

# Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health

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## **1 Faculty's Commitment**

On 1 October 2011, the National University of Singapore (NUS) established a new school, the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) and made it a member of the National University Health System (NUHS). The SSHSPH is designed around domains which build upon strengths of the School and recognise opportunities in: Epidemiology; Biostatistics; and Health Systems and Behavioural Sciences. Programmatic focus will continue in the areas of Cardiovascular- Metabolic Disease, Major Cancers, Eye Disease, and Infectious Disease.

The origins of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH), and public health research and teaching in general, in Singapore can be traced back to the establishment of the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health in the King Edward VII College of Medicine in 1948. The Department was renamed in 1987 to the Department of Community Occupational and Family Medicine (COFM) and again in 2009 to the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH). Each of these transitions was precipitated by evolving educational needs and greater impact in the sphere of public health. In 2007, the Master of Medicine (MMed) Programme was converted to the more comprehensive Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. Today, SSHSPH continues to offer the MPH degree to student cohorts from multiple disciplines. In August 2012, the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes were launched to build upon SSHSPH's strong research base. For undergraduate teaching, SSHSPH faculty teach in the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine curriculum, exposing medical students to the complexity and value of community and public health through student-driven Community Health Projects (CHP). The launch of the Minor in Public Health in AY2013/2014 provided the opportunity for all other NUS undergraduate students to be exposed to public health issues and its determinants combined with approaches and methods targeted at prevention or alleviation.

## 2 Key Contact Information

For up-to-date information, please visit the School's website at: <http://www.sph.nus.edu.sg/>

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Assoc Prof Rob Martinus VAN DAM	Domain Leader (Epidemiology) Programme Director, Graduate Research Programmes	6516 4980	ephrmvd
Assoc Prof KOH Choon Huat, Gerald	Domain Leader (Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences) Posting Director, Community Health Project (CHP)	6516 4979	ephkohch
Dr Judy SNG Gek Khim	Director, Undergraduate Medical Curriculum	6516 8580	ephjsgk

### Administrative Coordinators

<b>TITLE &amp; NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION/ RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL (XXXX@NULLNUS.EDU.SG)</b>
Mrs Diane LAI	Manager (Education Office)	6516 6914	ephbpcd

<b>TITLE &amp; NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION/ RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL (XXXX@NULLNUS.EDU.SG)</b>
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## **3 Undergraduate Education**

### 3.1 [Programmes Offered](#)

## **3.1 Programmes Offered**

In AY2013/2014, SSHSPH introduced a new Minor in Public Health for all undergraduate students. The school is also actively involved in undergraduate medical training in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

3.1.1 [Minor in Public Health](#)

3.1.2 [Curriculum for Medical Undergraduates](#)

### 3.1.1 Minor in Public Health

The Minor will provide students with the knowledge, methods and approaches to:

- Empower them to improve individual and community health
- Prepare them for a career in an organisation engaged in Public Health work

#### Curriculum Requirements:

24 modular credits (MCs) of the modules detailed below are required for the Minor in Public Health:

##### Essential Modules (12 MCs)

1. GEK1900/ GEH1049 Public Health in Action
2. Any of following modules or their equivalent, subject to approval by programme director:
  - i. BN2102 Bioengineering Data Analysis
  - ii. DSC2008 Business Analytics - Data and Decisions
  - iii. EC2303 Foundations for Econometrics
  - iv. PL2131 Research and Statistical Methods I
  - v. PR1142 Pharmaceutical Statistics
  - vi. PR2103 Pharmacostatistics
  - vii. SC3209 Data Analysis in Social Research
  - viii. ST1131 Introduction to Statistics
  - ix. ST1232 Statistics for Life Sciences
  - x. ST2334 Probability and Statistics
3. SPH2101 Public Health and Epidemiology

##### Elective Modules (12 MCs)

- at least 8 MCs of level-3000 modules
- at least 4 MCs from “Determinants”
- at least 4 MCs from “Approaches and Methods”

##### Modules From “Determinants” Group

- SPH2102 Lifestyle, Behaviour and Public Health
- SPH2104 Public Health Nutrition
- SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia<sup>1</sup>
- SPH3103 Public Health Economics
- SPH3104 Infectious disease epidemiology and public health
- ENV2103 Environment and Public Health
- SC2211 Medical Sociology

##### Modules From “Approaches and Methods” Group

- SPH2103 Systems and Policies to improve Health
- SPH2105 Introduction to Global Health
- SPH2106 Health in the Later Years
- SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia<sup>1</sup>

- SPH3101 Biostatistics for Public Health
- SPH3102 Public Health Communication
- SPH3103 Public Health Economics
- SPH3109 Designing Public Health Programmes
- SPH3201 Public Health Practice<sup>2</sup>
- PR3144 Principles of Research Methods

<sup>1</sup>SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia is offered under FASStrack Asia: The Summer School. This module features a week's field trip to the country of study and will take place during Special Term.

