

Financial Assistance for Bright Young Minds

THE unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed an adverse financial impact on many Malaysians. Scores of school-leavers now face uncertainty over their higher education plans given their parents' financial constraints.

Realising the gravity of this situation, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) offers various kinds of financial aid for students.

First off is TAR UC's Prihatin Flexi Payment Plan, which was recently introduced. It aims to bring financial relief to students by providing greater flexibility with the first semester fees payment, where students only make an initial payment of RM263 in order to begin their tertiary education at TAR UC.

The balance of the fees will be paid by instalment up to week five or nine of study, depending on the intake.

This plan targets students who have received an offer of admission for Foundation, Diploma and bachelor's degree programmes for the May/June/September/November 2021 intakes.

For Foundation students for the May/September 2021 intakes, they have the flexibility to pay all the semester fees in instalments as they are not eligible for PTPN.

In addition, underprivileged students can obtain financial assistance via the TAR UC Student Loan Fund.

To date, there are 42 interest-free revolving student loan funds which qualified students can apply for, with the loan



Lee, who is active in some of TAR UC's activities, has benefited from the financial assistance provided by TAR UC to pursue his studies.

covering the entirety of the recipient's tuition fees.

Since its inception in 1979, a total of 13,293 loan awards amounting to RM43mil have been disbursed. There are also various scholarships/bursaries available, including

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Lee Rong Cherng

The Star Education Fund, Sin Chew Daily Education Fund, Nanyang Tertiary Education Fund, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship (Top Glove), TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary, TAR UC Sports Scholarship and Bursary for State/National Players.

There are also many other external scholarships and grants provided by corporations and philanthropic organisations to help deserving TAR UC students such as the Kuok Foundation Study Grants, OSK Foundation Scholarship, CIMB Asean Scholarship and Lion-Parkson Foundation Scholarship.

High-achieving students can benefit from the TAR UC Merit Scholarship, which automatically awards a partial to full waiver of tuition fees based on academic merit.

Since 1997, 26,366 students have had been awarded the merit scholarship amounting to approximately RM138mil.

TAR UC also offers a variety of financial incentives such as the sibling discount as additional support for parents who have two or more children studying at TAR UC.

Under the sibling discount, students registering for the first time and with sibling(s) who are full fee-paying student(s) in the same semester may be eligible for a discount of RM1,000 off their first semester tuition fee.

Among the many recipients of TAR UC's financial assistance is Lee Rong Cherng, a Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Hons) student who comes from a single-parent family.

“My mum was the only breadwinner and earned a salary of RM2,000 per month. Besides me, there were two other siblings to look after.

“Seeing how difficult it was for my mum, I took up a part-time job while studying but then my mum passed away.

“When the TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary came along, I felt that I had been given a second chance in life,” he shared.

Applications for the May/June/September/November 2021 intakes are now open.

■ For more information about TAR UC's financial aid and programmes offered, visit www.tarc.edu.my

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online at www.tarc.edu.my. Applicants who submit their applications online by April 30 will receive a RM60 waiver on the processing fee.