HOW TO:

GET A PIONEER UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

A Blind Mice Guide to NTU Scholarship Application

BY

Disclaimer:

EL is a polytechnic graduate who is currently studying Computer Science in University College London.

She is a Changi Airport Group scholar who was also offered scholarships from the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Nanyang Technological University.

She would like to add that the information presented is solely based on her personal experience and research. All advice given is in no way representative of the views of any institutions.

INTRODUCTION

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The Nanyang Scholarship, NTU's foremost undergraduate scholarship is awarded to outstanding freshmen pursuing undergraduate programmes. Nanyang Scholarship recognizes students who excel academically, demonstrate strong leadership potential, and possess outstanding co-curricular records.

In NTU, it's notable that the Nanyang Scholarship is the top scholarship within the university. This no-bond university scholarship covers many of your university fees like accommodation and tuition fees. More importantly, you'll be given a priority for overseas programmes, where you'll have a higher chance of being posted to your first choice!

ESSAY

When you apply for the scholarship, you'll be required to submit an essay of about 300 words. The question has been the same for several years, so you can expect the same question or a similar question to come out for your year! The essay question is "Describe, in less than 300 words, an exceptional achievement that highlights your academic and CCA interests that would be of value to the NTU community."

An achievement need not be an award, but an experience or a growth that you've gained that is of an achievement to yourself. I wrote about how I felt that my events organising experience in and outside of SP was my greatest achievement, instead of an award that I obtained! This really gave me the content and space that I needed to showcase my leadership abilities. Most importantly, talk about how this "achievement" of yours would help in contributing to the NTU community! Showcase your desire to contribute and be a leader within the NTU community and how you've exhibited this quality throughout your years in polytechnic!

INTERVIEW

After submitting your scholarship applications via the NTU portal, you might be called for an interview for the scholarship by your respective school boards. This means that if your first choice is a degree in Computing, you'll be interviewed by a panel of lecturers from the Computing school. The interview lasts around 20 minutes and for my year, we were offered an option of having a Skype Interview or a face-to-face interview.

The interviewers will most likely ask questions asking about your leadership experiences. They have your portfolio so they might ask about a specific event that you've organised. Share earnestly about the lessons and experiences you've gained and how you've grown from the experience. Though they want to know what you've contributed to the event, they're more interested in finding out about you as a person, which is usually showcased through your reflections and learnings! At the end of the interview, they'll ask if you have any questions to ask them. It's good if you can prepare one to two questions to ask them!

Personal Questions
1. Tell me about yourself
2. I see that you've taken a lot of things in your polytechnic. How do you manage your time?

Leadership Questions
1. Tell me about your most challenging leadership experience and how you coped with it?