



Scholarship recipients (from left) Chua Siong Yin (Health Science Scholarship for Occupational Therapy), Benjamin Wong Tien Yong (Singapore-Industry Scholarship for Health-care Administration), Calvin Lam Jun Yan (Healthcare Graduate Studies Award for Speech Pathology) and Mohammad Hanif Samad (Healthcare Graduate Studies Award for Biostatistics).

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Record number of health-care scholarships

By MELISSA PANG

A RECORD number of scholarships have been awarded this year to aspiring health-care leaders of the future.

A total of 176 health-care scholarships – 61 more than last year – were presented yesterday by the Ministry of Health (MOH), the six public health-care clusters, and MOH Holdings (MOHH).

A new scholarship, the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) for health-care administration, a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and MOHH, was awarded to 16 students.

Recipients of scholarships in the other categories will study nursing, physiotherapy, podiatry, medical social work and speech therapy, among other fields.

After graduation, each student must serve a bond period of between two and six years, depending on the duration of their course, and whether it is a local or overseas course.

Speaking to reporters after the event at Furama RiverFront hotel, the guest of honour, Minister of State for Health Amy Khor, said there were many more high-quality applicants this year.

“Competition has been stiff, and the quality of the candidates has also improved significantly. I’m happy that we have been able to award significantly more scholarships this year (which) speaks for the growing awareness and interest in the health-care sector.”

Mr Benjamin Wong, 19, is one of the 16 recipients of the SgIS. The former Anderson Junior College student will do a double degree in economics and accountancy at the Singapore Management University. He believes the five-year course will bring him skills that can translate into running public health institutions efficiently.

For Mr Mohammad Hanif Samad, 25, his Health-care Graduate Studies Award is an opportunity to pursue a field of study in which he developed a belated interest.

A life science graduate from the National University of Singapore, he became interested in applied statistics after an internship as a first-year student.

When he serves his three-year bond, he hopes to be able to analyse data available on the National Electronic Health Record system for policy formulation.

Mr Mohammad will leave in three weeks for his one-year master’s course in biostatistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He will serve a three-year bond when he returns.

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