

SingTel unveils scholarships for poly students

By CALVIN YANG

TOP students from three polytechnic courses will now be able to get a head start in their fields, with telecommunications giant SingTel offering diploma scholarships for the first time.

The SingTel Cadet Scholarship Programme, developed with Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP), aims to nurture talent in the areas of computer engineering, cyber security and customer experience.

Unveiled at SP yesterday, it is the first time a telco has offered diploma scholarships for polytechnic students. SingTel introduced a scholarship programme for undergraduates in 2010.

"It is our people that differentiate us from the competition," said SingTel group chief executive officer Chua Sock Koong, adding that the telco hopes to build a pipeline of talent in the three areas to meet future needs.

"We need to attract the right kind of talent early, so that they can develop and grow their careers with us."

The scholarships, worth more than \$2 million a year, are available to students pursuing diplomas in computer engineering and infocomm security management at SP, and the diploma in customer relationship and service management at RP.

A total of 90 scholarships are available each year to top students across the three diploma courses. The scholarships cover up to two years of tuition, living expenses and laptop allowance,



Education Minister Heng Swee Keat and SingTel group CEO Chua Sock Koong (both standing) witnessing yesterday's signing of the memorandum of understanding at Singapore Polytechnic. ST PHOTO: CHEW SENG KIM

among other things. The programme, which starts this April, is open for applications. The closing date is Jan 23.

"This is a good opportunity for students to pick up relevant skills and gain experience," said second-year customer relationship and service management student Goh Fei Ni, 18, from RP who has applied for a scholarship.

Scholarship holders will serve a one-year bond with the telco, where they will get industry-relevant training and employment opportunities. They can also take up internships while in school. Outstanding scholars will get the option to take on full-time or part-time university scholarships.

The programme is aligned with

SkillsFuture, a national initiative aimed at getting employers to provide individuals with advancement options based on their skills. Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, the event's guest of honour, said: "Each industry and each company should develop programmes to best suit its needs."

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