

HAWKERS' DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - FAQs

1. What is the Hawkers' Development Programme and what does it entail?

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 Hawkers' Development Programme (HDP) to equip aspiring hawkers with the relevant skills and competencies to run their hawker businesses. The programme comprises three stages – training, apprenticeship, and running an incubation stall. The HDP is open to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents from all educational backgrounds and age groups.

For young aspiring hawkers, i.e. recent polytechnics and ITE graduates (within three years of graduation or ORD for males), NEA and SSG launched the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship in January 2021 under the HDP. While the programme structure is similar to HDP, the new track is about 6 months longer to provide these young participants with a more structured curriculum to support their transition from pre-employment training to the workplace, while optimising their learning experiences and skills development to run a hawker business or to enter the Food and Beverage industry.

2. For the HDP and the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship, will I still receive my training allowance if I fail to secure a stall upon completion of the Apprenticeship stage?

Participants will have to check with the respective Training Providers for details on the training allowance requirements.

3. Do I get to choose my hawker mentor under the Apprenticeship stage?

Participants may indicate their preferred hawker mentor, if any, and NEA will assist accordingly. However, depending on the availability of the hawker mentors and other factors, such as the compatibility between the assigned mentors and aspiring hawkers, there is a possibility that participants may be paired with other hawker mentors who sell similar dish that the participants intend to sell.

4. How did the agencies select the experienced hawkers to be involved in the HDP and the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship 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 interest experienced hawkers with successful and sustainable hawker businesses to be involved in the HDP and the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship. 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.

5. Will experienced hawkers who participate in the HDP and the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship be compensated for their time and guidance?

Experienced hawkers will be compensated for their effort and time in guiding aspiring hawkers during the Apprenticeship and Mentorship stages of the course.

6. I am an experienced hawker and I am interested to be a hawker mentor. How can I register my interest?

You may register your interest at <https://go.gov.sg/nea-hdp>.

Key features of the Hawkers' Development Programme

7. How is the programme by the Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute (NYP-ACI) conducted?

The programme comprises three stages:

Stage 1: **Training** – a 5-day course that covers modules on (i) basics of food safety and hygiene, (ii) fundamental food preparation and cooking techniques, (iii) tools needed to draw up a simple business plan, (iv) marketing techniques to reach out to patrons, and (v) 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. Participants will be coached by certified trainers from SSG's appointed Continuing Education and Training Centre, Nanyang Polytechnic's Asian Culinary Institute (NYP-ACI).

Stage 2: **Apprenticeship** – After completing the training stage, aspiring hawkers will proceed to learn the ropes of the trade from experienced hawkers at the stalls of the experienced hawkers for 8 weeks. This stage is available only to aspiring hawkers (Participants to take note that the experienced hawkers are not obliged to share their personal recipes).

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

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

8. What is the HDP course fee and what subsidies are in place to support participants of the programme?

Eligible participants 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: www.aci.edu.sg/hdp.aspx.

9. Can anyone apply for the HDP?

The HDP is open to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents from all educational backgrounds and age groups. Aspiring hawkers will be screened by NEA and NYP-ACI to assess their suitability.

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

Upon successful enrolment, participant will receive an email notification from NYP-ACI.

11. Will participants receive training allowance during the programme?

Participants will receive training allowance of up to \$1,000 per training month, if they fulfil a minimum 75% attendance and meet the learning outcomes of the Training and Apprenticeship stages.

12. What if I already have a Food Safety (Level 1) certificate, will I still be entitled to the training allowance for the Training stage?

For participants who have obtained the Food Safety (Level 1) certificate, their training allowance will be pro-rated based on the number of training hours that they have clocked.

13. I have attended the ITE's "Introduction to Managing a Hawker Business" course. Can I skip the Training stage of the HDP?

No. Participants have to attend the Training stage of the HDP as the ITE's course is not part of the HDP.

Key features of the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship

14. Are there pre-requisites to qualify for the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship?

This course is open to Singaporeans or Singapore Permanent Residents who are recent graduates of less than 3 years from Polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education (ITE), or from the Operationally Ready Date (ORD) for full-time National Servicemen.

15. How many training places are there?

As this is a new track under the HDP targeted at recent polytechnics and ITE graduates (within three years of graduation or ORD for males), the agencies hope to provide about 50 training opportunities to younger aspiring hawkers. Both agencies will monitor the take-up rate and feedback from participants, before making a decision on the long-term plan for the course.

16. Will participants of the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship receive any training allowance?

Besides enjoying subsidised training fees, guidance from experienced hawkers and potential allocation of subsidised incubation stalls, participants will also receive \$1,000 training allowance per month throughout the one-year duration of the programme. They will have to fulfil a minimum 75% attendance and meet the learning outcomes of the programme in order to receive the training allowance.

17. Why is there a training allowance of \$1,000 per month for the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship but a sign-on incentive of \$5,000 for the other Work-Study Programmes?

Unlike other Work-Study Programmes where participants will be hired by an employer, this Work-Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship is targeted at individuals who aspires to be self-proprietors of their own stalls or “Hawker-preneurs” who will eventually manage their own business operations. As such, participants under this programme will receive training allowance to help them defray some of their out-of-pocket training expenses.

18. How do I register for the Work Study (Certificate) in Hawkerpreneurship?

Those interested can submit their course application through the course webpage, www.tp.edu.sg/wsphawkerpreneurship.