NAC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION GUIDELINES (2025)

Application Deadline: 5pm, Thursday, 3 April 2025

Last updated on 6 February 2025

Contents

Section 1: Overview

Objectives
The NAC Arts Scholarship aims to nurture outstanding individuals to contribute to the arts and cultural development in Singapore. As **future leaders of the arts and culture sector**, Scholars will be game changers to push artistic boundaries and lead their peers to create positive impact for the Singapore community through the arts.

Possible Areas of Study
The NAC Arts Scholarship will be offered for **full-time** arts and arts-related degree programmes at reputable universities or arts institutions in Singapore or overseas. Outstanding arts practitioners/professionals may be supported to deepen their knowledge and skills through **postgraduate studies** in the following priority areas:

- Arts Criticism and Writing
- Arts Management & Entrepreneurship
- Arts Pedagogy (Early Childhood, Special Education)
- Arts Research and Analytics, Programme Evaluation in the Arts, Cultural Economics
- Arts and Technology
- Arts for Young Audiences
- Community Arts (Arts for Social Outcomes, Arts for Wellbeing, Arts Access & Inclusion)
- Production and Stage Management
- Production Design (i.e. stage, lighting, costume and sound design)

Literary Arts
- Creative Writing
- Literary Translation / Language Studies

Performing Arts
- Choreography
- Composing
- Conducting
- Creative Producing
- Dramaturgy

Visual Arts
- Asian Art History
- Curating
- Traditional Visual Arts (Chinese Painting, Calligraphy, Batik)

The NAC Arts Scholarship also supports exceptional talent with leadership qualities for **undergraduate studies**, to pursue a career as an arts practitioner/professional in the following priority areas:

- Composing
- Conducting
- Performance (Ballet, Contemporary, Traditional Dance)
- Literary Translation / Language Studies
- Traditional Visual Arts (Chinese Painting, Calligraphy, Batik)
- Dramaturgy
- Creative Producing

- Community Arts (Arts for Social Outcomes, Arts for Wellbeing, Arts Access & Inclusion)
- Arts & Technology
- Arts Management and Entrepreneurship
- Production and Stage Management
- Production Design (i.e. stage, lighting, costume and sound design)

What does the Scholarship cover?
For local study, the Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition fees and compulsory fees[1] and monthly maintenance allowance.

For overseas study, the Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition fees, compulsory fees[1], monthly maintenance allowance and one-time return airfare.

What are Scholars expected to do upon graduation?
Scholars will be required to fulfil a service commitment in the Singapore arts sector upon graduation. The service commitment duration will be as follows:

Programme Type	Postgraduate (Masters/PhD)		Undergraduate (Bachelors)	
Programme Location	Local	Overseas	Local	Overseas
Service Commitment Duration	2 - 3 years	2 - 4 years	3 - 4 years	3 - 5 years

Scholars will fulfil their service commitment through one or more of the following ways:
- Employment at a Singapore arts/cultural institution in a role relevant to the course of study, subject to NAC's approval;
- Engagement in arts/cultural-related work or projects relevant to the course of study, in Singapore, subject to NAC's approval.

To support the development of NAC Scholars, graduating Scholars may be required to fulfil their service commitment on a full/part-time/project-basis with any of the following cultural institutions:
  - ➢ National Gallery Singapore
  - ➢ School of the Arts
  - ➢ Singapore Art Museum
  - ➢ Singapore Chinese Orchestra
  - ➢ Singapore Tyler-Print Institute
  - ➢ The Arts House Limited
  - ➢ The Esplanade Company Limited
  - ➢ Singapore Symphonia Company Limited
  - ➢ Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre
  - ➢ Culture Academy
  - ➢ Other organisations identified by NAC

Scholars must confirm their service commitment plans with NAC six months before graduation.

NAC takes a serious view of Scholars who do not fulfil their service commitment and reserves the right to recover funds where necessary.

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[1] Compulsory fees refer to any fees (other than tuition fees) incurred by the student and charged as part of their programme at the institution. This includes, but is not limited to registration fees, administration fees, library fees, etc. However, it does not include expenses for books and/or equipment, accommodation/utility bills, and personal/travel insurance.

