

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Questions

**Q1: When does the SGUnited Skills (SGUS) programme start? How long is the programme expected to run?**

A1: SGUS programmes will be open for enrolment from July 2020. They will last between 6 and 12 months. Training will be conducted in full-time mode but in modular format so that trainees have the flexibility to exit the programmes when they find jobs.

**Q2: How does the SGUS differ from the SGUnited Traineeship and SGUnited Mid-Career Pathways traineeship programmes launched by WSG?**

A2: The SGUS comprises full-time reskilling and upskilling courses delivered by CET Centres (including the Institutes of Higher Learning like SIM). These courses are designed to help trainees acquire industry-relevant skills that can improve their employability. Trainees will receive a monthly training allowance of \$1,200 for the duration of their training to cover their basic expenses. They will also receive career advisory and employment assistance in their search for relevant jobs that will utilise their newly acquired skills.

In contrast, the traineeships under the SGUnited Traineeship and SGUnited Mid-Career Pathways Programme are hosted by employers and will help fresh graduates and mid-career individuals gain meaningful work experience as well as boost their employability for future job opportunities. Host employers and the Government will co-fund the training allowance paid to trainees.

**Q3: How does the SGUS differ from the Career Transition Programmes under SkillsFuture Mid-Career Support Package?**

A3: Both SGUS and Career Transition Programmes (CTPs) are training programmes based on a Train-and-Place model. However, the programmes differ in their duration and funding support.

The SGUS is intended for mid-career jobseekers<sup>1</sup> impacted by the economic consequences of COVID-19. It comprises full-time reskilling courses of between 6 to 12 months. In view of the full-time training commitment, trainees receive

a monthly training allowance of \$1,200 to cover their basic expenses. The course fee is also highly subsidised, ranging from a **nett fee of \$500 for a 6-month SGUS programme to \$1,000 for a 12-month SGUS programme.**

The CTP targets mid-career individuals **aged 40 to 60** to help them remain employable and access good jobs. CTPs are of shorter duration and there is no training allowance provided. Course fees are also subsidised, albeit to a lower level than SGUS courses. The CTPs will be available for enrolment in Oct 2020. More information will be available nearer to the date.

The additional SkillsFuture Credit of \$500 under the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Support Package for individuals aged 40 to 60 can be used for both SGUS and CTP training programmes.

<sup>1</sup> **This** is defined as individuals who fall outside the eligibility for the SGUnited Traineeships. This means the SGUS would exclude SC/PRs who:

- a) Graduated or are graduating in CY19 / 20 from ITE, Polytechnics, Universities, and other educational institutions. This includes graduates from private universities as well as overseas institutions; and
- b) Graduated from the educational institutions mentioned in (a) but just finished serving their National Service (NS) in CY19 / 20 and are entering the labour force.

#### **Q4: Why is the programme duration so long?**

A4: The SGUS programme is intended to help trainees acquire industry-relevant skills and enhance their employability to take on job roles in the sector as the economy recovers. Trainees obtain industry-recognised certifications as part of the programme, such as Professional Certificates from the IHLs and their industry training partners. While the programme is for 6 – 12 months, the training will be conducted in a modular format so that participants can have the flexibility to exit the programme once trainees find jobs.

#### **Q5: Will the SGUS come with job placements?**

A5: As the SGUS programme operates on a Train-and-Place model, SIM will provide career advisory and employment assistance to help trainees in their job search in relevant sectors. However, there is no guarantee of a job placement. The programme is also conducted in a modular format which

allows trainees the flexibility to leave the programme should they gain employment before the end of the full programme.

**Q6: How will the SGUS courses be conducted?**

A6: The training modality varies according to the different courses, and generally includes a combination of in-person training, online learning and/or project work with companies. In view of the COVID-19 situation, SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) has advised that online learning should remain the default delivery mode wherever feasible, during this period.

**Q7: If I have attended some of the courses that are part of the SGUS programme before, will I get any exemption?**

A7: Trainee must achieve at least 75% of the training attendance for each month to be eligible for the monthly Training allowance. We will strongly encourage trainees to attend all the courses planned.

**Q8: What if I received Stay Home Notice or hospitalised with 5-day MC because of COVID-19?**

A8: Trainee is to inform the training provider / coordinator immediately so that alternative arrangement can be arranged. Exceptional scenarios would be considered on case-by-case basis.

## **Programme Fees**

**Q1: Do individuals have to pay for the programmes? If yes, how much?**

A1: The nett fee after Government subsidy ranges from \$500 for a 6-month programme to \$1,000 for a 12-month programme. Fees have been kept affordable as the programme is targeted at unemployed individuals. In most cases, Government subsidies for such courses will cover more than 95% of the course fees. Trainees can offset the nett course fees using their SkillsFuture Credit, including the top-ups announced in the 2020 Unity Budget.

**Q2: Do individuals pay the full amount of nett fees upfront or at the end of the programme?**

A2: The nett fees are to be paid upfront.

**Q3: Is the nett course fee for the SGUS programme inclusive of GST?**

A3: Yes.

## **Programme Eligibility**

### **Q1: Is this programme open to permanent residents?**

A1: Yes, the SGUS programme is open to Singapore Citizens (SC) and Singapore Permanent Residents (PR) who are aged 21 and above and meet the eligibility criteria.