<sup>2</sup>SPH3201 Public Health Practice provides students with hands-on exposure by way of attachments at selected public health agencies, allowing students to explore career opportunities in public health and develop related essential skills. This module will take place during Special Term.

Note:

Please check if the modules have pre-requisites or preclusions prior to registration. For more module information, please see [here](#).



### **3.1.2 Curriculum for Medical Undergraduates**

The school anchors two longitudinal tracks in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine medical undergraduate curriculum: 1) Medicine & Society 2) Information Literacy, Critical Thinking and Evidence Based Medicine. The broad objectives of these tracks are to promote health and prevent disease at both the individual and community level and to critically appraise and apply scientific medical evidence.

Undergraduate medical students from Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine will apply coursework from these two tracks in a culminating Community Health Project (CHP), where groups of students will design and carry out research projects in the community under the supervision of SSHSPH faculty.

For more information, please see [here](#)

## 4 Graduate Education

- 4.1 [Research Programmes](#)
- 4.2 [Coursework Programmes](#)

## 4.1 Research Programmes

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health graduate research programmes are research-intensive programmes that emphasise both the mastery of research skills and acquisition of core knowledge in the student's area of interest. Students may choose to receive advanced training in one of three domains of Public Health research: Biostatistics & Modelling, Epidemiology, and Health Systems and Behavioural Sciences.

4.1.1 [Degrees Offered](#)

4.1.2 [Degree Requirements](#)

4.1.3 [Financial Assistance and Awards](#)

## **4.1.1 Degrees Offered**

The following degrees are offered:

- Master of Science (MSc)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

## 4.1.2 Degree Requirements

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfil the following minimum admission requirements:

(1) Academic Qualifications:

PROGRAMME	MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
Master of Science (MSc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor's Degree with good Honours (at least 2nd Upper Class) or its equivalent in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• MBBS or its equivalent OR</li><li>• Bachelor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent</li></ul>
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good Master's Degree in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• Bachelor's Degree with good Honours (at least 2nd Upper Class) or its equivalent in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• MBBS or its equivalent OR</li><li>• Bachelor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent</li></ul>

(2) Standardised Tests (required for both MSc and PhD applicants)

a) English Language Requirements for International Applicants\*

*\*Excludes applicants whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SMU or SUTD or from English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States*

International applicants must submit test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and meet the following minimum scores:

- 587 on the TOEFL paper-based test,
- 240 on the TOEFL computer-based test
- 94 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 7.0 on the IELTS test

Test scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years. TOEFL and IELTS scores that are no longer valid will not be accepted.

For more information about the TOEFL or IELTS, please visit [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) (for TOEFL) and

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) (for IELTS).

b) GRE® General Test

Applicants (except NUS, NTU, SMU & SUTD graduates from relevant disciplines) must submit test scores for the GRE® General Test. For applicants who took the GRE on or after 1 August 2011, a minimum total GRE score of 320 for both Verbal and Quantitative under the new scoring system and a minimum of 3.5 for Analytical Writing are recommended.

Please note that GRE scores are valid for 5 years from the test date. GRE scores that are no longer valid will not be accepted.

For more information on the GRE® General Test, please visit [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)

## Curriculum structure and requirements:

Overview of the programme structure:

<b>Year 1 to 2</b>	From Year 1, both MSc and PhD students will embark on their research projects, complete core modules and choose from a range of elective modules that cater to individual research interests. In Year 2, MSc students will start writing their thesis, while PhD students will complete a PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE) which assesses their ability to complete PhD requirements based on their academic progress and the quality of their research. MSc students who wish to transfer to the PhD programme need to complete the PhD coursework requirements, and pass the PQE within 2 years.
<b>Year 3 to 5</b>	PhD students will execute the rest of their research plans and submit and defend their thesis.

### Coursework Requirements:

MSc students are required to complete 16 MCs of core modules and 8 MCs of elective modules relevant to their area of research (Total 24 MCs). At least one elective module (4 MCs) must be at level 5000 or above.

