Eligibility Guidelines for MOE Subsidy (MOE-Subsidised Graduate Programmes)

(1) Students with a Higher Degree Qualification

Students (all nationalities[1]) who already hold a higher degree qualification and wish to pursue a second graduate research/coursework programme of the same or lower level might be eligible for the MOE subsidy provided the fees for their first higher degree qualification attained were not subsidised by the Singapore government or sponsored by a Singapore government agency (such as scholarships offered by the Ministries, Public Service Commission and Statutory Boards for both their local and overseas graduate programmes)[2].

For Graduate Research Programmes

Students who have previously enjoyed government subsidies/scholarships in a graduate research/coursework programme will not be eligible for MOE subsidy[3] in another graduate research programme at the same or lower level. Instead, such students will be liable to pay a higher fee without MOE subsidy for the graduate programme that they now wish to undertake. For example, students who had previously enjoyed subsidies/scholarships in a Master's by Research programme and have attained the Master's degree will not be eligible for subsidy in another Master's programme. For students who are upgraded from Master's to PhD, if the date of upgrading is after Instructional Week 2 of the semester, the subsidy will only take effect the following semester. In addition, if they are upgraded to a programme which has a combination of Master's and PhD candidature, they will not be eligible to enjoy subsidy during the Master's candidature.

For Graduate Coursework Programmes

Students who have previously enjoyed government subsidies/scholarships in a graduate coursework (i.e. Graduate Diploma, Master's by Coursework and Doctorate by Coursework) or research programme will not be eligible for MOE subsidy[3] in another graduate coursework programme.[2] For example, students who had previously enjoyed government subsidies/scholarships in a Graduate Diploma programme and have attained the Graduate Diploma will not be eligible for MOE subsidy in another Graduate Diploma/Master's by Coursework/Doctorate by Coursework. Students who have completed a subsidised Master's by Research will still be eligible for MOE subsidy for a Doctorate by Coursework programme.

Please refer to the table below for the various scenarios of MOE Subsidy Eligibility.

Previously enjoyed MOE subsidy & completed programme for:	New MOE-Subsidised programme to be read:	MOE Subsidy Eligibility for New Programme
Master's by Research	Doctorate by Research	Eligible
Master's by Research	Graduate Diploma	Not Eligible
Master's by Research	Master's by Coursework	Not Eligible
Master's by Research	Doctorate by Coursework	Eligible
Doctorate by Research	Master's by Research/ Graduate Diploma/ Master's by Coursework/ Doctorate by Coursework	Not Eligible
Graduate Diploma*	Master's by Coursework/ Doctorate by Coursework	Not Eligible
Graduate Diploma*	Master's by Research	Eligible^, [1]
Graduate Diploma*	Doctorate by Research	Eligible
Master's by Coursework	Graduate Diploma/ Master's by Research/ Doctorate by Coursework	Not Eligible
Master's by Coursework	Doctorate by Research	Eligible

Doctorate by Coursework	Master's by Research/ Graduate Diploma/ Master's by Coursework/ Doctorate by Research	Not Eligible

**The only exception is the NIE Postgraduate Diploma in Education. The NIE Postgraduate Diploma in Education (NIE PGDE) is not considered to be an MOE-subsidised graduate coursework programme. Hence, graduates of NIE PGDE will be eligible for MOE subsidy in another graduate diploma/Master's programme.*

^Subsidy for Master's by Research will be pro-rated based on the subsidy consumed for the Graduate Diploma. Refer to the equation below for the proration of subsidy.

Remaining semesters of MOE Subsidy for MbR = Maximum Candidature in semesters for new MbR – no. of semesters subsidised by MOE for original Grad Diploma

(2) Transferred or Readmitted Students

Students (all nationalities[1]) who did not complete an earlier graduate programme (i.e. 'original' programme) and are now transferred or readmitted to another programme (i.e. 'new' programme) at the same level within NUS or across Autonomous Universities (AUs)[4] will be eligible for MOE subsidy based on the following formula:

For transfers prior to AY2022/23

Duration of new graduate programme – Equivalent no. of semester(s)[5] of government subsidies/sponsorships received for original graduate programme

For transfers from AY2022/23 onwards

$$\frac{\text{Remaining SE}^{*} \text{ from original graduate programme}}{\text{Total SE for original graduate programme}} \times \text{Total SE for new graduate programme}$$

Subsidy Eligibility. Refer to* **Annex A *for the full glossary.*

In instances where the computation of SE does not produce a whole number, the number of semesters will be **rounded up to the nearest whole number**.

