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

This scholarship prepares you to set the foundation in research and take a deep dive in your area of research during the PhD journey. Students will have the opportunity to work with some of the world's leading researchers across the A*STAR ecosystem for a rewarding career ahead.

At A*STAR Graduate Academy, we strongly believe that diversity in talent fosters innovation, forward-thinking and interdisciplinary research. We welcome you to join our community of curious minds to share fresh perspectives to help overcome ever-evolving challenges in the field of science and research. As a National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) scholar at A*STAR, you have the opportunity to study overseas to receive the highest quality education from the best schools and leading Universities from across the globe. You can look forward to making significant contributions to Science, Singapore, and Singaporeans.

Application Deadline

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

- Full tuition fees, mandatory health insurance and miscellaneous fees
- Monthly allowance
- Annual return airfare
- Pre-studies allowance
- Language programme fees
- Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes

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 prior to PhD studies).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Singaporean and other nationals intending to take up Singapore citizenship. Non-Singaporeans are required to have obtained minimally Singapore Permanent Residence prior to commencement of studies
- 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

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 scholars who complete their Bachelor’s and/or PhD in a country where English is not the official language would serve a five-year service commitment instead.

TOP UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE OF THE US/UK

Belgium
- KU Leuven

Canada
- University of Toronto
- McGill University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Waterloo

China
- Tsinghua University
- Peking University
- Fudan University

Denmark
- University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark

France
- Université PSL
- Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Sorbonne University

Germany
- Technical University of Munich
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Japan
- The University of Tokyo
- Kyoto University
- Tokyo Institute of Technology

Netherlands
- University of Amsterdam
- Delft University of Technology

South Korea
- Seoul National University
- KAIST - Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology
- Korea University

Sweden
- Lund University
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Switzerland
- ETH Zurich
- EPFL
- University of Zurich

COVERAGE

Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR periodically. For scholars studying in countries where English is not the official language.

Find Out More!

Visit the A*STAR website: a-star.edu.sg/nss-bs-phd
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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 on your choice of university and course of study.

5. What is the estimated timeframe for the entire selection process?
   It would approximately take 2 to 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 NSS (Masters) or NSS (PhD) after you have completed your undergraduate degree.

Accurate as of 4 Apr 2024.
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

Questions? Contact us at Student_Services@hq.a-star.edu.sg

A SPRINGBOARD TO MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

Public Sector
Government Research Admin and Policy

Industry
Industry R&D Industry Corporate Career / Executives Business Development Technology Startups

Scientific
Principal Investigators Technology Platform Specialists Engineers Senior Scientists Administrators

Commercialisation
Tech Transfer / Commercialisation Patent Examination

Academia
Science Education Clinician Scientists

Entrepreneurship
Technology Startups