

SKILLSFUTURE CREDIT FAQ

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S/N	Questions and Answers
A	General questions on SkillsFuture Credit
1	What is the SkillsFuture Credit?
	The SkillsFuture Credit consists of credits which Singapore Citizens (SCs) can use to pay for out-of-pocket course fees for attending work-skills related courses. The credits can be used on top of existing course fee subsidies provided by the Government.
2	Which government agency is administering the SkillsFuture Credit?
	The SkillsFuture Credit will be administered by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA).
3	Why is the SkillsFuture Credit only for individuals? Will the Government extend support to employers?
	<p>The SkillsFuture Credit aims to strengthen individual ownership of skills development and lifelong learning.</p> <p>Currently, employers are eligible for subsidies ranging from 50% to 90% of course fees for WDA-supported courses and 75% to 97% of cost of MOE-funded courses. Under the Enhanced Training Support Scheme for SMEs, SMEs receive a minimum 90% subsidy level when they sponsor their employees for training, regardless of the type of courses, up to post-diploma level. Under the Workfare Training Support (WTS) scheme, employers (including SMEs) who sponsor their employees for courses up to post-diploma level (with monthly salary not exceeding \$1,900) receive even higher subsidy at 95% funding</p>

	<p>support. We encourage employers to tap on these assistance schemes.</p> <p>Employees who are sponsored by their employers to go for training should not have to tap on their own SkillsFuture Credit to pay for course fees, as their course fees are already paid by their employers.</p>
B	Questions on eligibility criteria
4	Who is eligible for the SkillsFuture Credit? How many credits will they receive?
	<p>Every Singapore Citizen (SC) 25 years old and above in 2016 will receive an initial credit of \$500. SCs who are below 25 years old in 2016 will similarly receive \$500 worth of credits in the year that they turn 25 years old. The Government will make further top-ups to individuals' SkillsFuture Credit at regular intervals.</p>
5	Why does the SkillsFuture Credit begin at age 25?
	<p>The SkillsFuture Credit is targeted at individuals who are already in the workforce or have completed their full-time education and ready to start their careers. The credits can only be used for work skills-related education and training.</p>
6	Can individuals transfer their SkillsFuture Credit to their family or friends?
	<p>The credits are non-transferable.</p>
7	I am retired. Why can't I transfer my SkillsFuture Credit to my children or relatives who are working?
	<p>The SkillsFuture Credit is meant to support individual Singaporeans' learning needs by defraying out-of-pocket course fees. All Singapore Citizens 25 years old and above will receive the SkillsFuture Credit.</p>
8	Will the credits be accrued to my CPF account when I retire?
	<p>I am retired. Why can't I transfer my SkillsFuture Credit to my CPF account if I don't fully utilise it?</p>
	<p>The SkillsFuture Credit is not in the form of cash. It can only be used to meet the</p>

	out-of-pocket course fees of work-skills-related courses.
C	Questions on credit quantum
9	Will \$500 worth of credits be sufficient?
	Many work-skills related courses are already highly subsidised by public agencies to ensure that the training cost are affordable. The Government will make further top-ups to individuals' SkillsFuture Credit at regular intervals.
10	Will the credits earn interest?
	The credits will not earn interest.
11	Can individuals top-up their own SkillsFuture Credit or their family's or friend's? Will it attract a credit matching from the Government?
	Individuals will not be able to top up the SkillsFuture Credit. The Government will make further top-ups to individuals' SkillsFuture Credit at regular intervals.
12	Will the credits expire?
	The credits will not expire and can be used throughout an individual's lifetime. The credits will expire upon death or annulment of Singapore citizenship.
13	Can individuals withdraw their SkillsFuture Credit if they were to annul their Singapore citizenship?
	The credits will lapse if individuals were to annul their Singapore citizenship.
14	What happens to an individual's SkillsFuture Credit when he or she passes away?
	An individual's credits will expire upon his or her death.