For all transfers, subsidies for the new programme **would not be retrospectively provided**, whether due to the exceeding of the Normal Candidature Period of the original graduate programme or other reasons.

The transfer funding framework effective 13 July 2022 is elaborated in **Annex B** with examples shown in **Annex C** - For transfers between different MOE-Subsidised Graduate Coursework programmes (GDC-GDC transfer) or transfers between a MOE-Subsidised Graduate Coursework programme and a Graduate Research programme (GDC-GDR transfer) or from modular courses to Graduate Coursework/Masters by Research programme.

For transfers between different Graduate Research programmes (GDR-GDR transfer), the SE is the Maximum Candidature Period of the new programme less the equivalent number of semester(s)[6] of government subsidies/sponsorships received for the original programme.
Duration of new programme is defined as such:

- with effect from Semester 2, AY2008/09, it refers to Maximum Candidature (MCD) Period for Research-based programmes.

- with effect from Semester 1, AY2019/20, it refers to Normal Candidature (NCD)[7] Period for Graduate Coursework programmes.

For admission to programmes of different levels, please refer to (1) *Students with a Higher Degree Qualification* above.

Note: Please note that all calculations are subject to verification with the AUs to ensure accuracy.

NUS is authorised to obtain and verify the information provided by student or otherwise, with any source as it deems appropriate. In the event of inaccurate, incomplete or false information given by student regarding previously consumed and eligible MOE Subsidy for graduate programmes, NUS may at its discretion withdraw any offer of admission made or, if already admitted, may be liable to disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from NUS.

(3) Conversion of Academic Workload

According to the transfer funding framework for government-subsidised graduate coursework programmes, students who convert their academic workload (from full-time (FT) to part-time (PT) or vice versa) will be eligible for MOE subsidy in their converted programmes as follows:

a) **FT to PT**: SE* for **PT** programme = NCD of new **PT** programme – (Number of subsidised semesters consumed under original **FT** programme **x 2**), **rounded up**

b) **PT to FT**: SE* for **FT** programme = NCD of new **FT** programme – (Number of subsidised semesters consumed under original **PT** programme **/ 2**), **rounded up**

Subsidy Eligibility. Refer to* **Annex A *for the full glossary.*

The transfer funding framework is elaborated in **Annex B** with examples shown in **Annex C**.

Note: Please note that all calculations are subject to verification with the AUs to ensure accuracy.

NUS is authorised to obtain and verify the information provided by student or otherwise, with any source as it deems appropriate. In the event of inaccurate, incomplete or false information given by student regarding previously consumed and eligible MOE Subsidy for graduate programmes, NUS may at its discretion withdraw any offer of admission made or, if already admitted, may be liable to disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from NUS.

Note:

[1] *International students admitted from Semester 1 of AY2015/16 are no longer eligible for MOE Subsidy and would be required to pay full fees unless they are on MOE Research Scholarship or sign the MOE Service Obligation Agreement.*

[2] *NIE Postgraduate Diploma in Education (NIE PGDE) is not considered to be an MOE-subsidised graduate coursework programme. Hence, graduates of NIE PGDE will be eligible for MOE subsidy in another graduate diploma.*

[3] *Students who are not eligible for MOE subsidy are also not eligible for some scholarships, such as, the President's Graduate Fellowship, NUS Research Scholarship, Tuition Fee Allowance, etc.*

[4] *Autonomous Universities refer to NUS, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).*

[5] *For graduate coursework programmes done on a part-time basis, the subsidy for two semesters of part-time studies is equivalent to one semester of full-time studies. For graduate research programmes, there is no differentiation in subsidy between full-time and part-time studies.*

[6] *For graduate research programmes, the subsidy is up to the Maximum Candidature Duration (MCD) period, which is three (3) years for full-time/part-time Masters by Research, and five (5) years for full-time/part-time PhD programmes. There is no differentiation in subsidy between full-time and part-time studies. NUS will continue to subsidise the tuition fees for those who exceed the MCD for another (1) year. This means that full-time/part-time Master's by Research and PhD students who are in Year 5 and Year 7 of their studies respectively, will be required to pay the full, unsubsidised tuition fees from AY2024/25 onwards.*

