

## UMAAB Scholarship Program Summary

Start of the program	: 2013 – 01 – 01
Total scholarships paid	: Rs. 5.74 Million
Number of scholarships awarded	: 95
Current active scholarships	: 26
Current Scholarship amount	: Rs. 3,000 per month (Rs. 36,000 per annum)

## Success Stories of UMAAB Scholarship Program

### Feedback by Oshadi Palansooriya (B.Sc. Engineering)

Dear UMAAB Members in Australia

#### **My Gratitude**

I am a person who can't hear any a sound. This means I am fully deaf. But I passed all exams in the university during my Four years of studies and completed my degree. Luckily, I had few people who really helped during this hard and challenging time period. Amongst these people, your group was one who provided me a huge strength and support for me.

During my time at the university, my family was suffering economically, but your scholarship has provided me a huge relief and a support for my university life. It helped me a lot to concentrate on my education. Being a person with hearing impairment, I was unable to work part time like my peers.

Finally, having achieved my goals, I am now in a position to build up my life. I am very happy to say I started working in my new job since last week.

Finally, I should give my heartfelt thanks to you all and I will hold that gratitude all my life. I never saw your faces or never knew what you look like. But I could see that you all had beautiful and great hearts.

Again, thank you for your support which I will never forget.

Best Regards,

OshadiPalansooriya (B.Sc. Engineering)

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***Oshadi Palansooriya***

***University of Moratuwa***

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### Feedback by Thilini Navodya Giriagama (B.Sc. Engineering - Civil)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I was privileged to be one of the recipients of the UMAAV Scholarship (2017/2018). Thanks to your generous support I could complete my degree successfully.

My name is Thilini Giriagama. I was born as the 4th child in my family. Since my father passed away when I was 12 years old, my mother, had to take all the burdens of us to her shoulders. Receiving this scholarship was a relief for me, because I knew that it will reduce burden from me to my mother.

I received this scholarship during the final year of my university life, which is the most important academic year. We had to engage in different projects and researches. This scholarship was a great support for me during this time. The financial assistance you provided was a great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it surely allowed me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Not only the academics, I engaged more in extracurricular activities in the university. I was an active member of dancing society and rowing crew (past vice-captain). I was the past secretary of Society of Transport and Logistics in 2017/2018. Therefore, the support received from the scholarship was indescribable. It encouraged me and enhanced my confidence to engage more in this kind of activities.

Without a doubt, this scholarship played a key role in achieving my dreams. Because of your generosity, the financial burden placed on me and my family to pursue my education was reduced. Therefore, I could spend more time on my studies, research and extracurricular activities confidently.

I could complete my degree with a 2<sup>nd</sup> class upper division. Currently I am working in a civil engineering consultancy firm, as a Graduate Traffic Engineer. Today I am in a position where I can take care of myself and also my family.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank UMAAV, for conducting such a valuable scholarship program for the benefit of students of University of Moratuwa.

Thank you.



**Thilini Navodya Girihagama**  
**Department of Civil Engineering**  
**University of Moratuwa**

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## Feedback by Dileepa Marasinghe (B.Sc. Engineering – ENTC)

### UMA AV Scholarship Program

We are lucky to be born in Sri Lanka where we have the free education system which can support students like me to get to world class universities like University of Moratuwa without paying a single Rupee. But however when we start university life, managing the expenses is somewhat difficult especially when we are near Colombo. I received Mahapola Scholarship on a merit basis but still I needed more money to cover my expenses at the university since I couldn't burden my parents for money. UMAAV scholarship was a huge help for me. I received the scholarship for 3 consecutive years in the university after applying it in the second year until I passed out in January 2018.

Since hostel facilities are available for the final year students except the first semester I stayed in boarding houses like most of the students. And also being in the department of electronics and telecommunication engineering we often needed financing our undergraduate project work and sometimes we needed to import components from abroad. I could cover many of these expenses thanks to the UMAAV scholarship and I am very happy to tell that I passed out with a first-class honours at the end of my undergraduate period. This would have been very difficult without having money from the scholarship I received. Being financially supported helped me to maintain my focus on studies and for that I want to express my heartfelt gratitude

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to the UMAAV foundation, all the donors and other members who are contributing to this meritorious program in many ways. I am wishing your organization will be able to help a lot of students like me in the future and wish all the best in the meritorious work that you carry out.

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**Dileepa Marasinghe**

**Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering**

**University of Moratuwa**

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### Feedback by Nilusha Silva of Town and Country Planning

Hi,

I am Nilusha. I was an undergraduate at the Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa. Many of my batch mates applied for this scholarship. Actually I didn't expect to be selected as a recipient. But in that time period I felt if I get financial support for my studies, it will be a great help for me and my sister, mainly because she assisted with all the financial needs at my home.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2014, we got to know that my father had a cancer. My mother, sister, and my brother all of us couldn't believe it! Even my father was shocked to hear the news. But we had to face the situation. It was very difficult time; however I tried to show a smile for everybody around me. I think you understood my situation. UMAAV scholarship encouraged me to keep going. I wanted to give financial support for my sister as she didn't get a big salary, but with the little earnings, she had to manage. With my Mahapola scholarship, I could give some money back to my sister to spend on medicine for my father. Unfortunately, in the middle of 2015 my sister also lost her job. At that point I thought \93what should I do?\94 **One day, I thought to stop my studies and find a job. But I could not make up my mind as I was the only one blessed with a university education. It was the dream of my family to see me complete my university education.** In the Final year of my university life, I was lucky to get hostel facilities. Just because of that, I could spend a bit more on my father. Our villagers also

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helped us a lot. They came every day to see my father. Every weekend, I went home. But with all our efforts, we could not save him. It has been a year since my father passed away.

