Singapore Government Scholarships Guideline

Government-funded options for international students (focus on SINGA for PhD) – 2027 intake

Please note: this guideline was compiled from public scholarship websites; the official A*STAR and Ministry of Education pages could not be opened directly. Amounts and dates differ between sources and change often, so confirm everything on the official websites listed at the end. **The SINGA deadline for the August 2027 intake is reported as 1 December 2026, which is very close, so check the official page immediately if you plan to apply.**

1. Overview

Singapore has no single scholarship called the “Singapore Government Scholarship” that covers all international students. Funding comes through several government-backed routes, each with its own eligibility and application system. For a Pakistani applicant, the main options are the **SINGA PhD award (A*STAR)**, short research attachments (SIPGA), and the **MOE Tuition Grant** (a fee subsidy, not a scholarship). The ASEAN scholarships are for ASEAN nationals only, so Pakistani citizens are not eligible for them.

Scheme	Level	Who can apply	Notes
SINGA (Singapore International Graduate Award)	PhD (science and engineering)	International students of all nationalities	Fully funded, run by A*STAR with NUS, NTU, SUTD, SMU and SIT
SIPGA (Singapore International Pre-Graduate Award)	Short research attachment (2–6 months)	International students	A*STAR research institutes; about S$2,000 monthly stipend (reported)
MOE Tuition Grant	Undergraduate (and some postgraduate)	International students admitted to the autonomous universities	Fee subsidy; requires a 3-year work commitment in Singapore
ASEAN Scholarships (MOE / NUS / NTU)	Secondary and Undergraduate	ASEAN citizens only	Not open to Pakistani applicants
University scholarships (NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD)	Undergraduate, Master’s, PhD	International students; varies	Applied for through each university’s admission process

2. SINGA (Singapore International Graduate Award)

SINGA is a fully funded PhD scholarship for international graduates, a joint initiative of A*STAR, NUS, NTU, SUTD, SMU and SIT (established 2008). It is **project-based**: you choose up to three PhD research projects from the list on the SINGA website and work on the project offered to you under the listed supervisor. Fields include biomedical sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and computing and information sciences. It is for science and engineering PhD (or EngD) study, not a

general PhD funding scheme.

Duration	Up to 4 years
Open to	International students of all nationalities
Not eligible	Singapore citizens, permanent residents, and (per one source) people who obtained their Bachelor's or Master's from a Singaporean institution
Application portal	A*STAR online applicant portal (sms-applicant-app.a-star.edu.sg) via the official SINGA page
Contact	singa@a-star.edu.sg

Benefits

- Full tuition fees for the duration of the PhD
- Monthly stipend: one source gives **S$2,700, rising to S$3,200** after passing the qualifying examination; other sources quote S$2,000–2,500. Confirm the current figure on the official page.
- One-time settling-in allowance (S$1,000 per one source)
- One-time airfare grant (up to S$1,500 per one source)
- Research facilities at A*STAR institutes or the host university; no bond or service obligation reported (A*STAR encourages scholars to stay in Singapore's research ecosystem but does not require it)

Eligibility

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent in science, engineering or a related field with strong academic results. A Master's degree helps but is not required.
- Demonstrated research aptitude; research experience, publications and conference presentations strengthen the application.
- English proficiency; IELTS or TOEFL may be required depending on the host university and your educational background.
- No work experience required.

Required documents

- Completed SINGA online application form
- Official academic transcripts from all tertiary institutions attended
- Bachelor's degree certificate (and Master's if applicable)
- Passport copy (biographical page)
- CV highlighting research experience
- Two referee reports submitted through the SINGA online system (referees receive an automated email)
- English test scores, if required
- Research statement or statement of purpose
- List of publications, if any

- Selection of up to three research projects in order of preference

Deadlines

Intake	Application deadline
August 2027 intake	**1 December 2026** (23:59 Singapore time), all partner institutions (reported by several sources; follows the historical pattern)
January 2028 intake	1 June 2027 (A*STAR and NTU only), per the historical pattern
Shortlisting	Within about 12 weeks of the closing date; offers reported between February and May

Note: one guide says the dates are historical patterns and not confirmed on a live official A*STAR page, and another source mentions a different cut-off (1 January 2027). Confirm the exact date and time on the official SINGA page. With the 1 December date only days away, prepare referees and documents at once.