[7] *Normal Candidature (NCD) Period of MOE-subsidised Graduate Coursework programmes can be found here.*

Annex A

Glossary of Key Terms

S/N	Name	Acronym	Definition
1	Subsidy eligibility	SE	The amount of MOE subsidy (in semesters) that a student is entitled to for their current programme.
2	Maximum candidature period	MCD	The maximum length of time, in semesters, that a student can take to complete programme.
3	Credit-based funding	CBF	Funding model where the subsidy eligibility of students is tracked by the minimum number of Units required for graduation. [Currently applicable to Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).]
4	Enrolment-based funding	EBF	Funding model where the subsidy eligibility of students is tracked by the number of semesters in the normal/maximum candidature period.
5	Minimum number of Units required for graduation	MU	The graduation requirements for a programme, in Units.
6	Normal candidature period	NCD	The normal length of time, in semesters, that a student needs to complete the programme.

Annex B

S/N	GD Programme	Type of transfer	Transfer policies to determine remaining subsidy eligibility (SE)
1	GDC	*[For AUs on EBF only]* Transfers between the same modes (FT or PT) of GDCs	$$NCD\ for\ new\ GDC \times \frac{Remaining\ semesters\ in\ original\ GDC}{NCD\ for\ original\ GDC}$$ Information on original GDC subsidy is required from student or original Autonomous University.
2	GDC	*[For AUs on EBF only]* Transfer between Full-Time (FT) and Part-Time (PT) modes of GDCs	a) FT to PT: $$NCD\ in\ semesters\ of\ new\ PT\ GDC - (2 \times subsidised\ semesters\ taken\ in\ original\ FT\ GDC)$$ b) PT to FT: $$NCD\ in\ semesters\ of\ new\ FT\ GDC - (\frac{1}{2} \times subsidised\ semesters\ taken\ in\ original\ PT\ GDC)$$ Information on original GDC subsidy is required from student or original Autonomous University.
3	GDC	Transfer between GDCs with different SE models (CBF vs EBF)	a. CBF to EBF $$NCD\ in\ semesters\ for\ new\ GDC \times \frac{Remaining\ Units\ in\ original\ GDC}{MU\ for\ original\ GDC}$$ Information on original GDC subsidy is required from student or original Autonomous University.
4	GDC-Masters by Research (MbR)	Transfer between GDCs and MbRs	a. GDC to MbR $$MCD\ in\ semesters\ for\ new\ MbR \times \frac{Remaining\ semesters\ \mathbf{or}\ Units\ for\ original\ GDC}{NCD\ in\ semesters\ \mathbf{or}\ MU\ for\ original\ GDC}$$ b. MbR to GDC $$NCD\ in\ semesters\ for\ new\ GDC \times \frac{Remaining\ semesters\ in\ original\ MbR}{MCD\ in\ semesters\ for\ original\ MbR}$$ Information on original GDC/MbR subsidy is required from student or original Autonomous University.

S/N	GD Programme	Type of transfer	Transfer policies to determine remaining subsidy eligibility (SE)
5	Modular courses to GDC	Transferring/stacking Units from SSG-subsidised modular courses to GDCs	$\frac{Remaining\ Units\ for\ graduation}{MU\ for\ GDC} \times NCD\ in\ semesters\ for\ GDC$
6	Modular courses to MbRs	Transferring/stacking Units from SSG-subsidised modular courses to MbRs	$\frac{Remaining\ Units\ for\ MbR\ coursework\ requirements}{Total\ MbR\ coursework\ requirement\ in\ Units} \times (2\ semesters\ for\ first\ year\ of\ MbR) + 4\ semesters\ for\ MbR\ research\ component$

Note: Worked examples of the policies are in Annex C.

