



NEWS RELEASE

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Factsheet – SAF Overseas Scholarship

The Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship

(SAFOS) <http://www.scholar.mindef.gov.sg/safscholarships_safos_intro.asp> was introduced in 1971, with the aim of recruiting top students of each GCE 'A' Levels cohort to serve in MINDEF/SAF. The scholarship is widely recognised as second in prestige to the President's Scholarship.

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, about 30 will qualify for the SAFOS selection. On average, only 0.18 per cent of the 5,000 will eventually 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. A year after graduation, they will be promoted to the rank of Captain.

The SAFOS scholars will be put through a systematic grooming process where they will acquire skills in leadership and lateral thinking, and develop a strong sense of realism and an appreciation of complex military problems. While SAFOS scholars will primarily take on appointments within their respective services, their career paths and pursuits are not limited to within MINDEF/SAF. Under the Dual Career Scheme introduced in 1981, SAFOS scholars are given the opportunity, after their stint in MINDEF/SAF, to serve in the prestigious Administrative Service as well as in other Ministries.