### **Q2: Why are fresh graduates ineligible for the SGUS?**

A2: Fresh graduate jobseekers are encouraged to consider the jobs and traineeship opportunities available under the SGUnited Jobs & Skills Package, as these initiatives allow fresh graduates the opportunity to apply their skills in job-specific roles. In particular, the SGUnited Traineeship positions are reserved for those who graduated or completed their full-time National Service in 2020 or 2019.

SC/PR fresh graduates from the Autonomous Universities, polytechnics and ITE who wish to upskill should consider the free CET modules offered by their alma maters, of which some modules can be stacked into micro-credentials.

The SGUS is designed to cater to mid-career jobseekers who require support.

### **Q3: Will trainees have to possess certain academic qualifications to sign up for the SGUS programme?**

A3: SIM will be assessing trainees on their suitability for the selected courses prior to enrolment. Academic qualifications are but one of several assessment criteria.

### **Q4: What are the supporting documents required to be submitted by the trainees?**

A4: As part of the application, trainees will be required to furnish their personal particulars and contact details, as well as documents deemed relevant for assessing trainee's suitability for the respective course.

**Q5: Will existing trainees under other programmes be allowed to join the SGUS programme?**

A5: As the SGUS is a full-time training programme, existing trainees and jobseekers should not apply for the programme if they are unable to commit to full-time training over the six to 12-month training duration.

**Q6: Will trainees, who drop out of the programme or switch to another SGUS programme midway, be penalised or required to refund the course fee subsidy?**

A6: The programmes allow trainees to exit without penalty if they are successfully placed into a job or have secured a job on their own accord while undergoing training. However, trainees who exit the programme without a valid reason may be asked to return the course fee subsidy that they have received. Transferring to another programmes is not allowed.

**Q7: Will trainees who fail the programme be required to refund the course fee subsidy?**

A7: Similar to existing requirements for other training grants administered by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), trainees must fulfill minimum attendance requirements and pass the assessments to qualify for course fee subsidies. Trainees who are unable to meet these requirements may be asked to return the course fee subsidies that they have received.

**Q8. Will SSG allow trainees, who did not manage to find a job after completing a course, take up another course under the SGUS programme?**

A8. No. In order to provide opportunities for as many Singaporeans and Permanent Residents as possible, SSG only allow individuals to enrol in the SGUS once.

## **Training Allowance**

### **Q1. How is the training allowance determined?**

A1: The training allowance under SGUS is intended to help cover basic expenses incurred by the trainees over the duration of training. The rates of other schemes that provide income relief support, such as the COVID-19 Support Grant (CSG) and the Self-Employed Person Income Relief Scheme (SIRS), were considered in determining the SGUS training allowance amount. (Trainees who currently receiving CSG or SIRS will receive \$400 and \$200 per month respectively instead of \$1,200 monthly.)

The quantum is higher than under the CSG and SIRS in recognition of the training commitment involved.

### **Q2: How do trainees apply for the training allowance? What are the supporting documents needed?**

A2: Trainees can apply for the training allowance through SIM, as part of the enrolment process. SIM will help submit the completed training allowance application to SSG on the trainees' behalf. SIM will assist and advise trainees to understand the course requirements, and conditions for receiving the training allowance.

### **Q3: Will trainees be eligible for training allowance if they do not complete the programmes?**

A3: Trainees will only be eligible for training allowance for the months in which they attend training and meet the minimum attendance requirement. The training allowance will be discontinued once the trainee leaves the programme, including early exit due to job placement.

There is no proration of the training allowance for trainees who leave after completing a partial month of training.

### **Q4: When and how will trainees receive their monthly training allowance?**

A4: Trainees will receive their training allowance at the beginning of the subsequent month via PayNow. Trainees will need to have a PayNow account

linked to their NRIC. Prior to payment, SIM will need to verify that the trainees have fulfilled the minimum attendance requirement for each month.

For training programmes that commence in the middle of the calendar month, the training allowance for the first and last calendar months of the programme will be pro-rated as follows:

<b>Programme Start Date</b>	<b>Training allowance for first month</b>	<b>Training allowance for last month</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> of month	Full-month training allowance	No training allowance
16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> of month	Half-month training allowance	Half-month training allowance

**Q5: Will recipients of existing subsidies and grants such as Self-Employed Person Income Relief Scheme be allowed to take part in the SGUS programme?**

A5: Recipients of the COVID-19 Support Grant (CSG) and the Self-Employed Person Income Relief Scheme (SIRS) are also encouraged to participate in the programmes to enhance their employability. Trainees who are concurrently receiving CSG or SIRS payouts will receive a lower training allowance as they are already receiving income relief.

**Q6: Will trainees on the SGUS be eligible to apply for CSG or SIRS?**

A6: Individuals who are already on the SGUS will not be eligible for CSG and SIRS.

**Q7: Will trainees on the SGUS be eligible for the hourly training allowance under the NTUC Training Fund (SEPs) (previously known as Self-Employed Person Training Support Scheme) and Workfare Skills Support Scheme for the courses taken under the programme?**

A7: As monthly training allowances are already provided to trainees under the SGUnited Skills Programme, trainees will not be eligible for the hourly training allowance under the NTUC Training Fund (SEPs) nor the Workfare Skills Support Scheme (WSS).

## **Training Devices**

**Q1: Do I need to bring my own training devices?**

A1: SIM will require trainees to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). All trainees are to bring their own notebooks/laptops for face to face training at SIM premise.