



SYED ISA SEMAIT SCHOLARSHIP (SISS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Why is Muis offering the Syed Isa Semait Scholarship (SISS) Award?

In 2020, the Committee on Future Asatizah (COFA) outlined 'Professionalising the Asatizah Sector' as one of the key thrusts of achieving the vision of "Asatizah of the Future". One of the recommendations under this key thrust is to develop a structured talent management programme focused on grooming future asatizah to fill different leadership positions in the sector, including those who will helm apex roles in key religious institutions. The Syed Isa Semait Scholarship (SISS) award is a key scheme within this talent management framework to develop future asatizah.

2. Is SISS a new scheme?

- i. In 2015, the Syed Isa Semait Scholarship (SISS) award was established to honour the former Mufti of Singapore, Sheikh Syed Isa Semait for his scholarly work, profound religious leadership to the community and contributions towards engendering greater inter-faith understanding. This award serves to preserve the legacy of Sheikh Syed Isa's outstanding contributions and to inspire younger generations towards rendering their service to the Muslim community and the nation.
- ii. SISS was formerly awarded in the form of a grant for research work or to conduct a study on asatizah or religious matters affecting the Singapore Muslim community. It has been reviewed and expanded to provide scholarships to full-time madrasah graduates of Singapore to pursue their undergraduate studies in Islam at Islamic universities overseas.

3. Who can apply for SISS and what are the eligibility criteria?

- i. Full-time madrasah graduates of Singapore. The eligibility is within 5 years of their graduation from their madrasahs.
- ii. Singaporeans or Permanent Residents who have resided in Singapore for at least 5 years before the date of application.
- iii. Consistent and outstanding track record of academic performance during studies at full-time madrasah and excellent O/A-Levels or IB Diploma results.
- iv. Applicants must also possess leadership potential, exemplary conduct, and character.

4. What are the fields of study and universities supported under SISS?

- i. SISS is awarded to full-time madrasah graduates of Singapore who wish to pursue full-time undergraduate studies in (i) Islamic Theology, (ii) Islamic Jurisprudence and (iii) other related courses majoring in Islamic Sciences.
- ii. In approving the course of study and university, Muis will consider the applicant's interests and preferences. However, the final decision on the selection of the university and course of study to be offered will be determined by Muis.

5. Will Muis assist in the university admission on the applicants' behalf?

Applicants are to apply to the overseas university on their own.

6. What is the maximum study period allowed?

Applicants must complete their studies and attain their undergraduate degrees within 4 years unless approved by Muis.

7. What would happen to successful applicants who are unable to attain the degree within the specified period?

Successful applicants who fail to complete their degree are required to reimburse Muis the cost of the scholarship. Further details on the reimbursement, breaches and requirements for sureties will be provided to successful candidates.

8. What will the scholarship cover?

- i. Book Allowance
- ii. Compulsory Course Fees
- iii. Computer / Laptop Allowance
- iv. Relocation Allowance
- v. Return Airfare
- vi. Student / Travel Insurance
- vii. Living Allowance
- viii. Scholar's Development Programmes

Successful applicants will be informed of the value of their award at the signing of the scholarship deed.

9. What happens if the candidate is being offered another scholarship, will he or she still be allowed to apply for SISS?

Applicants who are eligible but have been offered other scholarships are still allowed to apply for SISS. Those who are awarded SISS are not allowed to accept another concurrent scholarship by other institutions unless approved by Muis.

10. How many scholarships will Muis award annually?

Muis will review the quality of applicants and determine the appropriate number of scholarships to be awarded each year based on deserving recipients and the needs of the community.

11. Can unsuccessful applicants appeal the decision made by the Scholarship Approval Panel?

The decision made by the Scholarship Approval Panel is final and appeals will not be considered.

12. Are successful applicants required to sign a bond?

Successful applicants will be required to sign an undertaking or deed and abide by its rules and regulations and serve a 6-year bond.

13. What if the successful applicants break the bond?

Successful applicants who fail to complete their bond are required to reimburse Muis the cost of scholarship. Further details on the reimbursement, breaches and requirements for sureties will be provided to successful applicants.

14. Are there additional programmes that successful applicants can look forward to while undergoing their undergraduate studies?

i. As part of the Scholars Development Programme, successful applicants can look forward to opportunities to attend summer courses or programmes at other universities or institutions for greater exposure to different learning methodologies, fields of study or subjects, and to expand their network of teachers, peers and communities of practice.

ii. Successful applicants will also have opportunities to engage senior religious leadership of Muis as part of their development.

15. Are returning scholars guaranteed employment when they return from their studies?

i. Scholars will be placed under a centralised employment and career development scheme under Muis' management.

ii. Scholars' employment and career will be specially curated, and they may be deployed to Madrasahs, Mosques, Muis and other agencies.

- iii. Scholars with excellent performance in their undergraduate studies and subsequent deployments may be offered postgraduate scholarships as part of their career development based on their interests and needs of the Singapore Muslim community.

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