PhD Research Scholarship Opportunity at National University of Singapore

In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young

With an ideal start date of January 2020, **ONE** Research Scholarship (RS) is available at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for prospective PhD students interested in completing research on young working poor in Singapore. Successful applicants will complete their degree in the Department of Social Work, Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Malay Studies, or Southeast Asian Studies. Deadline for application for the January 2020 intake is **27 September 2019**.

**Applicants who are able to start the PhD programme in January 2020 are strongly preferred.** However, the project will continue accepting applications past 27 September 2019, for the August 2020 intake if no suitable candidates are identified for the January 2020 intake. The deadline is **1 November 2019**.

The RS details can be found [here](#). The end-date of the RS award will be the fourth year of PhD 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 programme:

- Skills in academic literature search and review
- Skills in quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis (e.g., facilitating focus group discussion; performing thematic analysis; running inferential statistics)
- Good English writing skills
- A few years of social service practice experience will be preferred

The PhD thesis work should be an independent project which fits broadly into the overall research project on “In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young” (Principal Investigator [PI]: A/P Irene Y.H. Ng, Department of Social Work).

New vulnerabilities are being created by the new disrupted economy. This project seeks to gain new insights on the kinds of “in-work” poverty (i.e. poverty while being employed) that the working class are experiencing. It will focus on the challenges faced by lower educated young workers (aged between 21 and 40) and their efforts at advancement, an area that has received less attention.

Using traditional and technology-based mixed methods, the project will gain deep and wide understanding of the lived realities of younger low-waged workers through surveys, interviews, ethnographic studies, and data inputs using a mobile application. Through these, we hope to understand the interactions of work and earnings with young workers’ mental health and cognitive ability, and how they use their social networks to navigate jobs, family and advancement.

The insights gained from this project seeks to inform Singapore on improving the reach of formal programmes to younger low-waged workers, the design of programmes to better meet their needs, and the optimisation of their social networks as a resource to help themselves.

Applicants will apply to any one of the departments listed below, depending on their academic background:

- Department of Social Work
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Malay Studies
Please click here for a short introduction to the departments.

**Application Procedure**

Applicants must possess an NUS Honours degree (Merit/Second Class and above) or equivalent (e.g. a four-year Bachelor’s degree with at least an average grade of B) in a relevant discipline. 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.

**January 2020 intake**

Interested candidates should do the following by 27 September 2019:

1. Submit the application online [here](#). Even though the intake reflected is August 2020, we will amend your application to the January 2020 intake at our end.

2. Print out the completed application form and indicate that they are applying for the Research Scholarship by writing “In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young” on the top right hand corner of the application form.

3. Send the printed copy of the application form and supporting documents to the relevant department.

4. Send a scanned copy of their application to (a) Social Service Research Centre (SSR) [here](#) & (b) [Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences](#) with the email subject “In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young.”

**August 2020 intake**

Interested candidates should do the following by 1 November 2019:

1. Submit the application online [here](#).

2. Print out the completed application form and indicate that they are applying for the Research Scholarship by writing “In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young” on the top right hand corner of the application form.

3. Send the printed copy of the application form and supporting documents to the relevant department.

4. Send a scanned copy of their application to Social Service Research Centre (SSR) [here](#) with the email subject “In-Work Poverty and the Challenges of Getting By Among the Young.”