

Medical Students Financial Assistance Scheme

General

The Medical Students Financial Assistance Scheme or MSFAS is operated by the Faculty of Medicine with the approval of the University of Moratuwa. It was developed in 2022 to assist students facing financial difficulties, who for one reason or another do not receive assistance through other existing schemes or who continue to have financial difficulties despite of receiving assistance.

Administration

The MSFAS will be administered through the welfare committee of Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

Present members

This includes the members of the welfare committee; the chairperson, convener, and other academic members. They will operate in liaison with the other academics in the faculty. They may co-opt other staff members on an “as needed” basis.

Funding

Funds for the MSFAS come from donations made by well-wishers of the faculty (members of the public, faculty staff, students and alumnus, doctors, doctors domiciled abroad, patients, doctors’ associations and others)

Eligibility for Assistance

This Scheme will be available to students (should be a citizen of Sri Lanka) registered in the undergraduate medical course of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa. A student may apply for assistance anytime during their stay in the faculty. They should be of good standing.

Examples of categories of students who may be considered for assistance under this Scheme include the following.

1. Students who are experiencing financial difficulties due to insufficient parental income
2. Students from backgrounds where the “family structure” has broken down.
3. Ill health of students or family members leading to drain on financial resources.
4. Unexpected and/or new development causing financial strain.
5. Indebtedness of the parents such as long-term housing loans from recognized institutions.
6. Other – Decided by the members

Students who are in receipt of Mahapola or other bursaries may also be considered under this scheme, depending on their financial circumstances. However, it should be highlighted, that if the recipients receive additional scholarships/funding from any other party or organization, at any point, the committee should be informed as soon as possible. (The commencement, end, and the source must be specified.) If these details are not provided, it will be considered a violation of MSFAS rules. In such case, the administration will be compelled to inform the relevant donors of MSFAS regarding the violation, which may lead to discontinuation of further funding.

Methods of identification of students:

1. Students may apply directly to the MSFAS
2. Students may be referred by the Dean, staff members, mentors, student counselors and university officers involved in student welfare.
3. Other

Upon identification, students will be asked to fill the MSFAS application form outlining the reasons for their request. They may also be asked to provide documentary evidence to substantiate certain claims.

Method of selection of students:

- All students who apply under this Scheme will be interviewed by one or more staff members.
- A marking system will be used (annexure 1) to score the applicants. This score will be used as a guide to decide on award and to prioritize the applicants.
- The decision to give financial assistance, the amount and duration will also be influenced by the amount of funds in the Scheme, number of new applicants and the number already receiving assistance.
- The staff members operating the scheme may seek advice from the Faculty Board, the Dean, student mentors, student counselors, student union representatives and university officers involved in student welfare.
- The MSFAS will be answerable to the Vice Chancellor through the Dean and the Faculty Board.
- The staff members in the Scheme may also assist the Dean, student welfare officers, student union members when advice is sought pertaining to matters of financial assistance.
- In addition to giving financial assistance on regular intervals, the MSFAS may also consider financially assisting students as “one off” activation. Examples of such activation include help towards air fare or other expenditure in curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. In such case, the applicants may be asked to provide documentary proof of participation etc.

Discontinuation/ suspension of financial assistance

It is expected that those students who are receiving assistance use those funds to further their education related activities.

Assistance under this scheme may be discontinued or temporarily suspended for any valid reason to be decided upon at the discretion of the MSFAS with the concurrence of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The payments under this scheme may be completely stopped or temporarily suspended for any one or more of the following reasons.

1. If the student repeatedly fails the barrier examinations (1st MBBS, 2nd MBBS, or Final MBBS) and is unable to complete the course within 6 years (5 years + 1 year grace period).
2. If the student fails to take any examination at the first available occasion for any reason which is not acceptable to the Dean/vice Chancellor.
3. If the student does not pursue his studies diligently.
4. If the student conducts himself in an undisciplined manner and is considered to be out of standing. (N.B. If the student is under formal scrutiny for a disciplinary charge, funding will be temporarily discontinued until the conclusion of the scrutiny. Funding will recommence with arrears if the student is found to be innocent of the charges).
5. If the student has provided false information or has not disclosed all relevant information to the MSFAS committee
6. For any other valid reason to be decided upon at the discretion of the MSFAS, Dean/Vice Chancellor.

The MSFAS will use its discretion on matters relating to the restoration of financial assistance, which has been stopped or temporarily suspended. Assistance under this Scheme may also be discontinued at short notice if the funds in the Scheme are depleted.

10.09.2022

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Faculty of Medicine

University of Moratuwa.

Annexure 1

Marking Scheme to score the applicants

A bursary payable to any student shall be determined in accordance with following scheme of marks.

(a) Monthly Parental Income (Total)	No. of Marks
Rs 00 to Rs.25,000	50
Rs 25,001 to Rs.50,000	30
Rs 50,001 to Rs.75,000	10
Rs 75,001 to Rs.99,000	5
(b) If the student is a member of a family having one or more dependents. (Siblings who are unemployed or any other dependents (>65 years) who are Unemployed/ not receiving retirement benefits. dependents must reside in the same household as the applicant)	5 per head up to a maximum of 20 marks.
(c) Distance from the student's permanent resident to the University/University College/Institutes (to the relevant site)	
0 to 10 km	00
11 to 25 km	5
26 to 50 km	10
more than 50 km	15
(D) Additional funding (Mahapola/Bursary/other) (with the amount and duration)	Free mark up to 20
(E) Special circumstances	Free mark up to 15

Total mark - 120

