

~ 45 years of making a difference ~

Star Education Fund

Star Media Group collaborates with a range of educational institutions for the Star Education Fund Scholarship Awards. The bond-free scholarships are available across a wide range of disciplines, and encompass entry-level and post-graduate courses, professional studies and vocational training.

Star 45
MEDIA GROUP YEARS
Inform, Inspire, Innovate.
9 SEPTEMBER

Nitiakaran (Leo) Selvaraj, 29, marketing and communications specialist Star Education Fund 2005

I grew up in a modest, single-parent household. Without Star Media Group's help, I would not have been able to complete my education. Securing a full scholarship for a Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Psychology at UCSI University led me to where I am today, with Siemens Healthineers Malaysia.



My sister-in-law encouraged me to apply; she paid for my bus fare to KL to attend the Star Education Fair. Even then, I took a while to submit the form, due to my fear of being rejected. I had low self-esteem, and I didn't think I was "scholarship material".

At the interview, I had to compete with competitive, well-prepared students. I was wearing hand-me-downs from my brothers and had only worked as a petrol pump attendant after high school.

However, Mr Anthony, one of the interviewers, encouraged me to speak up. My confidence soared. But I still remember standing in the lobby of Menara Star right after, feeling hopeless, wondering if I

even had a chance.

I was stunned when I got THE call! As a scholarship student, expectations were high, and it led me to learn responsibility and accountability. Something that I carry with me to this day.

I started my career in non-profit Protect and Save the Children, before moving on to public relations. In mid-2015, I took up my current position. I also dabbled in the performing arts (as both actor and writer) in four local theatre productions from 2010 to 2011.

A challenge is an opportunity; I am driven by the need to learn and experiment.

Thanks for an awesome 45 years, *The Star*! Thank you for inspiring thousands of young Malaysians to push themselves. The Star Education Fund inspires children from modest backgrounds and lets them know that they can succeed if they just fight hard.