How to apply

1. Browse the list of available PhD research projects on the SINGA website and pick up to three that match your background.
2. Prepare transcripts, degree certificate, passport copy, CV, research statement and your two referees' contact details; ask referees early.
3. Submit the online application with your project preferences in order before the deadline (no hard copies needed).
4. Make sure both referees submit their reports through the system before the deadline; incomplete applications are not considered.
5. Shortlisted candidates are interviewed (in person or by video) by the project supervisors and host university faculty.
6. If selected, accept the offer, then arrange your visa, accommodation and travel; the PhD usually starts in August.

3. MOE Tuition Grant (Fee Subsidy)

- A Singapore government subsidy that reduces tuition fees for eligible international students at the six autonomous universities (NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD, SIT and SUSS) and in some qualifying full-time diploma programs. It is not a scholarship and is not awarded to every applicant automatically; you apply for it and accept its conditions.
- Sources describe the fee reduction as roughly 35% to 90% depending on the course (other sources quote 40–70%), and it does not apply to private universities.
- **Bond:** international students who accept the grant generally must sign an agreement to work for a Singapore-registered company for **three years** after graduation.
- Many scholarships described as "full tuition" are built on top of the Tuition Grant, so the bond often applies to them as well.

4. ASEAN Scholarships (Not for Pakistan)

The MOE ASEAN Scholarship (Secondary level, for students from ASEAN member countries) and the ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship (for ASEAN citizens at NUS, NTU, SMU or SUTD) are restricted to nationals of the ten ASEAN states. Pakistani citizens cannot apply for them.

5. SIPGA (Research Attachment)

The Singapore International Pre-Graduate Award offers a short research attachment of about 2 to 6 months at an A*STAR research institute, with a reported monthly stipend of about S$2,000. It is meant for students who want research experience before graduate study. Check the A*STAR website for the current intake dates and eligibility.

6. Preparation Tips

- Match your degree and research experience closely to the SINGA project list; fit is a primary evaluation criterion.
- Write a research statement tailored to the specific projects, referring to the relevant A*STAR institute or university lab.
- Follow up with your referees so their reports are submitted before the deadline.
- Read the official eligibility rules and the live host list on the A*STAR page, and do not rely on old blog links.
- Budget for Singapore's living costs even with a stipend, and check visa requirements after selection.
- Do not pay agents; applications to SINGA are made directly and free of charge.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is there one Singapore Government Scholarship for all international students?

No. Funding comes through different schemes (SINGA for PhD, the MOE Tuition Grant, ASEAN scholarships and university awards), each with its own rules.

Q. Can Pakistani students apply for SINGA?

Yes. SINGA is open to international students of all nationalities, for science and engineering PhD study.

Q. Do I need a Master's degree for SINGA?

No, a strong Bachelor's degree in a relevant field is enough, though a Master's or research experience helps.

Q. Can I choose my own research topic?

No. SINGA is project-based; you select up to three projects from the published list.

Q. Is there a bond for SINGA?

No bond or service obligation is reported for SINGA. The MOE Tuition Grant, however, carries a three-year work commitment.

Q. Can Pakistani students get ASEAN scholarships?

No. They are for ASEAN nationals only.

Q. When is the next deadline?

Reported as 1 December 2026 for the August 2027 intake and 1 June 2027 for the January 2028 intake (A*STAR and NTU only). Confirm on the official page.

8. Official Links

- SINGA: a-star.edu.sg (Scholarships > For Graduate Studies > Singapore International Graduate Award)
- A*STAR applicant portal: sms-applicant-app.a-star.edu.sg
- MOE Tuition Grant and ASEAN scholarships: moe.gov.sg and the admissions pages of NUS, NTU, SMU and SUTD

*Compiled on 19 November 2026 from public scholarship websites summarising A*STAR, MOE and university information. Stipends, deadlines and eligibility rules differ between sources and change each cycle; always verify on the official websites before applying.*