

The big push to upgrade skills

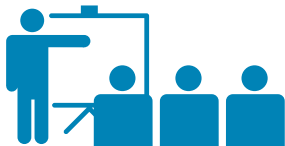
SkillsFuture

What is it?

A major initiative to provide Singaporeans with the opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points.

Four main thrusts

- Help individuals make well-informed career choices in education, training and careers
- Develop an integrated, high-quality system of education and training that responds to constantly evolving needs
- Promote employer recognition and career development based on skills and mastery
- Foster a culture that supports and celebrates lifelong learning



SkillsFuture Credit

- Every Singaporean aged 25 and above has a SkillsFuture account with S\$500 worth of credits. These can be used to offset course fees and will be topped up periodically.



SkillsFuture Study Awards

- Early to mid-career Singaporeans can apply for this S\$5,000 award to defray out-of-pocket expenses when paying for a course in certain sectors such as food services or retail. This can be used on top of existing government subsidies, and there is no bond.

SkillsFuture Earn and Learn

- Fresh polytechnic and ITE graduates are matched with a job related to their discipline of study and undergo a 12-18 month structured training programme
- Among the many perks is a S\$5,000 sign-on incentive for Singaporeans
- Employers benefit as they can groom and retain talent with the relevant skills and aptitude to meet the company's needs

Did you know?

- There are 25 members on the SkillsFuture Council. The chairman is Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The others include BreadTalk chairman George Quek, Singapore Business Federation chairman Teo Siong Seng and Cold Storage Singapore CEO Victor Chia.
- SkillsFuture Singapore, a new statutory board to be set up by end-2016, will spearhead the drive for skills upgrading. It will fall under the purview of the Ministry of Education.