



Photo: SIM University



STUDY AWARDS FOR ASPIRING FAMILY AND CRIMINAL LAWYERS

A note from Indranee Rajah S.C., Senior Minister of State for Law

Earlier this year, I announced the establishment of the UniSIM School of Law (SLaw). See my earlier Note at www.mlaw.gov.sg. This Note provides a status update and is also to tell you about the MinLaw-UniSIM Study Award.

STATUS UPDATE

The response to the UniSIM law degree programmes was overwhelming – nearly 400 applicants vied for the 60 places in the first intake. The term will start in January 2017.

The selection process was rigorous. It was configured to identify students with aptitude, attitude and interest in the practice of family and criminal law. The UK's Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) was used as part of the selection process. The LNAT is not easy by the way! You can try it for yourself [here](#).

Applicants also went through interviews. The panel included academics, practitioners and judges. It is important to remember that SLaw is an applied law school – hence the selection process is geared towards identifying those with the potential for practice.

The majority of the successful applicants were older individuals with relevant working experience. This is in line with our objective of having practitioners with life experience and the emotional maturity who would be better able to cope with the stresses and demands of the family and criminal law practice. More than 80 per cent are working adults, with an average working experience of

11 years, including paralegals, law enforcement officers, court employees and social workers – individuals with a stronger inclination towards family and criminal law.

NEW MINLAW-UNISIM STUDY AWARD

Under our funding policy, students who have previously received Government support or sponsorship for prior degrees will not be eligible for the MOE Tuition Grant for the LL.B. or J.D. programmes. Hence, they would have to pay full fees for their UniSIM law degree.

Many of these students would have worked for some years, and hence should be able to afford the full fees. However, we recognise that some of them may not be able to meet the full costs. We have therefore launched a new MinLaw-UniSIM Study Award, to help deserving individuals defray these costs. Details of the Study Award are in the accompanying information sheet. Successful applicants will be required to practise in family or criminal law for a period of five years after graduation.

This support will hopefully go some way towards helping eminently suitable candidates who might otherwise be deterred by the cost from pursuing their aim to become a family or criminal lawyer.

It is vital for us to maintain a strong pipeline of family and criminal law practitioners. Getting the right people into SLaw is the first step.

Applications for the second intake will open from 1 January 2017 to 15 July 2017.

If you know of employees, friends or colleagues who are interested in these practice domains and want to make a difference to the lives of fellow Singaporeans, do encourage them to sign up.

PLAY A PART IN BUILDING SLAW

I'll conclude by reiterating my earlier call to the legal fraternity to play a part in building up SLaw. SLaw is intended to be a practitioner law school. It needs the support and encouragement of the legal fraternity if it is to be an applied law school, firmly anchored to practice. We welcome practitioners and legal officers to be part of the SLaw endeavour - be it as full time or adjunct faculty, offering internship positions at your firm or in other ways.

Help us to build a law school with a difference, to make a difference!

– Indranee Rajah S.C., Senior Minister of State for Law
1 November 2016





MINLAW-UNISIM STUDY AWARD

INFORMATION SHEET

ELIGIBILITY

- Singapore citizen;
- Not eligible for MOE Tuition Grant;
- Not sponsored by any organisation for the LL.B. or J.D. programme; and
- Monthly household income per capita does not exceed S\$2,600 or face financial difficulties.

VALUE OF AWARD

\$75,000 for LL.B. students, and \$60,000 for J.D. students.

NUMBER OF AWARDS AVAILABLE

No quota.

AVAILABILITY OF AWARD

Available for an initial period of 3 years, starting from AY2017.

BOND PERIOD

5 years in family and/or criminal law.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact UniSIM's Office of Admissions at **admissions@unisim.edu.sg**.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Application for LL.B. and J.D. programmes commencing Academic Year 2018 will be from 1 January 2017 – 15 July 2017.

Applicants who are eligible for the study award can apply to UniSIM after they receive the offer.