

Thank You

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Appreciation for Singapore Medical Association Medical Students Assistance Fund Bursary 2008/09

I would like to express my gratitude in receiving the above bursary in my third year as an undergraduate at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

My parents migrated to Singapore over twenty years ago and had three children, including my younger brother, a junior college student now, and my older sister, a pharmacist who has just graduated. My father is the sole breadwinner of the family and managed to find a job in an American company in spite of his Chinese background. Enjoying an adequate salary, we did not have much to complain about. However, the 2002 economic downturn brought about widespread retrenchment, and my father was one of the less fortunate ones. Age and background were not on his side as he tried to find a new job, and all of my family members played a part in getting through these times, by cutting down on expenses and finding part-time jobs such as giving tuition. A few years ago, my father managed to get a job in the financial industry, and we heaved a sigh of relief.

Having aspired to be a doctor since young, I applied for a place in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at NUS in 2006. Being a certified medic in the army during my National Service further reinforced my desire to be a healer. Yet, my financial background meant I had to take up loans in order to pursue my interest. The bursaries that I have been awarded in the past two years have definitely helped in numerous ways, not just in terms of buying textbooks and my own personal expenses, but also in my family's daily needs too. More importantly, it enables me to enjoy university life to the fullest.

My university experience so far has been challenging yet enriching. I have just started my clinical years, and it is very different from the first two years. Learning becomes more independent in the wards, while at the same time, it is at a faster pace with the numerous different postings. The interaction of patients is also relatively new and has added a new dimension to the learning. Besides the learning, I took part in various activities in the past few years, being involved in numerous public health screening events, and played a role in last year's Medical Instruments Fair, adding more vibrancy to my education years.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude once again for the bursary award, and I hope to use it to become a good doctor after I graduate.

Yours faithfully,

A grateful medical student