PhD students are required to complete 16 MCs of core modules and 12 MCS of elective modules relevant to their area of research (Total 28 MCs). At least one elective module (4MCS) must be at level 6000.

For more information on the coursework requirements, please see [here](#).

### Credit Transfer and Exemption:

Students who have completed relevant modules with comparable content and level of sophistication, and done so within 5 years before date of admission to the MSc/PhD programmes may be allowed to receive exemption, credit or grade transfer according to prevailing NUS regulations. This is subject to approval by the student's supervisor and the School's Programme Management Committee. Students who wish to apply for credit transfer and/or exemption should submit their application within the first month of their candidature.

### English Language Requirement:

New students who are required to sit for the Diagnostic English Test (DET) may need to enrol for Graduate English Courses depending on the results of the DET. Please see [here](#) for more information.

### Student Research Rounds

The student research rounds are a platform for students to receive feedback on their research projects from academic staff and fellow students. All research students who matriculate from January 2012 onwards are expected to present at least once within the first 2 years of their candidature. They will also need to achieve regular attendance in the student research rounds / SSHSPH PhD thesis defences. For the student research rounds, the supervisor will invite a discussant who will be a content expert in the field of the student's project. Please see [here](#) for more information.

### PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE)

All PhD students have to pass the PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE) within 24 months from the date of admission to be confirmed as PhD candidates. The PQE comprises both a written and an oral component. Students may take up to 2 attempts to complete each component of the PQE. If students are unable to complete their PQE within 24 months of their candidature or if they fail to pass the PQE after 2 attempts, they will be asked to transfer to the MSc programme where eligible. Please see [here](#) for more information.

### Thesis Examination

The thesis must demonstrate scholarship and the student's ability to perform original, independent research, and represent the student's work and significant contribution to the knowledge in the specific domain of research. The thesis should contain a substantial body of work that has been published or is publishable in international peer-reviewed journals.

The Master's thesis should not exceed 60,000 words while the Doctoral thesis should not exceed 80,000 words. Students have to submit their theses by the maximum period of candidature. Please see [here](#) for more information.

## Residency Requirements and Candidature:

The University's minimum residency and maximum candidature requirements for graduate research programmes shall apply to both MSc and PhD students.

TYPE OF PROGRAMME	MINIMUM RESIDENCY	MAXIMUM CANDIDATURE
MSc	6 months	36 months*
PhD	18 months	60 months*

\*The maximum candidature for research programmes is the same for both full-time and part-time students.

The residency requirement is per the [existing guidelines](#) and residency requires payment of fees, satisfying all curricular requirements of the programme of study and satisfying other departmental requirements such as teaching assistance.

## Continuation and Graduation Requirements:

### Continuation Requirements:

The University's prevailing continuation requirements will apply to the MSc and PhD students.

### Graduation Requirements:

#### MSc:

- Completed 16 MCs of core modules and 8 MCs of elective modules with minimum CAP of 3.0
- Pass in the MSc thesis (word limit of 60,000)
- Achieved regular attendance (at least 8 seminars per academic year for 2 years) in the student research rounds / SSHSPH thesis defences
- Satisfactory grade (at least Grade C+) in all the required Graduate English Courses for students who do not qualify for waiver of English Language requirement

#### PhD

- Completed 16 MCs of core modules and 12 MCs of elective modules with minimum CAP of 3.5
- Pass in PhD Qualifying Examination
- Pass in PhD thesis (word limit of 80,000) and Oral Examination.
- Achieved regular attendance (at least 8 seminars per academic year for 3 years) in the student research rounds / SSHSPH thesis defences
- Satisfactory grade (at least grade C+) in all the Graduate English Courses, for students who do not qualify for waiver of English Language requirement



## **Leave of Absence**

The University's prevailing policies on Leave of Absence shall apply to the MSc and PhD students

### **4.1.3 Financial Assistance and Awards**

The School and NUS offer several scholarships on a competitive basis. For more information, please see [here](#).