Section 2: Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

Criteria	Eligibility
Citizenship	Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.
Qualifications / Work Experience	<u>Postgraduate</u>: A Bachelor degree or equivalent. Minimum of two years of relevant working experience would be advantageous. <u>Undergraduate</u>: GCE A-Level, Diploma, International Baccalaureate or equivalent.
Bond	Scholars must not have any existing bond with any other organisation at the point of the Scholarship award in 2025 and during the entire term of the Scholarship.
Course of Study	• **Full-time** degree programmes (programmes in the priority areas listed in Section 1 will be prioritised) • Courses that commence before March 2026 • Applicants who are already studying must have minimally one academic year left to the completion of study from the point of Scholarship award in July/August 2025. <u>Note</u>: (i) Scholarship applications for all UAS course of studies will be administered through the NAC-UAS Scholarship. For more information, please refer to: https://uas.edu.sg/admissions/nac-uas-scholarships. (ii) Online and/or part-time courses/programmes are not eligible for the NAC Arts Scholarship. (iii) Applicants pursuing design, media or film programmes should refer to scholarships offered by the DesignSingapore Council or Infocomm Media Development Authority.
National Service (for male applicants)	Completed, or to be completed, before commencement of studies.
Past NAC Scholars	Previous recipients of NAC Arts scholarships will not be eligible.

Complete applications must be submitted on time to be eligible. Applicants are wholly responsible for ensuring that <u>all</u> components of the Scholarship application are received by the NAC before the application deadline.

Section 3: Assessment

Assessment Criteria
Eligible applicants will be assessed based on:
- Track record of achievements and involvement in the arts in Singapore, including past internship/work experience with arts and cultural institutions and/or arts-related co-curricular activities
- Potential contribution to the development of the arts and culture sector in Singapore in the areas prioritised by NAC (see list in Section 1), through the service commitment period and beyond
- Leadership qualities
- Talent (creative potential)
- Academic records

In addition to above assessment criteria, additional consideration may be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need. Applicants with financial needs will be required to submit their family income documents to NAC for verification.

Assessment Process

Estimated Timeline	What will happen
May to June 2025	Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview with a panel comprising industry professionals, academics, and/or arts leaders. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified for an interview. Shortlisted applicants will have to furnish proof of admission from the institution(s) before the interview.
July to August 2025	Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application/interview. Applicants who are successfully awarded the NAC Arts Scholarship will attend the Scholarship Award Ceremony in August.

Note: The NAC reserves the right to not disclose the reasons for approving or rejecting any application, and to reject any incomplete/late application.

Section 4: Application

There is only one application window for the NAC Arts Scholarship every year.

The application should clearly demonstrate the applicant's strengths, leadership qualities, and commitment to contribute to the development of arts and culture in Singapore.

How to apply for the NAC Arts Scholarship?
A **complete** application consists of 3 sections:

Item	Submission Mode
Online Submission of Application by Applicant	Use Singpass to access the application portal here: https://www.nac.gov.sg/resources/e-services/nac-arts-scholarship
Online Submission of Confidential Reference Letters by Referees	
Online Submission of Portfolio by Applicant	OneDrive. Refer to Section 5 for more details.

All the above must be received by NAC **by 5pm, Thursday, 3 April 2025**. **The application will be deemed ineligible if any section of the application is incomplete and/or not received by NAC before the application deadline via the prescribed submission mode(s).**

Applicants are advised to complete submissions in advance of the deadline and are wholly responsible for ensuring that all components of the Scholarship application are received by the NAC before the application deadline.

Section 5: Supporting Documents and Portfolio

Details on preparing the supporting documents and portfolio are as follows:

(I) Supporting Documents
Necessary supporting documents are to be uploaded onto the application portal **by 5pm, Thursday, 3 April 2025**. The documents should be uploaded in **PDF format** (size of each file to be less than 1MB). Applicants are wholly responsible for ensuring that all supporting documents of the Scholarship application are received by the NAC before the application deadline.

Supporting Document	What to submit
i. Letter of Admission (uploaded to "Proposed Course of Study" section)	A copy of the **letter of admission to the institution** where the proposed course of study is to be undertaken. If more than one option is listed, please submit letters of admission to <u>all</u> listed institutions. If the applicant is awaiting admission, proof of application to the institution must be submitted (email confirmation of application is accepted). Please note that if the applicant is shortlisted for an interview for the NAC Arts Scholarship, proof of admission must be provided before the interview. If the institution of choice has not opened for applications at the point of the NAC Arts Scholarship application, documentary proof should be submitted (e.g. email from the institution(s) or screenshot of website indicating that applications are not open).
ii. Transcripts and Certificates (uploaded to "Education History" section)	A copy of **Transcripts** and **Certificates** of <u>all</u> past qualifications listed in the Education History section in the application portal, from GCE O-Level or equivalent onwards, regardless of whether they are directly relevant to the course of study. Incomplete qualifications should also be listed in the Education History section. Applicants who have already commenced their course of study must also submit their past result slips for past semester(s) of study. Certified true copies of the transcripts and certificates will be required for applicants who are successfully awarded the NAC Arts Scholarship.
iii. Documentation of Track Record (uploaded to "Track Record" section)	A copy of **certificates of past scholarships, commendations, prizes and any other awards** received. Certified true copies of the certificates will be required if the applicant is successfully awarded the NAC Arts Scholarship.

