

## **Possible PhD Research Scholarship Opportunity at National University of Singapore**

### **Research Project on “A Mixed Modality Study of Marriage, Marital Education and Meanings of Family”**

With an ideal start date of August 2019, **ONE** Research Scholarship (RS) is available at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for prospective PhD students interested in completing research for a project on “**Marriage, Marital Education and Changing Meanings of Family in Singapore**”. This is **subject to the approval of the research grant** to which the RS is tied to. Successful applicants will complete their degree in the Department of Malay Studies or Southeast Asian Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS.

The RS details can be found [here](#). The end-date of the RS award will be the fourth year of study and it will cover tuition fees and provide a monthly stipend. The scholarship is targeted for applicants who have training and skills in the following areas and will continue to focus on these topics in their PhD programmes:

- **Gender Studies**
- **Family Studies**
- **Demography and Population Studies**
- **Malay and Southeast Asian Studies**
- **Social Work**
- **Psychology and Counselling**

The PhD thesis work should be an independent project which fits broadly into the overall research project on “**A Mixed Modality Study of Marriage, Marital Education and Meanings of Family**”, with Principal Investigator [PI] as A/P Maznah Mohamad, Malay Studies, Southeast Asian Studies and CFPR, FASS.

#### **About the Research Project**

This mixed modality study will involve both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide data in understanding the histories of marriage, divorce, family relationship history, attitudes, values and behavior. The study will assess factors shaping patterns such as basic demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, family dynamics, living arrangements, child and elderly care arrangement, household division of labour and other related concerns of marital lives. The qualitative methods will map and chart relations and connections between marriage education providers on one side and target participants on the other end. A quantitative survey will be conducted on recent cohorts of Singaporeans to explore the meanings of marriage not just in relation to attitudes but also about knowledge, aptitude and values attached to various forms of consensual unions. A main focus of the research is to measure and assess the effectiveness of marriage education programmes by following the trajectories of married couples and individuals in various arrangements of marriage over a period of three years.

#### **About the Department of Malay Studies, Department of Southeast Asian Studies and Centre for Family and Population Research**

The Department of Malay Studies at the National University of Singapore produces undergraduate and graduate students of high quality with broad knowledge of the developments and problems in the Malay world of Southeast Asia and beyond. The department also actively engages in research on a wide

range of issues concerning the Malay world from a multi-disciplinary perspective, promotes exchanges with centres of Malay studies worldwide, and encourages the development of new and alternative approaches to the understanding of Malay history, economy, politics, society and culture.

The Department of Southeast Asian Studies is located in the Asian Studies Division of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and offer distinctive programmes for anyone interested in studying Southeast Asia, from the undergraduate to the PhD level.

The Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR) was funded by the National University of Singapore and established in April, 2014 as a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences research centre. It is dedicated to the scientific advancement of research and training to understand the trends, determinants, and consequences of family and population changes, particularly in Asia. We aim to bridge basic academic research with public policies that affect family's well-being. Our research adopts a multi-disciplinary, life course, and international comparative approach.

### **Application Procedure**

Graduate research students in the Department of Malay Studies and Southeast Asian Studies follow a semi-structured programme that involves a taught component in the first one to two years of registration. The programme allows a PhD student to acquire and develop to a high standard both subject-specific and transferable skills, thus enabling a student to access a broad range of future employment opportunities – in business, industry, consultancy, education, research etc.

Applicants must be university graduates with at least an upper second class honours degree or equivalent and at the time of the RS award. Applications from candidates who also already hold a graduate degree (e.g. Masters) are particularly welcome. There is no restriction on the nationality of applicants.

All applicants must write separately to the PI (A/P Maznah Mohamad, email: [mlsmm@nus.edu.sg](mailto:mlsmm@nus.edu.sg) to indicate an interest in the project.