## 4.2 Coursework Programmes

4.2.1 [Degrees Offered](#)

4.2.2 [Degree Requirements](#)

4.2.3 [Financial Assistance and Awards \(for MPH only\)](#)

## **4.2.1 Degrees Offered**

The following degrees are offered:

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (GDAE)

## 4.2.2 Degree Requirements

4.2.2.1 [Master of Public Health \(MPH\)](#)

4.2.2.2 [Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology](#)

### **4.2.2.1 Master of Public Health (MPH)**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme underwent a programmatic review to design a new curriculum that provides greater integration and alignment of academic components. The revised programme seeks to equip public health professionals to use systems and evidence-based approaches to identify and solve public health problems to improve the health of communities. Students can look forward to the revised curriculum in Academic Year 2017/2018.

Leveraging on the NUS system and our close links with the National University Hospital (NUH), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Business School, as well as the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Engineering, our School ensures that research and teaching provided is both progressive and comprehensive.

Our MPH graduates are equipped to address both traditional and emerging public health issues, and have gone on to assume leadership and administrative positions in diverse public health disciplines in local and international settings.

#### **Admission requirements**

##### Medically Qualified Applicants

- MBBS or equivalent;
- One year of general clinical experience (excluding housemanship\*); AND
- One year of experience in public health, health administration, occupational and environmental health or have entered clinical specialty training, OR
- Enrolled in the preventive medicine residency programme

\* Applicable to Singapore-trained doctors only

##### Non-Medically Qualified Applicants

- A good Honours degree or equivalent; and
- Two years of experience in public health, health promotion, health administration, occupational and environmental health experience or clinical research.

##### English Proficiency for International Applicants

Test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) must be submitted for all international applicants except those whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD and English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following minimum scores for the respective tests are required:

- 580 on the TOEFL paper-based test
- 237 on the TOEFL computer-based test

- 85 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 6.0 on the IELTS test

Note:

Scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years from the test date.

## **Curriculum structure and requirements**

### Students admitted in Academic Year 2017/2018 onwards

All students are required to complete 48 modular credits (MCs) of modules.

Students are required to complete 24 MCs of core modules, including a Practicum project. The remaining credits are fulfilled by elective modules.

### Students admitted in Academic Year 2016/2017 and before

Non-medically qualified students are required to complete 64 modular credits (MCs) of modules.

Medically qualified students are required to complete 44 MCs of modules.

Students are required to complete 24 MCs of core modules, including a Practicum project. The remaining credits are fulfilled by elective modules.

## **Residency requirements and candidature**

The MPH programme is offered on both full-time and part-time basis.

### Students admitted in Academic Year 2017/2018 onwards

Students can complete the degree with a minimum of 12 months of full-time study or 24 months of part-time study. The maximum candidature periods are 2 years for full-time study and 4 years for part-time study respectively.

### Students admitted in Academic Year 2016/2017 and before

Non-medically qualified students can complete the degree with a minimum candidature of 18 months of full-time study and 36 months of part-time study. The maximum candidature periods for full-time and part-time study are 3 years and 6 years respectively.

Medically qualified students can complete the degree with a minimum of 12 months of full-time study or 24 months of part-time study. The maximum candidature periods for medically qualified students are 2 years for full-time study and 4 years for part-time study respectively.

## **Continuation and graduation requirements**

A student pursuing a Master's degree by coursework must achieve a minimum CAP of 3.00 to be eligible for graduation.

To continue in a Master's programme, a student may not have:

- CAP below 3.00 (but  $\geq 2.50$ ) for three consecutive semesters; or
- CAP below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters.

## **Assessment modes / Examination rules**

Students' performance will be assessed through a combination of examinations and continuous assessments. The Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports, as well as mid-term and final examinations.



## 4.2.2.2 Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology

The professional development of trained epidemiologists competent in the practical application of epidemiologic methods to a wide-range of contemporary public health issues is increasingly important within the context of global pandemics, local outbreaks and rising rates of chronic diseases.

*Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology will provide for the training of members of the healthcare team who have key roles in the planning, implementation or evaluation of disease control programs and who require a good foundation in epidemiology for this work.*

### Admission requirements

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent; and
- At least 1 year of relevant experience in public health/ disease control or epidemiology

#### English Proficiency for International Applicants

Test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) must be submitted for all international applicants except those whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD and English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following minimum scores for the respective tests are required:

- 580 on the TOEFL paper-based test
- 237 on the TOEFL computer-based test
- 85 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 6.0 on the IELTS test

Note:

Scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years from the test date.

