Masters Research Scholarship Opportunity at National University of Singapore

Social Capital and Integration of Low-Income Binational Families in Singapore

With an ideal start date of August 2019, ONE Research Scholarship (RS) is available at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for a prospective Masters student interested in completing research on social capital and integration of low-income transnational/binational families in Singapore. Successful applicants will complete their degree in the Department of Social Work. The deadline for application is 1 November 2018.

The RS details can be found here. The end-date of the RS award will be the second 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 Masters programmes:

- Basic skills in academic literature search and review
- Basic skills in quantitative or qualitative data collection and analysis (e.g., facilitating focus group discussion; performing thematic analysis)
- Good English writing skills
- A few years of social work practice experience in a family service setting will be preferred
- Practice and research interest in transnational/binational families, or low-income families in Singapore will be preferred.

The Masters thesis work should be an independent project which fits broadly into the overall research project on “Social Capital and Integration of Low-Income Binational Families in Singapore” (Principal Investigator [PI]: A/P Choo Hyekyung, Department of Social Work).

Low-income binational families typically face additional challenges as a result of differential socio-economic status and social needs brought into the marital and familial structure by the local and foreign spouses. It is thus important to understand how such challenges affect the social functioning and integration of low-income binational families to Singapore so as to minimize the socio-economic vulnerabilities of these families. This project aims to gather detailed information on low-income binational families to understand how (i) demographic conditions, such as nationality, immigration and employment status, (ii) psycho-socio-economic challenges, such as marital conflict, parenting difficulties and child adjustment issues and (iii) availability and utilisation of social capital, such as social support systems and social services contribute to these families’ path towards social integration at both individual and familial level. The project has the potential to inform Singapore’s social integration initiatives to better support low-income binational families’ integration to Singapore.

Department of Social Work

Since 1952, our department has trained social workers in Singapore who have positively and significantly impacted our society, at both levels of frontline social work practice addressing the needs of marginalized groups and individuals, as well as policy changes promoting social justice and inclusiveness. Today, we continue to attract some of our country’s brightest students who demonstrate talent and passion for the people-helping profession.

Social Work education at NUS strongly advocates a dual focus of thinking and doing. By thinking, we engage students in conceptual, abstract, and critical thinking that is vital for effective leadership in social work practice. By doing, our students undergo a mandatory 800-hour field educational experience -- our
signature pedagogy -- which provides immersion in practice and empowers students for real-life scenarios upon their graduation.

Our team of academic staff have a diversity of strengths, including extensive practice experience, excellent research competence, and teaching domain expertise. We take a serious stance in insuring that our teaching is research-informed and practice-relevant, offering the following programs: Bachelor of Social Sciences in Social Work (with Honours); Graduate Diploma in Social Work; Masters in Social Work (by coursework); Masters in Social Sciences (by research); PhD (by research).

Application Procedure

Graduate research students in the Department of Social Work follow a semi-structured programme that involves a taught component in the first one to two years of registration. The programme allows a Masters 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 possess an NUS Honours degree (Merit/Second Class and above) or equivalent (e.g., a four-year Bachelors degree with at least an average grade of B) in a relevant discipline.

There is no restriction on the nationality of applicants.

The application deadline is 1 November 2018 for the August 2019 intake. Applications should be submitted online here. Candidates should indicate that they are applying for the Research Scholarship, by indicating “Low-Income Binational Families” at the top right hand corner of the printed application form which has to be submitted to the Department by hand/post by 1 November 2018. Besides indicating on the application form printouts, candidates must also send a scanned copy of their application to the Department of Social Work here by 1 November 2018 with the email subject “Low-Income Binational Families.”