INTRODUCING the FASS Graduate Students HELP Fund

1. **What’s the purpose of the Fund?** The FASS Graduate Students HELP Fund (the HELP Fund, for short) is to primarily assist FASS graduate students in case of an unexpected family crisis or health situation. The HELP Fund assists with health and medical conditions that are not already covered by the NUS student insurance. This is to avoid duplication and to provide help where help is critically needed (applicants’ financial circumstances will be taken into consideration).

   The HELP Fund was established in 2012 as an initiative of FASS’ Lee Kong Chian graduate scholars with a background in community work. While the initial scholars have graduated, later cohorts of Lee Kong Chian scholars are continuing the good work as it is important that graduate students who are often financially stretched, should receive assistance in a health/medical emergency or crisis. This need was confirmed by a survey conducted among graduate students, with the support of the FASS Graduate Studies Division.

2. **Who can apply?** Any FASS graduate student with an urgent health or medical-related need that complies with the Fund’s coverage criteria (please see FAQ 4 below) may apply.

3. **How much will be disbursed to deserving students?** The Fund will consider applications not exceeding S$2,000 on a one-time application basis only.

4. **What is covered by the Fund?** Scenarios include:

   i) **Family emergencies arising out of a sudden death or incapacity** of an immediate family member and/or the sole breadwinner.

   ii) **Emergency hospitalisation**, primarily for diagnosis
       Students can claim for tests that are related to a recent discovery of a significant health/medical issue that they have not had before.
iii) Emergency-related outpatient treatment
Students can claim for outpatient treatment for a sudden, unknown condition that they have not faced before.

iv) Medical appliances critical for daily function, such as hearing aids, prosthetic devices, and wheelchairs

v) Any other special needs as may be agreed by the HELP committee on a case-by-case basis.

5. How long will it take to review each application?

Each case should be reviewed within two weeks from the application date.

6. Who will review the applications?

All applications are reviewed by an approval committee that comprises (1) Vice-Dean or Assistant Dean of the Graduate Studies Division, (2) an NUS-based medical doctor or health specialist; and (3) an FASS Lee Kong Chian graduate scholar.

7. How can I donate to the HELP Fund?

Donations can be made online via the following link:

https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/odp/Public/FundsList.aspx?Fid=216b2ccd-d61c-49a5-9857-b9bfb108b59d