### Curriculum structure and requirements

GDAE candidates are required to fulfil a minimum of 24 modular credits (MCs) for graduation requirements:

<b>CORE MODULES</b>
<b>SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods (8 MCs)</b>
<b>SPH5103 Collection, Management &amp; Analysis of Quantitative Data</b>
<b>ELECTIVE MODULES</b>

<b>SPH5201 Control of Communicable Diseases</b>
<b>SPH5202 Control of Non-Communicable Diseases</b>
<b>SPH5204 Nutrition and Health</b>
<b>SPH5306 Environmental Health</b>
<b>SPH5406 Contemporary Global Health Issues</b>
<b>SPH5407 Programme Evaluation</b>
<b>SPH5408 Public Health and Ageing</b>
<b>SPH5890 Independent Study Module*</b>

\* *Subject to approval.*

Note: All modules carry 4 modular credits (MCs) each, unless otherwise stated.

## Study Plan

All students must complete SPH5002 in their first semester, before being allowed to proceed with the programme.

<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	
SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods	8 MC
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>	
1 CORE MODULE + 1 ELECTIVE MODULE or 2 ELECTIVE MODULES	8 MC
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>	
1 CORE MODULE + 1 ELECTIVE MODULE or 2 ELECTIVE MODULES	8 MC

## Residency requirements and candidature

The Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (GDAE) is offered on a part-time basis only. Students are expected to complete the programme within 18 months.

## Continuation and graduation requirements

The minimum CAP for fulfilment of award of Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology is at least 2.25 or higher.

## **Assessment modes / Examination rules**

Students' performance will be assessed through a combination of examinations and continuous assessments. The Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports as well as mid-term and final examinations.

### **4.2.3 Financial Assistance and Awards (for MPH only)**

The scholarships below are offered on a competitive basis. Applicants must have good academic and professional records, as well as the potential to make a significant contribution to public health in their country and intended area of work. Specific information on scholarships will be communicated to successful applicants.

Scholarships are normally awarded for 2 semesters or the equivalent of an academic year in the first instance. An award may be terminated if the progress or conduct of the scholar has not been satisfactory. Scholars are expected to maintain a minimum CAP of 3.50 or should not have any grade below “C” for any module/subject. A scholar may request to extend the scholarship, subject to performance in the previous semesters and the approval of the Scholarship Committee.

Scholars may not concurrently hold any other scholarship, fellowship or award without the prior approval of the programme.

No award will be made unless there is a candidate of sufficient merit. There is no bond or obligation for the scholar to be employed by NUS or in Singapore.

Applicants who have not secured funding or sponsorship and intends to apply for the following scholarships, should indicate as ‘Self Support’ in their application forms. Applicants will be considered for relevant scholarships if they are deemed eligible.

#### **Scholarships**

##### *Saw Swee Hock MPH Scholarship*

The Saw Swee Hock MPH Scholarship is available for award to full-time students. The following item is covered:

- A one-time grant of SGD\$15,000 towards tuition fees only

##### *Wu Yu Lin Scholarship*

The Wu Yu Lin Scholarship is available for award to Singapore Citizens or PRs. The following item is covered:

- A one-time grant of SGD\$10,000 towards tuition fees only

##### *NUS Graduate Scholarship for ASEAN Nationals*

The National University of Singapore [NUS] offers scholarships each year to nationals of ASEAN\* member countries to take full-time coursework graduate degrees at NUS. This scholarship is for new, incoming students. Singapore citizens and permanent residents are ineligible. These awards, known as

the NUS Graduate Scholarship for ASEAN nationals [NUS GSA], are financed by the People of Singapore and the University. The scholar has no obligation or bond to NUS or Singapore but is expected to complete the graduate degree and return to the home country to assist in the progress and development of the home country. NUS Graduate Scholarship for ASEAN Nationals is available for award to full-time students who are citizens or permanent residents of ASEAN countries (except Singapore). For more information, please visit [here](#).

*\*ASEAN, or The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is a political and economic organization of 10 Southeast Asian countries - **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.***

## **Financial Aid**

- Fellowships (for **FULL-TIME** Master of Public Health (MPH) programme students only)  
*The School offers, on a merit and need basis, Fellowships to recognise outstanding MPH students who have clearly demonstrated academic excellence, professional distinction, exceptional leadership qualities, passion for innovation and fostering healthier communities. The Fellowships will typically fully or partially finance the student's education in the MPH programme and/ or living expenses. They are not provided in exchange for services provided by the student and may be awarded by the School or by external source.*
- [Service Obligation Scheme](#)
- [NUS Tuition Fee Loan Scheme](#)
- [NUS Student Work Scheme \(for Full-time Students only\)](#)