D	Questions on usage of credits
15	What kind of courses can the SkillsFuture Credit be used for?
	<p>Singaporeans will be able to use their SkillsFuture Credit to pay for work-skills related courses supported by public agencies, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Courses subsidised by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) b. Courses offered by MOE-funded Post-Secondary Education Institutions (including autonomous universities, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education) c. Selected courses at SIM University, LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts d. Courses subsidised or supported by other public agencies
16	Why can't individuals use the SkillsFuture Credit at private education institutes?
	Individuals may use the SkillsFuture Credit for WDA- and MOE-subsidised courses, some of which are offered by private institutions.
17	Can the SkillsFuture Credit be used for courses taken at overseas institutions?
	The use of the SkillsFuture Credit is currently limited to publicly supported institutions in Singapore, as the Government has more assurance of their quality and educational outcomes.
18	Why does the SkillsFuture Credit only support work-skills related courses?
	Technology and globalisation are changing the nature of jobs in the future. It is important for Singaporeans to upgrade their work skills to stay relevant and meet the evolving needs of the economy. We want to support Singaporeans in bridging skills gaps, broaden and deepen skills, and help them to advance in their careers. This is in line with the objectives of SkillsFuture.
19	When can individuals start to use their credits? How will they be notified about their SkillsFuture Credit?

	The Government will implement SkillsFuture Credit in 2016. Eligible Singaporeans will be informed by WDA in due course about their SkillsFuture Credit and the effective date for usage.
20	How will individuals be able to claim or use the credits? How can they check their credit balances?
	Individuals will receive information from WDA on how to use the SkillsFuture Credit when the system is ready for launch.
21	Can the SkillsFuture Credit be used to pay for course registration fees or course materials?
	The SkillsFuture Credit can only be used to offset course fees, and cannot be used to pay for course registration fees or course materials.
22	Can employers ask their employee to co-fund the course fees when they send them for training?
	<p>The SkillsFuture Credit supports individual-initiated training. It is not intended to pay for job-related training provided by employers, which should continue to be borne by employers.</p> <p>Employers need to make serious investments in the job-related skills of their workers as we restructure towards more capital-intensive and skills-driven growth. We will continue to support the efforts of employers through the substantial subsidies that we provide for employer-supported training. The SkillsFuture Credit complements this by fostering a culture that is supportive of lifelong learning.</p> <p>In addition, employers will not be eligible for absentee payroll support if they ask their employees to fund or co-fund the course fees.</p>
23	Can retirees use their SkillsFuture Credit for recreational courses such as those offered by the People's Association?
	I am retired. What can I use my SkillsFuture Credit for?
	The SkillsFuture Credit is intended to support Singaporeans in pursuing work skills-related training to help them develop their skills and access the jobs

	created by the economy. The Government will separately look into measures to support seniors in active ageing.
E Questions on Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA)	
24	Will the SkillsFuture Credit cover the same courses as the Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA)?
	Yes, all courses currently covered by the PSEA will be covered under the SkillsFuture Credit.
25	Why is the PSEA cut-off age being brought forward from age 30 to age 25? What will happen to the monies in my PSEA account?
	<p>The PSEA cut-off age is brought forward as the SkillsFuture Credit begins at age 25. When an individual's PSEA is closed, monies in the account will be transferred to his or her CPF Ordinary Account (OA), as it is today.</p> <p>Those who still need to continue using PSEA monies to further their studies at PSEA-approved institutions can opt to extend their PSEA to age 30.</p> <p>In effect, individuals will have more flexibility in how they choose to use PSEA monies.</p>
26	Will individuals still be able to use their SkillsFuture Credit if they opt to extend their PSEA?
	Individuals will still be able to use their SkillsFuture Credit if they extend their PSEA.
27	Will individuals still receive the first tranche of the NS HOME Award if their PSEA is closed?
	Individuals will still receive the NS HOME Award. It will be paid into their CPF OA once their PSEA has been closed, unless they have opted to extend it to age 30.

F	Other questions
28	Will the SkillsFuture Credit result in a rise in course fees?
	MOE and WDA will work with public and private education and training institutions approved for the use of the SkillsFuture Credit, to ensure that course fees remain affordable.

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