

# The SMA Medical Students' *Assistance Fund*

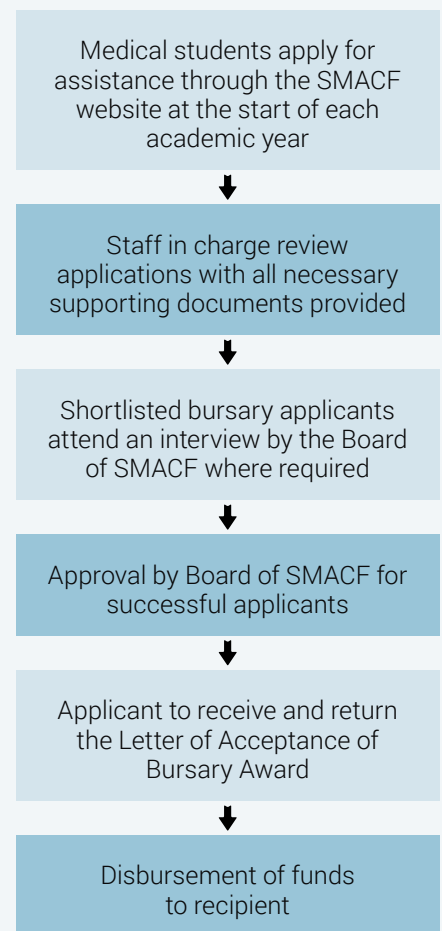
In 2007, SMA, in joint collaboration with the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) and with the support of the NUS Development Office, started the SMA Medical Students' Assistance Fund (SMA-MSAF) to help needy medical students with their living expenses during the course of their medical education at NUS Medicine.

Beyond meeting the needs of our medical students in NUS Medicine, the SMA Charity Fund (SMACF), an entity with Institute of a Public Character status, has also been working very closely with Duke-NUS Medical School and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine to ensure that the needy medical students there are able to enjoy peace of mind while pursuing

their medical education. The SMA-MSAF programme now comes under SMACF. At the start of each academic year, medical students who are in need of further assistance to support their living expenses may apply to SMACF for bursary assistance.

The bursary is made possible by our stakeholders, most of whom are medical professionals who believe in maintaining a tradition of giving back to the community and through doing so, shaping the future of healthcare for the benefit of everyone. It is a scarce resource and the Board reviews all applications thoroughly to ensure that the award is given out fairly to these needy medical students, allowing them to focus on what is important – training to be a good medical doctor! ♦

## THE BURSARY APPLICATION PROCESS



### DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) From 1 February 2016 onwards, Giving.Sg has replaced the old donation site at [sggives.sg](http://sggives.sg). With the new site, donors are able to do more to support programmes by the SMACF. Support SMACF at [www.giving.sg/smacf](http://www.giving.sg/smacf).
- 2) Our programmes include supporting the learning exposure of needy medical students, advocating volunteerism and recognising mentorship.
- 3) The tax deduction benefit has reverted to 2.5% from 1 January 2016.
- 4) The quantum for each bursary award is currently set at S\$5,000 and the amount is given directly to the students to support their living expenses.
- 5) Ad hoc application for the bursary is open to medical students throughout the year. Medical students who are caught in unforeseen emergencies that put a strain on their family's financial status can contact SMACF for assistance. The quantum of such awards will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

PROFILE

TEXT BY

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