

Notes for Application for Government Grants/Loans 2020-21 for Current Students

Too many notes!
Don't know how or where to start?
This note may help

TSFS/NLSFT APPLICATION DEADLINE : 8 May 2020

This note can

- a) direct you to the right sources of information
- b) highlight points /items that can easily be omitted by applicants
- c) remind you of the services provided by Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) relating to your Government Grants/Loans application.

1. Read the following notes and instructions before completing the application forms:

- a) Guidance Notes for Application
(TSFS: <http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/eng/schemes/tsfs.htm>)
(FASP: <http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/eng/schemes/fasp.htm>)
- b) Online Demonstration in completing the application
(available on line at <http://ess.wfsfaa.gov.hk/demo/>)
- c) This note

2. Students reading a self-financing 2nd degree of a double degree programme in 2020-21 (e.g. BBA(Law)&LLB 5th year, BA&LLB 5th year, BSocSc(Govt&Laws)&LLB 5th year, etc.)

You are eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP) & Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Post-secondary Students (NLSPS). Online Application form will be open on 4 May 2020. Information on FASP/NLSPS:
<http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/eng/schemes/fasp.htm>.

3. Form Filling – Points to Note

a) Online Application Form of TSFS/NLSFT or FASP/NLSPS

Students who wish to apply for TSFS/NLSFT or FASP/NLSPS have to complete and submit the online application form at "SFO E-link – My Applications" platform (<http://ess.wfsfaa.gov.hk>).

b) Declaration

The applicant and both his/her parents are required to sign the declaration of the application form if he/she is unmarried. (Declaration by parent is not required for married applicants.)

c) Expediting the processing of applications from students whose families are in receipt of CSSA

For an applicant who family received CSSA throughout the assessment period 1.4.2019 to 31.3.2020 or is currently in receipt of the CSSA, it is sufficient for him/her to provide the following documents together with his/her online application –

- photocopies of the HKID Cards of the applicant and his/her family members;

- a photocopy of his/her student identity card;
- a photocopy of his/her bank passbook or statement showing his/her full name and the bank account number for receiving the payment of financial assistance; and
- a photocopy of the valid Certificate of CSSA (for Medical Waivers) or Social Welfare Department Notification Letter which advised the amount of CSSA approved for his/her family throughout the assessment period from 1.4.2019 to 31.3.2020 or for the current time.

d) **Income & Asset**

Information with supporting documents on the income and assets of the applicant, and his or her parents are required. Information on income of unmarried siblings living in the same household are also required. Please refer to TSFS RM(2020)/FASP RM(2020) form on the list of family assets that need to be reported.

Unemployment or retirement of household members must have full details stated in application form and accompanied by relevant documentary proof.

All kinds of bank accounts under the title of the applicant and his/her parents (including joint accounts) should be reported. Applicants are reminded to report time deposit and club deposit and insurance with savings/investment-linked.

Copy of bank passbook of account for payment of assistance showing the name and balance is needed even if the account was opened after 31.3.2020.

Explanation on bank transactions exceeding \$100,000 in amount, deposits of odd cents or regular deposit/withdrawal deposits should continue to be made to facilitate the processing.

All properties (within or outside HKSAR) and registered business owned (solely or partly) by the applicant and his/her parents should be reported.

Apart from the first home occupied by the applicant and his/her parents (whether it is owned or rented), the net value of all other properties are counted.

Contributions from others should be clearly stated as part of the household income.

e) **Supporting documents**

Applicants should make use of the checklist of supporting documents to ensure that all supporting documents are submitted to SFO. For details, please refer to TSFS RM(2020)/FASP RM(2020).

f) **Household members**

For those who regard grandparents/unmarried siblings studying abroad as household members, copies of their ID cards are also required. Please refer to Part II of the Guidance Notes for definition of household members.

For applicants with parents divorced or separated, full details and documentary proof must be provided.

g) **Music Students**

Students who are major in Music should submit their applications together with letters from their Department certifying the music courses undertaken by the students. There is a different course code for Music major students. Please refer to the course code in the coding sheet.

h) **Students with a Disability**

Applicants with a disability receiving Disability Allowance from the Social Welfare Department should furnish full details and documentary proofs relating to their disability. They will be granted maximum Discretionary Loan without resorting to the appeal mechanism.

i) **Student Travel Subsidy**

All full time students up to their first degree level and who pass the means test under the TSFS or FASP will be eligible for a travel subsidy if the distance between their term time residence and their normal place of study requires the use of public transportation.

