



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Factsheet - SAF Overseas Scholarships**

The SAF Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS) was introduced in 1971, with the aim of recruiting top male students of each year's GCE 'A' Levels cohort to serve in MINDEF and the SAF. The SAFOS is widely recognised as second in prestige to the President's Scholarship.

The SAFOS does not limit the career paths of these scholars to just the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Under the Dual Career Scheme, which was introduced in 1981, SAFOS are given the opportunity, after their stint with the SAF, to serve in the prestigious Administrative Service as well as in other Ministries.

With the heavy emphasis on talent grooming and management, MINDEF has a committee chaired by top management that oversees talent management policy. This is explicitly shown in the training MINDEF provides for the SAF overseas scholars.

With ample training and exposure through taking on a variety of challenging appointments, the SAF overseas scholars are well prepared to hold top management positions in the SAF, public service and private sector.

Only about 1,000 of the 5,000 male students who sit for the GCE 'A' levels each year will be selected for officer cadet training. Amongst them, only about 30 will qualify for the SAFOS selection. On the average, about 0.18 per cent of the 5,000 will make it through the rigorous selection process to win the scholarship.

The selected scholars will receive a monthly maintenance allowance and an annual book allowance. They will also be paid a full officer's salary during their studies. Commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in their first year of studies, the scholars will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in their second year. One year after graduation, they will be promoted to the rank of Captain.