

Fixed tuition fee per term common

FROM **TAN LEE CHUAN**

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We refer to Mr Aaron Low's letter "Universities should communicate fee policies clearly" (April 19).

Undergraduates at the Singapore Management University, as at most other public-funded universities, pay a fixed tuition fee per term for full-time bachelor's programmes, regardless of the number of courses registered.

Where students need to manage family or personal commitments, for work, health or other reasons, they may apply for leave of absence at the start of the term. If the leave is granted, the student is not required to pay the tuition fee for the term during which he or she is away. All information on the regulations related to tuition fees is presented clearly on the SMU Intranet student portal, which is accessible to all SMU students.

This information is also available in the Freshman Guide, which all students receive when they join the university. Students who have any queries or need clarification and assistance may approach the respective offices, their school administrators or academic advisers.

Also, SMU practises a need-blind admission policy, where no deserving student will be deprived of an education because of financial hardship. To help students with financial needs, so that they can focus on their studies and enjoy a fulfilling university life, we have a comprehensive range of schemes in the form of grants, bursaries, loans and awards. We have an open-door policy at the Centre for Student Financial Assistance, where students can meet us to explore the financial options most appropriate for their needs.