You must complete the relevant box in the first page of your online application and provide the address if you intend to apply for the Student Travel Subsidy. Otherwise your request will not be processed.

j) **Community Care Fund — Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students**

Applicants who have passed the TSFS or FASP and confirmed to have resided in student hostels provided by their institutions* in the semesters of the implementation period are eligible for the hostel subsidy.

* A subsidy recipient should be confirmed by CEDARS as a registered resident of the hostel place concerned for at least 75% of the time during a semester. The hostel subsidy does not cover students who reside in premises other than those student hostels provided by HKU, such as residing solely in or sharing a private flat as tenants. Eligible students need not file separate applications for the hostel subsidy.

k) **Community Care Fund — Academic Expenses (AE) Grant for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

An applicant with any of the types of SEN specified under the above Community Care Fund (CCF) programme and meets the eligibility criteria of the TSFS/FASP may also apply for this AE grant provided the CCF. Please view the SFO's website for details: <http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/en/postsecondary/ccf/sen/overview.htm>.

l) **Provision of Supplementary Information**

You are reminded that it is your responsibility to ensure that the application forms are duly completed and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications not duly completed or without full set of supporting documentary proofs may result in **delay or even rejection of your application**.

But in exceptional cases where the required information is not available by the application deadline, you are required to state the supporting document(s) that is/are not yet available in the application form and to undertake to submit it/them to SFO once available. **Otherwise any information submitted only upon request by SFO will be treated as OMISSIONS, which may lead to rejection of your application.** Please use the standard form [TSFS/AP/6](#) / [FASP/AP/1](#) to submit the missing information later.

4. Form Filling Advisory Service

For first-time applicants (students who have not applied for government grant/loan before), CEDARS can help to screen your application forms before submission. Please call 3917 2305 for appointments if needed.

SFO also has an automatic telephone enquiry hotline. You can get help by calling 2150 9000.

5. Collection of Declaration and Supporting Documents

Applicants should submit the signed declaration and supporting documents through the following channels with 7 days from submission of online application form:

- Through online upload (about 50 pages)
- By post or in person to SFO
- Through SFO drop box in CEDARS (3/F Meng Wah Complex)

Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)	9:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.	(Monday - Thursday)
	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	(Friday)
	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	(Saturday)
Student Finance Office (SFO)	8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	(Monday - Friday)

6. Submission of Forms

- Students having siblings who are also applying for the TSFS or FASP scheme should submit their application forms separately. Only one sibling is required to complete the full version of online application with the complete set of supporting documents. The other siblings may apply by using the simplified version.
- After submitting applications, you could download your completed application form in SFO website. Please be advised to copy one for your own record.
- You are advised to submit your forms early to ensure early disbursement of awards. Applications received after the deadline will only be accepted with good justification.

- d) Students who cannot meet the requirements of application (e.g. failure to submit some documentary evidence required or complete declaration by parent because of special circumstances) are strongly encouraged to approach CEDARS for advice and assistance before submitting their applications.

7. Interviews at Student Finance Office (SFO)

- a) You may or may not be required to attend an interview.
- b) Any applicant who considers that an interview will help the processing of his application may seek an appointment for interview by indicating their wish in the section "Additional Information" of the online application. This will be considered by SFO on a case by case basis. If in doubt, please seek advice from CEDARS.

8. Change of Circumstances after Submission of Application

You should inform SFO immediately using the Form [TSF/C/18A](#) or [TSF/C/18B](#) which are obtainable at the CEDARS or SFO for any change of information or circumstances after submission of the application.

9. Review Mechanism

If you are not satisfied with the application result, you may apply to SFO for a review of the level of financial assistance within three weeks from the date of the notification of result. Such request should be submitted to SFO in an 'Application for Review' form obtainable from CEDARS or SFO, together with detailed justification and relevant documentary proofs. **If you are in doubt with regard to your grant / loan entitlements and not sure whether an appeal is justified, advice can be sought from CEDARS.**

10. Payment

All government awards (including tuition fee grants, academic expenses grants and loans) will be credited to the applicants' bank accounts directly.

11. Non-means-tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students (NLSFT)

- a) Students who wish to wait for your TSFS* results before applying for NLSFT#
- Students will be notified of their NLSFT entitlements along with their TSFS result. Students who wish to take up the NLSFT loan will have to download the NLSFT loan documents from SFO's website.
- b) Students applying for NLSFT independent of their TSFS application
- Students should submit their online NLSFT application before deadline.

*TSFS: Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes

#NLSFT: Non-means Tested Loan Scheme for Full-time Tertiary Students