Worked Examples

S/N	Type of transfer	Allowable subsidy after transfer
1	*[For AUs on EBF only]* Transfers between the same modes (FT or PT) of GDCs	Assuming: • GDC NCD is one year (i.e. two semesters) for original GDC, and two years (i.e. four semesters) for new GDC • Student has completed one out of two semesters for the original GDC Remainder subsidy duration for new GDC: $$4\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ new\ GDC \times \frac{1\ remaining\ semesters\ in\ original\ GDC}{2\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ original\ GDC} = \mathbf{2\ semesters}$$
2	*[For AUs on EBF only]* Transfer between different modes of GDCs (FT to PT or vice versa)	a. FT to PT Assuming: • GDC NCD is one year (i.e. two semesters) for FT students, and two years (i.e. four semesters) for PT students • Student has completed one out of two semesters for the FT GDC Remainder subsidy duration for PT GDC: $$4\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ PT\ GDC - (2 \times 1\ semester\ subsidy\ consumed\ in\ FT\ GDC) = \mathbf{2\ semesters}$$
		b. PT to FT Assuming: • GDC NCD is one year (i.e. two semesters) for FT students, and two years (i.e. four semesters) for PT students • Student has completed three out of four semesters for PT GDC Remainder subsidy duration for FT GDC: $$2\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ FT\ GDC - \left(\frac{1}{2} \times 3\ semesters\ subsidy\ consumed\ in\ PT\ GDC\right)$$ $$= 0.5\ semesters \approx \mathbf{1\ semester}\ (\mathbf{rounded\ up})$$

S/N	Type of transfer	Allowable subsidy after transfer
3	Transfer between GDCs with different SE models (CBF to EBF or vice versa)	a. <u>CBF to EBF</u> Assuming: • The minimum number of Units required to graduate for the original GDC is 60 Units. • The NCD for the new GDC is one year (i.e. two semesters) • Student has consumed 18 out of 60 Units for their original GDC Remainder subsidy duration for new GDC: $$2\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ new\ GDC \times \frac{42\ remaining\ Units\ for\ previous\ GDC}{60\ MU\ for\ previous\ GDC}$$ $$= 1.4\ semesters\ \approx \mathbf{2\ semesters}\ (\mathbf{rounded\ up})$$
4	Transfer between GDCs and MbRs	a. <u>GDC to MbR</u> Assuming: • GDC NCD is two years (i.e. four semesters) • Student has completed one out of two years for GDC (i.e. two out of four semesters) Remainder subsidy duration for MbR: $$6\ semesters\ MCD\ for\ MbR \times \frac{2\ remaining\ semesters\ for\ GDC}{4\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ GDC} = \mathbf{3\ semesters}$$
		b. <u>MbR to GDC</u> Assuming: • GDC NCD is two years (i.e. four semesters) • Student has completed two out of three years for MbR (i.e. four out of six semesters) Remainder subsidy duration for GDC: $$4\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ GDC \times \frac{2\ remaining\ semesters\ in\ MbR}{6\ semesters\ MCD\ for\ MbR} = 1.33\ semesters \approx \mathbf{2\ semesters}\ (\mathbf{rounded\ up})$$

S/N	Type of transfer	Allowable subsidy after transfer
5	Transferring/ stacking Units from SSG-subsidised modular courses to GDCs	Assuming: • The minimum number of Units required to graduate for the GDC is 40 Units. The NCD for the GDC is one year (i.e. two semesters) • Student has taken SSG-subsidised modular courses, of which 8 Units stack to the GDC Remainder subsidy duration for GDC: $\frac{32\ Units\ remaining\ for\ graduation}{40\ minimum\ Units\ for\ GDC} \times 2\ semesters\ NCD\ for\ GDC = 1.6\ semesters \approx \mathbf{2\ semesters}\ (\mathbf{rounded\ up})$
6	Transferring/ Stacking Units from SSG-subsidised modular courses to MbRs	Assuming: • MbR coursework requirement is 16 Units (four courses) • Student has taken SSG-subsidised modular courses, of which three courses can be stacked to the MbR (12 Units) Remainder subsidy duration for MbR: $\frac{4\ remaining\ Units\ for\ MbR\ coursework\ requirements}{16\ Units\ Total\ MbR\ coursework\ requirement} \times 2\ semesters\ for\ first\ year\ of\ MbR + 4\ semestes\ of\ MbR\ research\ component = 4.5\ semesters \approx \mathbf{5\ semesters}\ (\mathbf{rounded\ up})$