I have just completed my degree. Even though he's not with us today, I could complete it successfully as I got this scholarship. **Rs. 3000 per month was a big amount of money for me. I looked forward to the first day of every month until I got a message from the bank saying that I had received Rs.3000.** From semester to semester I could increase my GPA as well. Unfortunately I couldn't get a first class division, but I could achieve a second upper division. **I am happy to say with all the problems that I faced in my life; I could get the best value out of my education.**

Currently I am working at Seva Wanitha Resource centre where I got industrial training during my university life. Still I don't get a big salary, but with that I try to fulfil the needs of my home. So, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all the committee members and all the sponsors of UMAAV, because it was a huge support for me. Actually I have lots of things to share with you, but I have to limit it; so according to my religion I wish you all Teruwan Saranai.

Thank you



**Nilusha Silva**

**Undergraduate student of Department of Town and Country Planning**

**University of Moratuwa**

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### Feedback by Malith Senavirathne of Town and Country Planning

I am Malith from Department of Town and Country Planning UOM. I would proudly and humbly say that I was one of the beneficiaries of UMAAV scholarship program which I was depending a lot during the four years of my academia. Currently, I am attached to the Department of Town and Country Planning as an Instructor. **I was able to join this position as I passed out last December as a first class honours degree holder. I was able to come this far because of the UMAAV scholarship, which helped ease the burden of my financial background.** I started university studies just one year after the passing away of my father. Since then, my mother and I were struggling to stand upon the financial burdens of the family. In such time, the presence of the scholarship program had been a great relief for me as it helped me successfully concentration on my studies and achievements. I am wholeheartedly grateful for everyone for working harder for the success of this program. I wish that this program get stronger every

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year, so that students like me can succeed in their academic studies. In the new future, I hope I can join the scholarship program so I can contribute towards helping a student in need. Thank you very much and may all your great attempts meet great success!

Thank you

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**Malith Senavirathne**

**Department of Town and Country Planning**

**University of Moratuwa**

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## Feedback by Janath Rodrigo of Department of Materials Science & Engineering

Dear All,

I am Janath Rodrigo. I am starting as a final year student at the University of Morutwa this year at faculty of engineering University of Moratuwa. First of all I would like to thank the committee of UMAAV for organising this kind of scholarships. I was selected for the UMAAV scholarship in 2015. I received the benefits of the scholarship in 2015 and 2016 actually the scholarship was really helpful to me as it help me overcome my financial difficulties.

My father does not have a job because he is a paralysed patient, and my mother also does not have a job. Therefore, it was difficult for me to ask my mother for money for my expenses. To earn money for my expenses, I contemplated giving up my study time and finding a part-time job. This would have severely affected my academic studies. As I was so lucky to have received this scholarship, I didn't need to find part time work. In that respect, this scholarship was a real blessing to help with my overall studies.

As an engineering student, I wish to do well in the future. One day I am hoping to help others who are in my situation. Finally, I would like to thank you again for your great help. I wish UMAAV to become stronger and further help students like me.

Thank you

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**Janath Rodrigo**  
**Faculty of Engineering**  
**University of Moratuwa**

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## Feedback by Sumudu Herath of Department of Civil Engineering

Dear Sir,

I am a UMAAV Scholar since 2013 from the Department of Civil Engineering of University of Moratuwa. I would like to make this opportunity to thank you for the unwavering support given for the whole period of my University education. I think you would like to hear how important that UMAAV Scholarship was to me during my academics at University of Moratuwa. Following are few of the achievements I have made during my student life at University of Moratuwa and I should thank you all for backing me up with the much needed financial assistance throughout my University career.

- Batch top in the Dept. of Civil Engineering for 2016 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Faculty of Engineering
- Admitted to University of Cambridge, UK for Ph.D. with a full scholarship from Cambridge Trust.

I consider myself to be very lucky obtaining the UMAAV scholarship and achieving such a glory so far in my life. It would be really difficult to reach such heights without your aid. I wish you all the best and kindly request to continue this scholarship scheme as far as possible because I can guarantee, I made the best out of it.

Best Regards,



**Sumudu Herath,**  
**Undergraduate of Department Civil Engineering,**  
**Faculty of Engineering**  
**University of Moratuwa.**  
***UMAAV Scholar 2013-2016***

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## Feedback by Udara Indrajith of Department of Materials Science & Engineering

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for Association to offer me the UMAAV Undergraduate Scholarship. I am much honoured to be a recipient of this award.

At this time, I completed my BSc Engineering course at University of Moratuwa specialized to Material Science and Engineering and expecting the result for final exam. Currently I'm holding a second lower class and I think it will be upgraded to second upper class with my final exam result. After the graduation I would like to join the industry rather than the higher studies. So now I'm looking for a job related to Material Engineering field to start my carrier. Also I hope to start post graduate degree as a part time while I'm doing a job.

I knew when I selected to attend University of Moratuwa that I would be getting a great education. This scholarship reduced my financial burden and helped me to further increase my chances of success. Again, thank you for your support. I hope to help others one-day, as you have helped me when I needed financial support.

Best Regards,



**Udara Indrajith**

**Undergraduate,**

**Department of Materials Science & Engineering,**

**Faculty of Engineering,**

**University Of Moratuwa**

***UMAAV Scholar 2014-2016***

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