

BCA-INDUSTRY BUILT ENVIRONMENT DIPLOMA SCHOLARSHIP / SPONSORSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between scholarship and sponsorship? Can I choose?

The difference is in the award quantum:

- For sponsorship, the award covers an annual allowance of \$7,000
- For scholarship, the quantum is more; you will get an annual allowance of \$15,000

When you submit your application, it will be applicable for both the scholarship and sponsorship. The offer will be based on academic results, CCA records and interview performance. You may accept or decline our offer if you wish to.

2. When will the application results be out?

Successful applicants will be scheduled for interviews from January onwards. The final outcome of your application shall be announced in late August. You can submit your application to us and we will keep you updated on the timeline.

3. When will I receive my annual allowance?

The Scholarship/ Sponsorship annual allowance will be disbursed to you via GIRO in tranches, based on the semesters in the polytechnic/ BCA Academy academic calendar (i.e. twice per academic year).

The first disbursement of annual allowance upon the award of scholarship/ sponsorship will be around November. Subsequently, the first half of annual allowance will be disbursed around June and second half of annual allowance will be around November upon submission of your results (subjected to fulfilling the requirements of the scholarships/ sponsorships)

4. Can I concurrently hold other scholarships / sponsorships?

You are not allowed to hold other scholarships / sponsorships that come with any obligations or bonds. For awards that do not have any obligations / bonds, you would need to seek concurrence from BCA or your co-funding sponsors.

5. What is a Scholarship/Sponsorship deed? Who is required to sign on the deed?

The Scholarship/ Sponsorship deed is a legal document which binds you to the Scholarship/sponsorship obligations. To be awarded the Scholarship/ Sponsorship, 2 Sureties and you have to sign a deed with BCA/sponsoring firm. The 2 Sureties must be:

- Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents residing permanently in Singapore;
- above 21 years and preferably under 65 years of age;
- gainfully employed and drawing an income of at least \$1,000 per month;
- not a declared bankrupt; and
- not a party to an existing scholarship / sponsorship, bursary or study loan agreement, and not bonded to an existing scholarship / sponsorship, bursary or study loan agreement.

- 6. Are there any minimum polytechnic results I have to maintain as I study the diploma?**
For sponsorship, you are required to pass all exams. For scholarship, you are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- 7. How do I fulfil my Scholarship/ Sponsorship bond?**
You will be required to work in a Singapore-registered firm which is recognised by BCA as related to the built environment sector. You will be required to be employed by such firm(s) for a minimum of 2 years.
- 8. Is there any penalty if I break bond?**
If you break bond, you will need to repay liquidated damages (LD) comprising the scholarship award quantum with 10% interest compounded annually.
- 9. Can I go for full-time further study upon diploma graduation?**
Generally we would encourage you to gain some work experience before pursuing a degree. This is because the knowledge gained through the work experience will help you relate to what you will study in the university. However, should you wish to defer the bond for further study upon graduation, you will need to meet the minimum requirements or seek for sponsor's approval.
If you have received BCA-Industry Built Environment ITE Scholarship, you are required to complete the bond before pursuing your degree study.
- 10. Can I choose not to accept an industry firm's offer of scholarship / sponsorship?**
Yes, you can choose not to accept an industry firm's offer of scholarship / sponsorship.
- 11. Are the benefits of Stage 2 guaranteed after graduation (i.e. minimum salary, On-Job-Training and upgrading opportunities)?**
As Stage 2 phase is jointly offered with the industry, you will need to secure a sponsoring firm to be eligible for the benefits.
- 12. Does the stipulated minimum salary in Stage 2 remain the same upon my graduation a few years later?**
The minimum salary will remain the same as this will be stipulated in the scholarship / sponsorship deed. While there might be concerns that the minimum salary would be considered low a few years later, based on the past salary trends, the changes are not expected to be drastic. Moreover, this is the minimum salary and employers are always encouraged to pay more depending on market conditions.
- 13. For Stage 2, am I free to choose any specialist / advanced diploma?**
You should discuss with your sponsor and agree on the course which will be the most relevant to your scope of work in the firm.