

FAQs re: Financial Aid Policy Effective AY2021

1. What changes are being implemented to financial aid at Yale-NUS College?

Yale-NUS College will apply a new financial aid policy beginning with the 2021 admissions cycle. The College made this difficult decision to maintain the sustainability of our financial aid funds to ensure that we are able to continue to meet the full demonstrated need of all students who are admitted to our College.

Beginning with the 2021 admissions cycle, the College will maintain the same proportion of international students but will moderate the number of international students receiving financial aid. This will not impact the amount of financial aid an individual student may receive. We are committed to meeting the full financial need of each admitted student in accordance with our current financial aid assessment of need. However, we will not be able to continue with need-blind admission for international students. Singaporean applicants will continue to be assessed on a need-blind basis.

In order to prioritise support for students with clear financial need and to honour our commitment to post matriculation aid for all classes, funds from our Community Grant and merit scholarships will now be reallocated to our need-based financial aid scheme.

These changes will not affect students enrolled in 2020 and before. Moving forward, we continue to offer a generous aid programme, including offering loan-free financial aid awards to students of all nationalities, and honour our promise that all who are enrolled with us will have their full demonstrated need met.

2. Do these changes mean that Yale-NUS no longer values diversity?

We remain committed to admitting a diverse class and being full need-fulfilling to all who are admitted to Yale-NUS. In order to maintain this commitment to all admitted students, we will need to moderate the number of international students receiving financial aid. Yale-NUS's admissions process will continue to value the student diversity that enriches our community.

3. Will international students still benefit from financial aid at Yale-NUS?

We continue to be committed to our founding principles of admitting a diverse class and being full need-fulfilling to all who are admitted to Yale-NUS. While this new policy will affect the number of financial aid offers made to international applicants, we will ensure that all who are admitted will have their full need fulfilled. This policy is similar to the financial aid policies of most of the leading international liberal arts colleges in the world. Given the depth of our applicant pool, we are confident that the College remains an attractive option to many top applicants around the world and we will continue to expand our outreach efforts.

4. Does this mean the College is in financial trouble?

The College remains financially stable. We enjoy strong financial support from the Ministry of Education of Singapore for our educational activities and that support is unwavering. Financial Aid is funded from endowment income and endowment contributions have unfortunately come in below expectations. The Ministry has provided a generous matching of our endowment contributions as offered to the Autonomous Universities in Singapore but we are still unable to support our current policy. We are confident of our ability to support our financial aid policy going forward with these revisions.

5. Have we lost the support of Yale and/or NUS?

Both Yale and NUS remain committed to Yale-NUS College and our partnership with both institutions continues to grow. However, Yale-NUS is responsible for our financial aid budget without supplements from either parent institution.

6. Will this affect the admission process?

The Admissions team will continue to seek and admit students who demonstrate curiosity, community-mindedness, leadership and academic inquiry. The evaluation process of admission applications will remain unchanged. When final decisions are made, the College's ability to provide adequate financial aid will be one of many factors considered for international students.

7. Do all of the changes pertain to me?

The majority of changes in financial aid policy will apply only to those who matriculate in 2021. This will be clearly communicated to applicants at the beginning of the recruitment cycle through the College website and collateral.

8. What changes will affect me?

There will be very little change to the financial aid offerings to current students. Yale-NUS remains committed to offering the same financial aid offerings as were presented at the time of your admission to Yale-NUS. In order to assure current students of this commitment, all students who matriculated between 2016 and 2020 will be able to lock-in their AY2020 financial aid award for the remainder of their time at Yale-NUS. This means you will not be required to submit a financial aid application each year unless you wish to request reconsideration.

9. What does the financial aid lock-in mean?

Students who matriculated in AY2016-2020 will not be required to reapply for financial aid on an annual basis. This means students can maintain their AY2020 financial aid award at its current level for the remainder of their time at Yale-NUS. You will only be asked to submit a renewed Acceptance Form each year.

10. What if my financial need changes?

Students who feel that their AY2020 award is no longer sufficient can submit an application for consideration during the application period in future years. Awards may be increased based on demonstrated need but will not be decreased.

11. Will financial aid applications be evaluated differently now?

There are no changes to the financial aid application form or the way in which Yale-NUS evaluates demonstrated financial aid. We will continue to meet the full demonstrated need for all students currently enrolled at Yale-NUS College.

12. What is happening to merit scholarships and the Community Grant?

Since the College's founding, a small number of students have received merit scholarships at the time of admission. Beginning in AY2017, all Singaporean citizens were offered the Community Grant to be applied to Residential College fees. Financial need was not considered when the merit scholarships and Community Grants were offered. The majority of these funds will now be reallocated to cater for students who require financial assistance during their time at the College. This will ensure that all enrolled students can continue to be supported by the College.

Students who matriculated in AY2020 or before will continue to receive merit scholarships and/or the Community Grant as presented at the time of admission.

13. Will post-matriculation financial assistance still be available for my cohort and future cohorts?

Yes, Yale-NUS continues to stress the importance of providing financial support to students throughout their time at Yale-NUS. Part of the financial aid reform will ensure that funds remain available for matriculated students to support co-pays, study abroad, emergency funds, etc. Students with questions about such post-matriculation assistance can reach out to Student Services for additional information: studenthelp@yale-nus.edu.sg.

14. What about the Student Contribution?

There are currently no plans to make changes to the Student Contribution or Parent Contribution amount. All current Yale-NUS students and those entering the Class of 2024 will continue to be eligible for the financial aid policies presented at the time of admission.