

Drawn to investment banking

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MODEL STUDENTS: Karamdeep Singh J. S. wants to venture into investment banking once he graduates.

And he is assured of his chances of achieving his dream job, thanks to a full scholarship from Maybank. He will be pursuing a Bachelor of Finance degree at the University of Adelaide, Australia in February.

Karamdeep is one of 20 recipients of the full scholarship, awarded to students who excel in both academic and co-curricular activities.

The recipients, selected from among 800 applicants, were given full scholarships amounting to RM3.54 million to pursue their education in universities, including Imperial College and London School of Economics and Political Science in the United Kingdom, University of Chicago in the United States and University of Melbourne in Australia.

"I'm keen on this field (investment banking) as it is fast paced and interesting. I want to get involved in mergers and joint ventures, and stocks and markets," says Karamdeep, a former SMK Damansara Jaya student, who was also a recipient of the Australian International School Malaysia scholarship (2009) to study for the High School Certificate.



Karamdeep Singh J. S.

Being away for a long stretch of time is going to be daunting for Karamdeep, who admits that homesickness gets to him.

"The longest I've ever been away from home is about a month while on a holiday in India. I shall miss my family and friends, and I also won't have my parents to advise me. However, I should be able to keep myself occupied. I also feel that doing my daily prayers help me to focus so I won't be distracted by other things," he adds.

Another recipient, Sandra Lee Sze Wan, is happy that the scholarship enables her to pursue a

three-year undergraduate course in Psychology at University College London.

"Psychology does not only exist within an academic vacuum but it can also be applied to almost every aspect of life, most important of which is exploring our inner self to deal with our lives in a more efficient manner. I believe that psychology can lead to living a more fulfilling and meaningful life," says Lee about her passion for the subject.

However, Lee also realises that she has big shoes to fill.

"My father works as a site coordinator and my mother is a homemaker. As they did not have the privilege to pursue tertiary education, they were excited when I was awarded the scholarship. However, they always remind me of my responsibility," says Lee.

Maybank currently has 125 students under its local scholarship scheme, which has sponsored more than 1,000 students since it was initiated in 1972.

"This is our first scheme to offer a full scholarship and also the first for studies overseas. Our programme features more than just financial security. It includes a mentoring framework, opportunities for internships and development interventions to acquire skills," says Maybank chief executive officer Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar during the award ceremony.