A quick guide to scholarships

It is the season again to seek a place in university, and a scholarship to help underwrite the cost of pursuing a degree. Check out our guide to help you find a scholarship that suits your needs

THERE is an assumption that there are never enough scholarships to go around. As a result, many students hoping to pursue tertiary education do not even bother to look.

The truth is that there are many options if one looks hard enough. In fact, the number of scholarships on offer has risen substantially. Apart from institutions of higher learning and the government, non-governmental organisations, local and overseas corporations and private or independent foundations are also offering such financial assistance.

But to qualify for one is not a walk in the park. Before sending in an application for a scholarship, students should first identify the scholarships and awards that are relevant to his chosen field of study. Look for a scholarship that fits a particular academic or research goal.

Below are several scholarships offered by the private sector that are currently accepting applicants.

2014 Astro Scholarship Award

This is offered by Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd. It was established on the principle that education can transform and inspire people into shaping and building a greater future for themselves, their families, their community and ultimately our country. Contact Astro at astroscholarshipawards@astro.com.my or visit www.astro.com.my.

Gamuda Scholarship 2014

Courses offered under the scholarship are for studies in local universities (public, private, foreign branch campuses). Full tuition fees and living expenses for local universities and tuition fees for overseas universities are provided for courses including engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical or environmental), quantity surveying or construction management, architecture or landscape architecture, township and urban planning, technical science (geology, geomatics), social science, finance and business. Successful applicants will have to serve the Gamuda Group for a specified period upon graduation. Visit ea.gamuda.com.my to apply online or contact 03-7491 8288. Closing date is April 30.

IJM Scholarship Award 2014

Offered to develop, nurture and raise excellent Malaysians of the future, the scholarship is for students keen to pursue architecture, estate management, engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical), housing, building and planning, and quantity surveying courses. Refer to IJM Bhd or email hr_scholarship@ijm.com. Closing date is April 30.

MBSB 1Malaysia Education Fund Programme

MBSB invites all school leavers to apply for the bursary scheme under the MBSB Education Fund Programme to pursue higher education at selected local universities. Degree programmes such as business administration, economics, Syariah or Islamic-related courses and any other courses as approved by MBSB at any of the following universities: Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Inter-
national Islamic University Malaysia.
Contact 03-2096 3000. Closing date is April 25.

UCSI University
Scholarships and a sports bursary are awarded to deserving Malaysians irrespective of race, religion and creed to pursue their higher education at UCSI University. Scholarships are offered to students at foundation, A-Level, undergraduate and postgraduate levels through the programmes below:

• A-Level Scholarship
  This offers full or partial tuition fee waiver to students with a preferred discipline in a foundation in science and arts.

• Trust Sports Bursary
  This bursary is available to state and/or national athletes verified by the National Sports Council of Malaysia and Sports Association. Students can apply for all courses except medicine, pharmacy and nursing. Successful state athlete applicants get a 75% tuition fee waiver while national athlete applicants will get a 100% tuition fee waiver.

• Trust Scholarship
  This is open to students who demonstrate excellent academic achievements and exemplary leadership attributes, participate actively in extracurricular activities and have received outstanding recognition for notable achievements. Students can apply for any degree programme or foundation programme leading to a degree at UCSI University, except for medicine and pharmacy.

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Study award offers aplenty from private sector

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Email scholarship@ucsiuniversitytrust.com or contact 03-9101 8880. Closing date is April 25.

Kuok Foundation Undergraduate Awards
Applicants should be from a household earning less than RM3,000. Only undergraduates or prospective undergraduates reading for full-time first degree courses are eligible.

Scholarships offered include the Kuok Keng Kang Scholarships for undergraduate studies at Malaysian public universities and KF Half-Loan Half-Grant Awards applicable for Malaysian and Sin-
gaporean public universities. Preferred disciplines include medicine, dentistry and science and arts-based courses. Students studying diploma, off-campus, matriculation and foundation courses are not eligible.

Contact 03-2711 8428 or email general@kuokfoundation.com. Closing date is April 18.

Taylor's World Class Scholarship 2014
Offered in collaboration with leading world-class multinatinals, this scholarship offers not only financial aid but also opportunities for scholars to intern or train with global brand names.

Contact 03-5636 2641 or email taylorscollege@taylors.edu.my.

SEGi University Group Scholarships
Applicants aged below 25 years are encouraged to apply for various education scholarships offered under the Group.

High Achiever's Scholarship (HAS) – for students with 8As and above for partial and full scholarships. Closing date is June 30.

Sports Scholarship – for Malaysian athletes who participated at state or national-level sporting events. State level athletes are entitled to a 25% rebate and national athletes are entitled to a 50% rebate on tuition fees. Verification by a sports association is required. Closing date is Sept 30.

Centre of Excellence (CoE) Scholarship – full scholarship for students with 10As and above. Closing date is June 30.

Group Principal Scholarship – Students aged below 20 years who exhibit leadership positions in school (head, president and vice-president) can apply for this scholarship to pursue pre-university programmes (Foundation in Arts, Science, Commerce or A-Level). Closing date is Dec 31.

ACE Scholarship – Open to all SPM, O-Level, STPM, A-Level and UEC graduates. For every distinction, applicant will get a rebate of RM500 on pre-university, diploma and degree programmes. Application period is from Jan 1 to Dec 30. Visit http://www.segi.edu.my/.

Monbukagakusho Scholarship
The government of Japan, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), offers this annual scholarship programme for Malaysians. Unless stated otherwise, scholarship applications should be made to the Embassy of Japan, Kuala Lumpur. Note that the requirements and application period differ from programme to programme. Refer to MEXT 2015 – Undergraduate Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan.

British Council IELTS Scholarship 2014
This is awarded to high-calibre individuals with a motivation to develop a career and who demonstrate the potential to contribute to society what they have gained from their study experience. The International English language test system (IELTS) scholarship enables students to study any course in an undergraduate or postgraduate programme of a higher institution that accepts IELTS as part of its admission requirements. Email kualalumpur.exams@britishcouncil.org.my. 🇯🇵
Take your pick of scholarships

There are many study awards available for school leavers and full-time undergraduates. Here are some scholarships they can easily search for online.

- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Scholarship
- Maybank Scholarship Award
- MAPCU Higher Education Scholarship Fund 2014
- Sin Chew Daily Education Fund Scholarship
- The Star Education Fund
- Karangkraf Scholarship
- BN Youth Education Scholarship (BNYES)
- Hong Leong Foundation Scholarship
- Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Scholarship
- Telekom Malaysia Berhad (TM) Scholarship
- Suruhanjaya Sekuriti (SC) Scholarship
- Sime Darby Scholarship
- UEM Group Berhad Scholarship
- Yayasan Khazanah Scholarship
- Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) Scholarship
- Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship
- Shell Scholarships Malaysia 2014
- Elena Cooke Education Fund Scholarship 2014
- Petronas Education Sponsorship Programme
- Genting Malaysia Scholarship 2014
- Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Merit Scholarship Award
- Great Eastern Supremacy Scholarship Award
- Bursa Malaysia Global 2014
- Yayasan Tunnuh Abdul Rahman Scholarship
- Yayasan Bursa Malaysia Scholarship
- UWE Bristol International Scholarships for Malaysian
  Sri KDU International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Scholarship Award 2014
- Asean Scholarships for Malaysia: Pre-university One Scholarships

Pick a scholarship that best suits your field of interest.
It's scholarship application time and most high achievers are probably busy preparing for it.