A*STAR GRADUATE ACADEMY

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

NATIONAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP (BS–PhD)

Empowering aspiring students to pursue their passion for Science, Technology and Research

The National Science Scholarship (BS–PhD) is the only through-train scholarship in Singapore that provides for your undergraduate studies and PhD training at top overseas universities and laboratories. This scholarship prepares you for a career in science, allowing you to work in some of the world’s most renowned research institutes while learning from the best scientific minds.

Application Deadline
1 March
COVERAGE†
Successful applicants will receive the following support for up to eight years during undergraduate and PhD studies:

- Full coverage of tuition fees
- Pre-studies allowance
- Monthly allowance
- Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes
- Annual return airfare

Further support for PhD studies will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate studies and meeting of NSS (PhD) requirements (e.g. one-year research attachment at an A*STAR Research Institute).

† Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR periodically.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA‡

- Singaporeans and other nationals intending to take up Singapore citizenship
- Have achieved excellent academic standing in the GCE ‘A’ Levels (preferably with 11 AUs), polytechnic diploma (preferably with Merit) or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate or NUS High School diploma)
- Have applied or applying for an undergraduate programme at a top overseas university

‡ The above criteria are not exhaustive. For complete eligibility criteria, refer to our website for more information.

SERVICE COMMITMENT

NSS scholars are required to fulfill a six-year service commitment, inclusive of a compulsory one-year research attachment prior to PhD studies.

* NSS (BS-PhD) does not support medical and veterinary degrees.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Can I pursue my undergraduate studies in a local university?**
   No, the NSS (BS-PhD) only supports undergraduate studies at a top overseas university.

2. **Do I need prior research experience?**
   While having prior research experience helps to boost your application, it is not mandatory. A*STAR will assess each application holistically and consider other factors such as your achievements in science/math related competitions and involvement in Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs).

   If you would like to gain hands-on research experience, you may reach out to the various Research Institutes or the Principal Investigator(s) directly for attachment opportunities.

3. **What qualities does A*STAR look for in a scholar?**
   In addition to academic excellence and a passion in science, we are looking for applicants who are committed to a research or research-related career in Singapore. A*STAR is making a significant investment in each scholar and the aim is for every scholar to be part of Singapore’s Research, Innovation and Enterprise ecosystem.

4. **Do I need to secure a place at an overseas university before applying for the scholarship?**
   No, you may apply for the scholarship even if you have not secured admission to any overseas university yet.

   Please note that you should only accept the overseas university offer after obtaining A*STAR’s approval for your choice of university and course of study.

5. **What is the estimated timeframe for the entire selection process?**
   It would approximately take 2-3 months from the application deadline. We request you to submit the complete application (i.e., including all required supporting documents such as education certificates and referee reports) to be considered for the award of the scholarship.

   Please note that all academic referee reports must be submitted within 7 working days of submission of the online application. Kindly remind your referees about this requirement.

6. **Can I choose not to do a PhD under this scholarship?**
   The NSS (BS-PhD) is a through-train scholarship that enables scholars to pursue undergraduate and PhD studies, with the aim to develop research talent and the next generation of scientific leaders for Singapore.

   Scholars funded under this scholarship are required to obtain PhD qualification to maximise their contribution to research and innovation in Singapore.

   If you are undecided about a research career at this point, you may consider applying for the mid-term scholarship, or applying for National Science Scholarship Masters or PhD after you have completed your undergraduate degree.

Accurate as of 30 Jun 2023.
HEAR FROM OUR SCHOLAR!

"The scholarship allowed me to receive an education from the best institutions in the world and be mentored by many brilliant scientists. Such experiences are invaluable to my training and learning as a young scientist.

Dr Rosa So
A*STAR National Science Scholarship (BS–PhD) Scholar

Scan to learn more about our NSS (BS–PhD) Scholar and her experiences for.edu.sg/nss-bs-scholar