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YOUR PATHWAY TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

Financial aid a boon to students

EDUCATION is a necessity because it nourishes the mind, similar to how food nourishes the body. However, in a challenging economy, the pursuit of quality tertiary education can be strongly hindered by financial constraints.

Nevertheless, at Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), financial burdens are not a good enough reason to deprive students of the valuable opportunity to pursue tertiary education. Since its establishment 55 years ago, it has always been the core principle of TAR UMT to ensure everyone is given the chance to pursue quality education. With that in mind, the university provides various financial aid for students including scholarships, bursaries and loans. These financial resources are awarded based on financial need, academic merit, or specific talents and characteristics.

TAR UMT's Merit Scholarship which can go up to a 100%

waiver of tuition fees is automatically offered to qualified students who fulfil the required criteria. In addition, the university has also established scholarship programmes, grants and bursaries with external organisations and alumni associations. These scholarships and bursaries have been set up to help students who have proven their potential to be high achievers.

The university also has a Student Loan Fund with 127 donor loans that offer interest-free loans to deserving students. The loan amount is up to RM12,000 per year for the entire programme duration.

The TAR UMT PRIHATIN Flexi Payment plan on the other hand was established to provide better payment flexibility for students who are not able to pay lump sum. Under this plan, students can commence their studies with an initial payment of RM280 and the balance of the fees can be paid in two instalments,

depending on the intake. Besides this, first-time registering students with siblings who are full-fee-paying TAR UMT students in the same semester are eligible for the TAR UMT Sibling Discount, where they will receive a discount of RM1,000 on their first-semester tuition fee.

The university has a dedicated Financial Aid (FA) team at the Department of Student Affairs (DSA) which focuses on managing the various types of financial aid for students. On top of this, the team also focuses on helping students obtain suitable financial aid for them to study at TAR UMT without financial worry.

DSA deputy director Lum Pui Yee shares, "Many students who approach the FA team not only have to deal with financial difficulties but their predicament also negatively impacts their confidence. One such memorable experience is of a student who came to us with financial and family issues. On top of these, there was a complication in the

application for the Student Loan Fund (SLF). The student was very discouraged but we persistently encouraged the student to appeal to the SLF Committee. True enough, the Committee heard the appeal and approved the application. Today, that student is an engineer!"

TAR UMT president Lee Sze Wei adds, "TAR UMT is unique because our aim is not to make a profit but to remain sustainable so that we can continue to provide everyone with the chance to gain quality tertiary education which they can afford. This also means that their commitment to pay back their study loans is also lesser, and this is a good start for their career. All in all, our goal is to develop our students beyond education where they are given a solid foundation to help them in their pursuit for success and progress towards becoming good citizens with high moral standards."

■ For more information about the

various financial aid and programmes offered at TAR UMT, call 011-1087 5854 or visit www.tarc.edu.my.

TAR UMT's education has paved the way for many students, especially those from challenging backgrounds to secure a better future for themselves.