iv. NRIC (uploaded to "Personal Particulars" section)	A scanned copy of the applicant's **NRIC** (front and back).
v. National Service Record (uploaded to "Personal Particulars" section)	**National Service record** – A copy of *Certificate of Service* or *Clearance Letter* as proof of O.R.D. to be submitted by male applicants.

(II) Preparing the Portfolio

The portfolio must be uploaded onto OneDrive. The portfolio should comprise samples of the applicant's best works. The portfolio must include the following, where applicable:

1. Performing Arts:
- A compilation of videos showcasing up to 3 most recent works (produced within the last 3 years) **and** up to 3 best works. The videos should include contrasting styles and at least one unedited 'live' footage from a performance or rehearsal. The compilation should be in **high-resolution video format** of up to 10 minutes, in **one** file. The applicant's face must be clearly seen in the videos. The applicant must also identify himself/herself in the videos. Pointers may be added where necessary (e.g. *performer in green shirt at 00:32s)*.

- Accompanying notes with the following information should be included in the portal ("Portfolio" section)
  (a) Title of work/event/production, start–end timing of clip in mm:ss format (e.g. *01:21-01:42*);
  (b) Date and venue of work/event/production (for overseas venues, please also indicate the country);
  (c) Applicant's role in work/project/production;
  (d) Names of artists involved besides the applicant; and
  (e) Indicate instruments used.

  Please also note the **additional** requirements for the videos for the following courses of study:

  (A) Choreography:
      The compilation of videos must be of actual performances (not trailers) showcasing the applicant's choreography.

  (B) Dance Performance:
      The compilation of videos must include the following components:
      (i) *Introductory Section*: A brief close-up shot of the applicant (face or half body), and a brief history of applicant's previous dance training;
      (ii) *Technique Section*: A 3-minute class consisting of movement combinations in the applicant's genre of study: Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Traditional Dance (Chinese, Indian, Malay). The video should demonstrate the applicant's technical ability; and
      (iii) *Performance Section*: A prepared 1.5-minute solo. The solo may be original choreography or from existing repertory. The video should demonstrate the applicant's artistry. The applicant should state the title of the solo and the name of the choreographer before performing.

(C) <u>Composition</u>:
    (i)   The music scores of all the performances in the video/sound clips must be submitted in **PDF format**.
    (ii)   A portfolio of original compositions should also be submitted in PDF format. Part of the portfolio may consist of works which involve new media.

(D) <u>Conducting</u>:
    (i)   The compilation of videos must be of contrasting pieces, totalling between 15 to 30 minutes, and may include a mix of actual performances and rehearsals. The video perspective should be from the orchestral players' view of the conductor.
    (ii) A repertoire list, including:
- Works conducted in performance, indicating the date and ensemble involved
- Works prepared or assisted, indicating the date, role (i.e. mentee or assistant to name of main conductor) and the main conductor.

(E) <u>Production Design</u>:
The compilation of videos must involve sound and moving images. In addition, the applicant should provide collaterals of the submitted works, such as production photographs, sketches, concept plans or drawings of set designs, where applicable, in **PDF format**.

2. Visual Arts:

- A compilation of up to 3 most recent works (produced within the last 3 years) **and** up to 3 best works. The compilation should be in **PDF format** for stills and/or links to **high-resolution video format** for works involving sound and moving images.

- Explanatory notes not exceeding 5 pages, detailing the applicant's involvement in, and description of, the submitted works. The notes should include images of presentations and platforms, if any.

Please also note the **additional** requirements for the following courses of study:
(A) <u>Curating/Art History</u>:
    (i)   10 to 30 pages of published writing (e.g. exhibition writing, articles) in **PDF format**; and
    (ii)   Collaterals of up to 3 most recent exhibitions (within the last 3 years) **and** up to 3 best exhibitions curated or reviewed critically by the applicant (e.g. images of the exhibitions, programme booklets, publicity materials, etc) in **PDF format**.

3. Literary Arts:
- Between 10 and 30 pages of manuscript (e.g. short stories, poems, published articles, play scripts or a combination of the above) in **PDF format**.

