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From left: Chairman of MERCU Learning Point Mohd Azmi Muslimin, scholarship recipient Muhammad Hafiz Kasman, SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer, Minister Yaacob Ibrahim, scholarship recipients Nur Amalina Saporin and Khairul Ashraf Khairul Anwar, and Chairman of Association of Muslim Professionals Azmoon Ahmad. Photo: SMU

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Management University (SMU) launched its first scholarship for Malay Singaporean undergraduates today (Nov 12), with three students as the inaugural recipients.

The scholarship was established with a S\$600,000 donation from MERCU Learning Point, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association of Muslim Professionals, a senior Singaporean investment professional and a senior Singaporean banker. With one-to-one Government matching, the total sum of the scholarship is S\$1.2 million.

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, Minister-In-Charge of Cyber Security & Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs, launched the scholarship with SMU President Professor Arnoud De Meyer and the three donors at a ceremony in SMU today.

The inaugural recipients are final year law student Nur Amalina Saporin, third-year law student Khairul Ashraf Khairul Anwar and third-year business student Muhammad Hafiz Kasman. They will receive annual funding of S\$12,000 each, starting this academic year.

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SMU said in a press release that the scholarship aims to inspire needy Malay students with outstanding academic results as well as a commendable record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement.

“The MERCU-SMU Excellence Scholarship will help us ensure that no deserving Malay student misses out on the opportunity of an SMU education because of financial need,” said Prof De Meyer. “I hope this gift will inspire other community and industry leaders to similarly contribute to building a richer and more vibrant educational environment for all SMU students,” he added.

The MERCU-SMU Excellence Scholarship is for full-time Malay Singaporean undergraduates who are in year two to year four and enrolled in any of the six schools at SMU. It will offer financial support for the recipients' school fees and other study-related expenses. Special consideration will be given to candidates with evidence of financial need.