

Financial Aid for Deserving Students

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

Realising the gravity of the situation, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) is offering various kinds of financial aid for students to help them in these trying times.

First off is TAR UC's Prihatin Flexi Payment Plan, which was introduced this year.

It aims at bringing financial relief to students by providing greater flexibility in the first semester fee payment where students only make an initial payment of RM263 to begin their tertiary education at TAR UC.

The balance shall be paid by instalment up to Week 5 or 9 of study, depending on the intake.

This plan is offered to students who have received offer of admission for foundation, diploma and bachelor's degree programmes for the June, September and November 2021 intakes.

For foundation students of the June and September 2021 intakes, they have the flexibility to pay all the semester fees in instalments as they are not eligible for PTPTN.

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

To date, there are 49 interest-free revolving student loan funds that qualified students can apply for where the loan covers the entire tuition fees of the recipients.

Since TAR UC's inception in 1979, 13,293 loan awards with a total amount of close to RM43mil

have been disbursed through the TAR UC Student Loan Fund.

Apart from this, there are scholarships and bursaries available for qualified students. These include 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 to pursue their studies, such as the Kuok Foundation Study Grants, OSK Foundation Scholarship, CIMB Asean Scholarship and Lion-Parkson Foundation Scholarship, just to name a few.

For high-achieving students, they can benefit from TAR UC Merit Scholarship. The generous scholarship covering up to 100% waiver of tuition fees will be awarded automatically based on academic merit. Since 1997, 26,366 students have been awarded the merit scholarship amounting to a total of approximately RM138mil.

TAR UC also offers financial incentives such as a sibling discount as a form of additional support to parents with 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 financial aid is Lee Rong Cherng, a Bachelor of Quantity

Surveying (Hons) student, who comes from a single-parent family.

"My mum was the only breadwinner earning a salary of RM2K 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 and earned about RM800.

"Unfortunately, she died before I could inform her about it. So, when the TAR UC JINBODHI Bursary came along, I felt that I had been given a second chance in life," he shares.

Applications for the 2021 intake are now open.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online. First-time applicants who submit their applications online by June 20 will receive a waiver of RM60 processing fee.

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



Lee, who is active in TAR UC, has benefited from the financial assistance provided by the university to pursue his studies.