4. Arts Management and Production Management:
- Collaterals of up to 3 most recent projects (produced within the last 3 years) **and** up to 3 best projects that the applicant worked on (e.g. brochure, programme booklet or publicity materials), in **PDF format**.

- For each work, accompanying notes with the following information should be included in the portal ("Portfolio" section)
  (a) Title of work/project
  (b) Date and venue of work/project (for overseas venues, please also indicate the country); and
  (c) Applicant's role in work/project

5. Arts Research:

- A 2-page summary of the applicant's research question and/or proposal in **PDF format**, including:
  (i)   how the research will contribute to arts and cultural development in Singapore; and
  (ii)   how the applicant will be sharing the research with the Singapore arts industry.

- Up to 3 published articles (e.g. journal articles, research papers) in the related field of study, in **PDF format**.

- Up to 3 other published writing, in any field, **PDF format**.

6. Community Arts Practice and Arts for Young Audiences:

- Portfolio (refer to the requirements stated for Performing/Visual/Literary Arts in Section 5).

- Collaterals of up to 3 most recent projects (produced within the last 3 years) **and** up to 3 best projects that the applicant worked on (e.g. brochure, programme booklet or publicity materials), in **PDF format**.

- Explanatory notes not exceeding 3 pages, detailing the applicant's involvement in, and a sample of the engagement plan or lesson plan of the projects.

7. Arts Pedagogy:

- Portfolio (refer to the requirements stated for Performing/Visual/Literary Arts in Section 5).

8. Arts Criticism and Writing:

- Between 10 and 30 pages of published writing or samples of any previously published works in **PDF format**.

Important Notes on Preparing Portfolios:

(i) Please do not submit master copies or original copies of works. NAC will not be liable for any loss of portfolios or works if the original / master copies are submitted.

(ii) Avoid submitting videos of group performances where the applicant's contribution is not distinct or significant.

(iii) All video/sound clips should be compiled and submitted as **1** file, within the stipulated required timing. The video/sound section after the stipulated timing will not be considered.

(iv) Files that cannot be opened or played will render the application incomplete and ineligible. The format of the files should be as follows:

File	Format
Still images / Documents / Articles / Manuscripts	PDF
Video / Audio Recordings	Any of the following format: • AVI / AAC / FLV / MP3 / MP4 / MKV / MOV / MPEG / MPG / M4V / RM / RMVB / WAV / WMA / WMV / 3GP

(v) All works are to be submitted via OneDrive, as follows:

Step	Instruction
1	Zip all the portfolio materials into 1 zip file and name it according to the following format: **< Name as in NRIC >.zip**
2	Upload the zip file onto the following OneDrive link: https://go.gov.sg/nacscholarshipportfolio2025

Note:
(i) A OneDrive account is not required to submit the portfolio through the OneDrive link.

(ii) Do not upload multiple files onto the OneDrive link. Should NAC receive multiple files under the same name, NAC will only consider the latest file submitted before the deadline.

(iii) Please take note that applicants will not be able to access files that have already been uploaded.

Section 6: Confidential Reference Letters

Confidential reference letters from two referees are a required component of the Scholarship application (See also "Notes" section below for requirements on choosing a referee). The confidential reference letters should be submitted online via the application portal (https://www.nac.gov.sg/resources/e-services/nac-arts-scholarship) at the "Confidential References" section. Applicants can invite their referees to make a submission through the application portal, and an email will be sent to their referees with a unique reference code. Applicants should ensure that they inform their referees of their request in advance.

Referees should then access the portal with their Singpass account and input the reference code to accept the invitation and submit their confidential reference. Referees may input their reference into the Scholarships portal directly or upload their reference letter as a PDF. **Applicant's referees are required to submit their confidential reference letter before applicants can complete and submit their online application.** Please ensure that the reference letters and online application are submitted **by 5pm, Thursday, 3 April 2025.**

Notes:
(i)   To find out if referees have submitted their confidential reference letters, applicants may refer to "Referee Status" at the Scholarships portal dashboard.

(ii)   Referees should be familiar with the applicant's involvement and experience in the arts, leadership potential, character and values. Referees will also be asked to comment on the applicant's choice of course and its value to the applicant's development as an arts practitioner or professional.

(iii)   One of the referees should be the applicant's current or previous employer, academic instructor, or a previous collaborator who is familiar with the applicant's artistic experience and achievements. Please also note that applicants who are studying arts pedagogy should include a reference letter from an educational institution that the applicant has worked with.

