

SMU launches scholarships for retiring SAF personnel

SINGAPORE – A “warrior scholarship” has been launched by the Singapore Management University (SMU) to help soon-to-retire military personnel further their studies and embark on their next career.

Up to 20 bond-free postgraduate scholarships will be offered annually, over the next three years, to retiring Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personnel. Apart from developing talent, the SMU Warriors Scholarships are also meant to recognise the servicemen and -women's contributions to Singapore. Recipients can choose from 18 postgraduate programmes at SMU.

The scholarship is the first of its kind for retiring military personnel, although the SAF currently supports its regular personnel who wish to continue their education by sponsoring their studies, from certificates and diplomas to Master's degrees and PhD.

At a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between the university and the SAF yesterday, SMU President, Professor Arnoud De Meyer, noted that SAF personnel have not only contributed to the country's security, but also provided an environment that is conducive and stable for businesses, families and society to thrive in.

SAF Chief of Defence, Lieutenant-General Ng Chee Meng, said the partnership will pave the way for both sides to explore the possibility of further collaborations.

The scholarship is open to SAF personnel who are Singapore citizens with at least 10 years of full-time military service. They may also apply if they are due for retirement in less than two years — before the start of the SMU postgraduate programme — or have retired from the SAF for not more than a year prior to the start of the relevant programme. Applicants must meet all SMU admission requirements, which include the Graduate Management Admission Test or equivalent.

SAF officers, warrant officers and specialists, and military experts retire at the age of 50, 55 and 60 respectively. The official retirement age in Singapore is 62.

Yesterday, five scholarships were given out to recipients who have already started their lessons at the university. Another 15 scholarships will be offered later this year. **AMANDA LEE**



These national service personnel have played an important role in shaping Singapore, not only in terms of ensuring peace and stability... but also in providing an environment that is conducive and stable for businesses, families and society to thrive in.

Professor Arnoud De Meyer
SMU PRESIDENT