

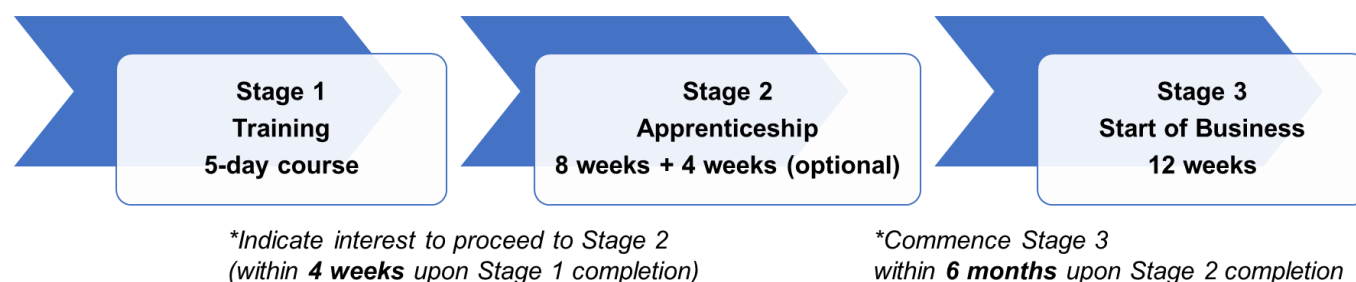
Hawkers' Development Programme (HDP) – Frequently Asked Questions

(As of Feb 2024)

1. What is HDP?

As part of the efforts to sustain hawker culture, NEA has been working with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) to provide training opportunities and pathways for aspiring hawkers. In January 2020, NEA and SSG launched the HDP to equip aspiring hawkers with the relevant skills and competencies to run their hawker businesses. The programme comprises three stages – Stage 1 (Training), Stage 2 (Apprenticeship), and Stage 3 (Start of Business). The HDP is open to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents from all educational backgrounds and age groups.

2. What is the duration of the HDP?



3. Will I receive training allowance during the programme?

Eligible trainees will receive training allowance of up to \$50 per day during Stage 1 (Training) and up to \$1,000 per month during Stage 2 (Apprenticeship) and Stage 3 (Start of Business), if they fulfil the minimum attendance requirements and the learning outcomes of each stage. The training allowance for Stage 1 and Stage 2 will only be disbursed upon completion of Stage 2. The training allowance for Stage 3 will be disbursed upon completion of Stage 3, *subject to grant cycle timeframe stipulated by SSG*.

4. Will I be entitled to the training allowance if I fail to secure a stall upon completion of Stage 2 (Apprenticeship)?

HDP trainees will be entitled to the training allowance for Stage 1 (Training) and Stage 2 (Apprenticeship), even if he/she does not secure a stall in Stage 3 (Start of Business).

5. How will I be selected for Stage 2 (Apprenticeship)?

During Stage 1 (Training), HDP trainees will be required to indicate the intended dish for sale. Eligible trainees will be invited to a screening interview with NEA. On a best-effort basis, NEA will assign the HDP trainee to an experienced hawker based on the closest match to the dish. The match will depend on the availability of the experienced hawkers, and factors such as compatibility between the experienced hawkers and trainees.

6. Can I choose not to proceed to Stage 2 (Apprenticeship) after I have completed the Stage 1 (Training)?

Yes. However, please note that training allowance would only be disbursed to HDP trainees who have completed Stage 2 (Apprenticeship).

7. Will I be allocated a stall for Stage 3 (Start of Business)?

HDP trainees who wish to proceed on to Stage 3 (Start of Business) after completing Stage 1 (Training) and Stage 2 (Apprenticeship) may bid for a stall through the NEA's monthly stall tender exercise at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/tender-notices> or apply for the Incubation Stall Programme (ISP) at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/hawker-management/programmes-and-grants/isp>.

8. What are the key features of HDP?

The HDP comprises three stages:

Stage 1: Training - A 5-day course that covers modules on (i) fundamental food preparation and cooking techniques, including preparation methods of some base sauce and popular hawker dishes, (ii) tools needed to draw up a simple business plan; (iii) marketing techniques to reach out to customers, and (iv) establishing presence on social media platforms and food delivery applications. Aspiring hawkers who sign up for the HDP will have to attend all modules, whereas existing hawkers may sign up for any modules independently. Participants will be coached by certified trainers from SSG's appointed Continuing Education and Training Centre, Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute (NYP-ACI). More details of the course can be found at: <https://www.aci.edu.sg/training-for-individuals/short-courses/food-and-beverage-service/hawkers-development-programme>.

Stage 2: Apprenticeship – HDP trainees must possess a valid Food Safety and Hygiene Level 1 certificate. HDP trainees who are keen to proceed to Stage 2 should register their interest with NEA, and thereafter he/she will be notified of the scheduled screening interview with NEA. Shortlisted HDP trainees will proceed to learn the ropes of the trade from experienced hawkers at the hawkers' stalls for 8 weeks. Upon completion of the 8 weeks apprenticeship, the trainee may request for an extension of the apprenticeship by an additional 4 weeks if more time is required to increase readiness to operate a stall or improve on dish preparation. This request will be subjected to the experienced hawker's assessment and NEA's support. Please note that the experienced hawkers are not obliged to share their personal recipes.

Stage 3: Start of Business – At this stage, HDP trainees will start their hawker business either through bidding for available stalls released during NEA's monthly public tender at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/tender-notices> or the NEA's Incubation Stall Programme at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/hawker-management/programmes-and-grants/isp>. For the first three months of this stage, experienced hawkers will continue to provide mentorship support to HDP trainees.

Trainees who complete all three stages of the HDP will receive a Certificate of Completion.

9. How much are the HDP course fees and what subsidies are available?

Eligible trainees can tap on existing SkillsFuture subsidies such as the SkillsFuture Credit and SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy to further offset the course fees. More details of the course fee can be found at: <https://www.aci.edu.sg/training-for-individuals/short-courses/food-and-beverage-service/hawkers-development-programme>.

10. Who can apply for the HDP?

Singaporeans and Permanent Residents from all educational backgrounds and age groups are eligible to apply for the HDP. Assessment will be conducted by NEA and NYP-ACI to determine the suitability of the aspiring hawkers.

11. How do I know if I am successfully enrolled into the HDP?

Upon successful enrolment, eligible trainees will receive email notification from NYP-ACI.

12. I have attended the ITE's "Introduction to Managing a Hawker Business" course. Can I skip Stage 1 (Training) of the HDP?

No. Interested participants have to attend Stage 1 (Training) of the HDP. ITE's course is not part of the HDP.

Experienced Hawkers under the Hawkers' Development Programme (HDP)

13. How are the experienced hawkers selected for the HDP and are they professionally trained to mentor aspiring hawkers?

NEA worked closely with key stakeholders, such as hawkers' associations and hawker representatives of various hawker centres, to reach out to experienced hawkers with successful and sustainable hawker businesses to be involved in the HDP. These experienced hawkers have also expressed interest in mentoring aspiring hawkers. All participating experienced hawkers have undergone training and are equipped with the skills needed to provide guidance to aspiring hawkers.

14. Will experienced hawkers who participated in the HDP be compensated for their time and guidance?

Experienced hawkers will be compensated for their effort and time in guiding aspiring hawkers during Stage 2 (Apprenticeship) and providing mentorship support during Stage 3 (Start of Business) of the HDP.

15. I am an experienced hawker, and I am interested to participate in the HDP to mentor aspiring hawkers. How can I register my interest?

Experienced hawker may register his/her interest at <https://go.gov.sg/nea-hdp>.