

TAR UC Offers Interest-Free Student Loan



Making education accessible: The new interest-free loan fund aims to help underprivileged TAR UC students. - File photo

AN interest-free student loan fund has been set up by Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) to financially support its underprivileged students.

Known as the TARC-Lighthouse Club Student Loan Fund, it is open to underprivileged students currently pursuing construction-related diploma or bachelor degree programmes at the university.

“These programmes include architecture, quantity surveying, construction management, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

“Students must be from families that earn a household income of not more than RM3,000 per month or from poverty-stricken backgrounds as a result of the death, injury or illness of a parent or guardian,” TAR UC said in a press release.

Also eligible are students who want to pursue non-construction-related diploma or bachelor degree programmes – on condition that they come from poverty-stricken backgrounds due to the reasons above, and their parents or guardians were previously employed in the construction industry.

Recently established by the Lighthouse Club Kuala Lumpur (LHCKL), the fund is also open to new students enrolling in the varsity's May/June 2021, and subsequent, intakes. It has a seed money of RM500,000, with joint contributions from LHCKL, the James Battersby Lighthouse Club Educational Trust and the Lighthouse Club Asia Pacific Region Benevolent Trust.

It came about after many TAR UC students were left financially strained due to the Covid-19 pandemic, preventing them from pursuing their education, the varsity said.

“Establishing this student loan fund with LHCKL is symbolic as both TAR UC and the club share a similar philosophy, which is to provide opportunities for underprivileged students to pursue tertiary education so as to transform their lives.

“With this student loan fund, both TAR UC and LHCKL will bring hope to many needy students towards a better future, especially during these challenging times,” TAR UC board of governors chairman Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said.

TAR UC president Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei said despite the financial challenges the pandemic has posed to people, it is encouraging to see how individuals and groups are coming forward to help others.

“The kindness and generosity of LHCKL is commendable.

“I hope this will encourage our students to do their best in their studies so that in the future, they too can emulate LHCKL's kind gesture to provide opportunities for others to pursue their tertiary education,” he added.

LHCKL president Bert de Munck shared that he had led a delegation from LHCKL to visit TAR UC and to hold several discussions with the varsity.

“This eventually bore fruit with the setting up of the student loan fund despite the delay due to the pandemic.

“The TARC-Lighthouse Club Student Loan Fund is in line with LHCKL's goal in providing charitable assistance for those in need within the construction industry,” he added.

For details on the student loan fund or other financial aids available at TAR UC, visit tarc.edu.my.

