

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*(SFA Diploma Scholarship)*

### **Application and Selection**

**I am interested to pursue diploma studies in Biotechnology/ Food Science but have not secured a place with the polytechnic. Can I apply for the diploma scholarship?**

The SFA Diploma Scholarship is open to diploma students enrolled in a local polytechnic pursuing a relevant discipline of study. Applicants should have attained at least one semester of examination results at the point of scholarship application.

**What will be the scope of work during the internship with SFA as part of the diploma scholarship assessment?**

Interns will be assessed for the scholarship through a 6-week internship in one of the following areas:

- Operations and enforcement (E.g. Inspections, response to food safety issues, licensing and registration of food businesses)

Interns will be assigned a project which they will deliver an individual presentation and report to SFA at the end of the internship stint. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview after the internship, in consideration for the scholarship.

**How many diploma scholarships does SFA award each year?**

The number of scholarship awards is dependent on the applicant cohort and organizational needs.

### **Career and Development**

**What are the career opportunities available when I return from my studies and start work?**

SFA offers our scholars development opportunities, and scholars will assume a role in an SFA division, taking into consideration their area of study, career interests and organizational needs. These areas of work may include operations and food innovation.

**What will be the starting salary after I return to SFA upon completion of my studies?**

Our salaries are competitive and will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**If I'm going for my National Service (NS) after my polytechnic studies, when do I start at SFA?**

Scholarship recipients are required to complete their NS first before returning to SFA to serve the bond. Please note that no deferment of NS is allowed.

### **Terms and Conditions**

**When will I receive my annual allowance/ backpayment of tuition fees?**

The annual allowance will be disbursed to scholarship recipients via GIRO based on the polytechnic academic calendar. The reimbursement of tuition fees for past semesters will coincide with the first disbursement of allowances.

**Can I proceed for full-time further studies upon completion of my diploma studies?**

Scholarship recipients are required to return to SFA to serve the bond period upon completion of diploma studies. We provide opportunities for SFA employees to upgrade their skills and pursue further studies through our staff education sponsorship scheme during their career with SFA.

**Is there any penalty if I break the bond?**

Scholarship recipients will be required to repay liquidated damages comprising the scholarship award quantum with interest compounded annually.

*Updated 1 December 2023*