



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Factsheet - SAF Merit Scholarships**

Introduced in 1983, the SAF Merit Scholarship (SMS) aims to recruit top students of each year's GCE 'A' levels cohort and groom them for senior command and leadership positions in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). The SMS is recognised as one of the most prestigious scholarships that is offered to 'A' Level graduates.

Upon the completion of their undergraduate studies, the SAF Merit scholars will embark on their career in the SAF.

Only about 1,000 of the 5,000 male cadets who sit for the GCE 'A' Level each year will be selected for officer cadet training. Amongst them, only about 100 will qualify for the SMS selection. On the average, about 0.3 per cent of the 5,000 will make it through the strict selection process to clinch the scholarship.

The SMS is sub-categorised into three schemes – the Combat, Psychology and Women schemes catering to Combat Officer vocations. The Combat Scheme also allows the recipients to pursue undergraduate studies in prestigious military academies such as West Point, the US Air Force Academy, the US Naval Academy and the Australian Defence Academy.

The SMS (Women) Scheme is offered to young women who aspire to become combat officers. Like their male counterparts, they will lead men and manage technological advanced equipment. Their skills will be fully utilised, tested and developed.

For scholars under the Psychology Scheme, they will be posted to combat jobs in the initial stage of their career upon graduation. Thereafter, they will be rotated between combat and field psychology jobs. They will learn to apply their knowledge and skills to improve the training and combat effectiveness of SAF military units and training schools.

The selected scholars will be paid a full officer's salary during their studies. They will also receive monthly overseas maintenance allowances throughout the course of 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 their graduation, they will be promoted to the rank of Captain.