



LEAD  
SERVE  
AND  
DEFEND

# LEAD SERVE AND DEFEND

SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



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## LEAD, SERVE AND DEFEND

The SAF Merit Scholarship equips you with a world-class education and provides many opportunities to hone your skills as a leader, manager and strategist. You will be trained to meet the challenges of the new security environment and to lead your people to fulfil the mission.

You will serve Singapore and Singaporeans, and shape the lives of those you work with as well as the future of the SAF. Most importantly, you will play a critical role in defending our sovereignty and way of life.

To be a recipient of the SAF Merit Scholarship is to answer a calling of the highest order. It is not a job that you are choosing — it is a profession. And the profession of soldiering is one of duty and service for the nation.





## COMMITTED TO SERVE

### MAJOR (MAJ) TONG WEI LYNN

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 2006

MAJ Tong Wei Lynn views her profession as a great honour, which gave her the privilege to give back to the country and contribute to the lives of others.

While her role as a Guards Officer can be demanding, her conviction towards the SAF's mission keeps her focused. On a more personal level, it is the focus on the soldiers under her charge that keeps her going.

"Command is a huge responsibility, and I know that I am answerable for the

training, morale, discipline and safety of our soldiers at all times," she says.

Her advice to aspiring leaders is that an SAF profession is very fulfilling – once you have discovered a sense of purpose.

"You are given the chance to make a real impact, so it's imperative to have the right intent. This profession is about service, and we must have the heart to serve."



## EVERYONE IS FAMILY

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL (LTC) MUHAMMAD HELMI BIN KHASWAN

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 2004

LTC Muhammad Helmi Bin Khaswan is a family man to many. That's because the Army expands the notion of family beyond loved ones at home. "The soldiers we lead, the people who we work with; I see them all as an extension of my own family."

This sense of family is most fulfilling to LTC Helmi. As the Commanding Officer of an Infantry Battalion, his main task is to build an operationally ready unit by bringing individuals from different backgrounds together. "Beyond producing

operational capabilities, it is about transmitting the values to help our soldiers go on to be good citizens, sons, husbands and fathers. I strongly believe in that." His career journey has also seen him helm strategic planning and policy formulation as Head of Training Plans.

"As a leader in the SAF, you need more than just physical courage. The moral courage to do what is right, placing the interest of the nation and citizens above your own is equally important."

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

### MAJOR (MAJ) JEFFREY NG

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 2008

MAJ Jeffrey Ng has always wanted a profession that would be for a larger cause and greater purpose.

A UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) pilot by vocation, MAJ Ng has performed various roles with regard to UAV developments. He was a Command Pilot of the Heron 1 UAV and was involved in the acquisition of UAVs during his staff appointment in the Air Plans Department before serving his current tour as an Officer Commanding in a UAV squadron.

“The favourite part about my role is that I am often at the epicentre of new ideas about UAV developments for the SAF and I am excited by how my work could shape the future of the RSAF,” he says.

To aspiring leaders, MAJ Ng advocates the importance of staying true to one’s highest aspirations.

“Discover your passion and purpose. Broaden your horizons and stay true to your values. Above all, serve your people, not yourself.”



## DEFENDING THE SKIES

### MAJOR (MAJ) NAH JINPING

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 2006

After attending a scholarship and career fair, MAJ Nah Jinping learnt how an SAF profession provides a myriad of opportunities to hone leadership and critical thinking skills. “The possibilities offered by the SAF were fascinating. Hence, I decided to be a fighter pilot in the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF),” says MAJ Nah.

Every day is a different experience as she defends our airspace. “I love many things about my job, especially flying the F-15SG\*.

The people I work with are not just colleagues, but my brothers-in-arms. Plus, knowing that what we do protects our home and loved ones makes our job all the more rewarding.”

MAJ Nah’s advice to aspiring leaders is to never try to be anyone else. “I started out trying to be one of the boys. But I soon realised I was best as myself – because being a fighter pilot and leader is not about gender, but about what you are able to accomplish.”



\*The F-15SG is an advanced variant of the US Air Force’s F-15E Strike Eagle multi-role fighter aircraft.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### MAJOR (MAJ) HO CHUAN CALWIN

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 2008

For MAJ Ho Chuan Calwin, he finds purpose in serving the nation and the people around him. He wanted a profession where he could make a difference.