(iv)   Referees must not be the applicant's immediate family members[2] or a fellow Scholarship applicant in the same year.

For further enquiries, please email: nac_scholarship@nac.gov.sg

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[2] Immediate family members refer to spouse, parents (including step-parents and parents-in-law), children, and siblings.

Section 7: Frequently Asked Questions

1) **How many Scholarships are awarded each year?**

There is no fixed number of Scholarships to be awarded each year. The NAC Arts Scholarship is highly competitive and will only be awarded to outstanding individuals who can address capability needs of the arts and culture sector and have demonstrated a high level of commitment to serve the wider community in Singapore.

2) **Can a current recipient extend his/her Scholarship to pursue further studies upon the completion of his/her current course?**

No, current recipients **must** fulfil their service commitment upon the completion of his/her current course, before any further studies.

3) **What happens if a Scholar does not fulfil the service commitment?**

NAC reserves the right to recover from the Scholar and/or his/her sureties all fees and monies which have been paid to the Scholar or incurred for the benefit of the Scholar, including liquidated damages according to the terms set out in the NAC Arts Scholarship Deed.

4) **I was unsuccessful in my previous applications for the NAC Arts Scholarship. Am I eligible to apply for the Scholarship this year?**

Each application will be considered independent of previous applications. You may submit a new application if you wish to apply this year.

5) **Why is it essential for male applicants to complete National Service (NS) prior to commencement of study?**

As the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) does not grant deferment for university studies, male applicants should have completed their full-time NS commitment before commencing their studies. For those who are currently serving their NS, disruption from NS for the remaining few months will only be allowed under conditions stipulated by MINDEF. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that he is approved for disruption. The Scholarship will be withdrawn if the recipient is unable to commence studies.

6) **Is there a list of approved arts institutions recommended by NAC?**

No, NAC does not prescribe institutions that applicants should apply to. However, successful admission into a well-established programme recognised for its stringent selection process will be favourably considered as an indicator of an applicant's current capabilities and future potential.

7) **Is a Scholarship recipient allowed to switch course of study, subjects or institution of study?**

NAC expects applicants to make informed decisions on the choice of course and institution **before** application. Requests to make switches will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approval may be granted only under extenuating and exceptional circumstances. In cases

where requests of changes are not approved, NAC reserves the right to terminate the Scholarship.

8)   Will the Scholarship award be affected if a recipient wishes to defer his/her study?

Recipients of the NAC Arts Scholarship are expected to commence studies in the immediate academic year upon award. For example, an applicant who is awarded in 2025 should commence studies before March 2026.

9)   What happens if a recipient fails the university examinations and has to repeat a level or the course?

NAC will assess the situation and take necessary action. This could potentially include terminating the Scholarship. In the event of such termination, NAC reserves the right to recover from the recipient and/or his/her sureties all fees and monies which have been paid to the recipient or incurred for the benefit of the recipient, including liquidated damages according to the terms set out in the NAC Arts Scholarship Deed.

10)   What is the penalty if the recipient decides to give up the Scholarship mid-way through the course?

NAC reserves the right to recover from the recipient and/or his/her sureties all fees and monies which have been paid to the recipient or incurred for the benefit of the recipient, including liquidated damages according to the terms set out in the NAC Arts Scholarship Deed.

11)   Do applicants have to inform NAC of any other scholarship, bursary or financial aid that they are applying for or have received?

Applicants must declare all financial assistance or awards that they are applying for or are being offered by other organisations during the application phase.

12)   Can recipients of the NAC Arts Scholarship accept other scholarship, bursary or financial aid?

During the Scholarship term and at the point of award of the Scholarship, recipients should obtain NAC's approval in writing before accepting any other financial assistance or award.

13)   Are there other avenues of financial assistance to support education in the arts?

Universities and arts institutions may offer scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial assistance to their students.

There are also charitable organisations and foundations that provide scholarships and financial assistance. Examples of such organisations are:
- Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation
- Ngee Ann Kongsi
- Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA)
- Tan Chin Tuan Foundation
- Tan Kah Kee Foundation
- The Eurasian Association
- Trailblazer Foundation
- Yayasan Mendaki

The list is non-exhaustive. Please contact the organisations directly for information on their financial assistance schemes.

14) **I encountered technical difficulties in the submission of my online application. What should I do?**

You should inform NAC immediately via email (nac_scholarship@nac.gov.sg), together with a screenshot and timestamp of the error message. This is necessary to confirm a genuine issue has arisen before the deadline of submission.