they declare their eligibility to the BTech Office. As students who are eligible do not need to apply for the tuition fee subsidy, they will automatically be given the tuition fee subsidy if they do not opt out.

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