

## REVISION OF THE TERTIARY TUITION FEE SUBSIDY (TTFS) SCHEME FOR MALAY STUDENTS

The Tertiary Tuition Fee Subsidy (TTFS) scheme, introduced in 1991, is an education subsidy for Malay students, which covers their tuition fees at tertiary institutions. The Government, together with Yayasan Mendaki, has revised the income eligibility criteria for the scheme to benefit more Malay students in tertiary institutions. The new criteria will take effect from the upcoming academic year (AY2018/2019). It will be applied for all Malay students in local government tertiary institutions, regardless of whether they are existing or new TTFS applicants.

### Changes in Criteria

2 The previous income criteria, implemented in AY2012, was based on a three-tier system where tertiary students with per capita monthly household income (PCI) of below \$1,500 will be eligible for the following TTFS subsidies:

Per Capita Income (PCI)	Eligible Subsidy
\$1,000 and below	100%
\$1,001 - \$1,200	75%
\$1,201 - \$1,500	50%

3 The revised income criteria, will retain the three-tier system, with the income bands shifted upwards.

Per Capita Income (PCI)	Eligible Subsidy
\$1,400 and below	100%
\$1,401 - \$1,700	75%
\$1,701 - \$2,000	50%

### Enhanced Coverage

4 Consistent with the founding principles of TTFS, the revisions to the income eligibility criteria will ensure that students in financially challenged families are not denied access to higher education, while cultivating the spirit of self-reliance in more well-to-do families.

- a) Three-Tier System – This retains the principle of differentiating subsidies for households with different abilities to provide for their children. The tiered subsidy structure ensures that the less well-off will obtain full subsidies.
- b) Upwards shift in Income Bands – As per capita households' income rise, fewer students have qualified for the subsidy. The income criteria have therefore been shifted to ensure that a significant proportion of students continue to benefit from the TTFS. This demonstrates Government's continued commitment to the educational progress of the Malay community, as they progress economically.

5 MENDAKI will continue exercising flexibility in approving subsidies for families with extenuating circumstances (but do not meet the income criteria), such as those supporting more than one child for tertiary education or families who may have members with chronic medical problems. This appeal mechanism will continue to function alongside the revised scheme.

### **Implementation**

6 The revised income eligibility criteria will be **applied for all Malay students in local government tertiary institutions, regardless of whether they are existing or new TTFS applicants**. In this case, current TTFS recipients can re-apply for TTFS based on the revised criteria when they are commencing their studies in Semester 1 AY2018/19 regardless of their year of study.

7 A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found [here](#).