After his studies, MAJ Ho went on several overseas deployments and international operations that broadened his horizons and developed him as a leader in the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

MAJ Ho is currently serving his staff tour in the RSN Strategy Office, and his key

role is to redesign the RSN across the board to chart the Navy into the future. As an SAF officer, MAJ Ho shares that it's vital to possess moral fibre, resilience, and to truly care for the people you work together with.

"Being in the SAF is not just a job. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself. While the journey may not always be smooth sailing, it will be immensely rewarding."



## PLETHORA OF OPPORTUNITIES

### COLONEL (COL) GOH JERICA

AWARDED THE SAF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP IN 1993

For COL Goh Jerica, joining the SAF had never crossed her mind. It was only after attending a scholarship tea session that she considered the SAF. "What appealed to me was the notion of serving my country and contributing to the defence of the nation," she says.

The military profession exposed her to different appointments on a ship as well as in the Headquarters. On board a ship, she got to hone her leadership and warfighting skills. At the Headquarters, she was

involved in policy and strategic planning issues for the Navy. COL Jerica was the first female Commanding Officer of a frigate - RSS *Supreme*\*.

Throughout her career, she has worked with people of diverse backgrounds. "I have learnt the importance of effective communications and empathy in bringing people together to work effectively in achieving our mission. It has been a challenging, interesting and rewarding journey for me."

\*A *Formidable*-class frigate that is capable of dealing with multidimensional naval threats from the air, surface or underwater.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship
- Good GCE 'A' Level or International Baccalaureate results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent
- Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records
- Strong leadership qualities
- Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School
- Possess a strong interest in a military career
- All MINDEF/SAF scholarships are open for application to both genders

## VALUE OF AWARD

- Full salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses)
- Full tuition fees and other approved academic charges
- Maintenance and other allowances, e.g. books, clothing, computer
- Return airfare
- One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programmes
- Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable

## COURSE OF STUDY

You can choose to pursue your studies in any of the following disciplines\*:

- Arts / Social Sciences
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- International Relations
- Law\*\*
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Science / Natural Sciences

Note:

\*If you are pursuing your Master's degree, you must complete your studies in 4 years. You can choose your course of study with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc.

\*\*Applicants intending to pursue a degree in law should note that they will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.



## UNIVERSITIES

Our talents typically go to top and renowned universities in the USA or UK.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- Yale University

### UNITED KINGDOM

- Imperial College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- University College London
- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford

Note:  
The above lists are not exhaustive. You may also apply if the universities you're interested in are not listed, but applications are subject to approval.

### SUPPORT DURING YOUR STUDIES

MINDEF Scholarship Centre will be your point of contact and support for all your personal administration, academic and military needs when you are studying.

An in-service talent will also be assigned to you as a mentor to advise and guide you during your studies.

### VACATION ATTACHMENT

Stay updated with the latest developments in MINDEF/SAF. Vacation attachments will be arranged for you during the summer holidays.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Male:** Applications open in September of each year and close in April of the following year.

**Female:** Applications open in April of each year and close in August of the same year.

We encourage all applicants to apply early. You can submit your application for the SAF Merit Scholarship at [www.mindef.gov.sg/scholarship/apply-now.html](http://www.mindef.gov.sg/scholarship/apply-now.html).

## SELECTION PROCESS

### (1) INTERVIEW BOARD

**Male:** You will be required to attend an interview after you have been commissioned as an officer.

**Female:** There will be two rounds of interviews. Firstly, to assess your suitability for enlistment for Basic Military Training (BMT). Subsequently, if you perform well in BMT and gain entry to OCS, your scholarship will be confirmed in the second interview.

All applicants' performance in Officer Cadet School (OCS) will be a key factor in interviews.

The board looks for candidates who demonstrate leadership potential, good character, a strong desire to realise their potential, a passion to serve the country and a keen

interest to pursue a challenging and fulfilling career with MINDEF/SAF.

The scholarship is awarded based on merit. You will be awarded the scholarship if you meet the criteria and are found suitable by the interview boards. There is no quota for the number of scholarships awarded annually.

### (2) AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIP

Upon accepting the scholarship, you will depart for studies in August or September, depending on the country of study.

**Male:** In the 2nd year of National Service, after commissioning.

**Female:** Within a year of your enlistment.

## EMBARK ON YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

The SAF Merit Scholarship provides access to a wide range of prestigious universities for your journey towards leadership within the SAF. The privilege to protect our nation's sovereignty and our way of life lies right ahead of you. Speak to our officers at the MINDEF Scholarship Centre to learn more today.

