



# Reach Your Higher Education Aspirations With Us!



# introduction

The Closing The Gap (CTG) programme, powered by Yayasan Tunku Abdul Rahman (YTAR) is a higher education access and mentoring programme. The programme focuses on empowering high-potential and high-need secondary school students with knowledge, skills and mindsets to pursue higher education.

Since its inception in 2017, the Closing The Gap programme has empowered close to **447 secondary school students** (also known as Closing The Gap Scholars) across **121 schools nationwide** with the support of **372 Mentors**.

Our Scholars have unlocked more than **RM 13 million in scholarships and financial aid** to pursue their higher education aspirations. From diplomas to International Baccalaureate, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, undergraduate degrees, and more—we support students to pursue various pathways.

At Closing The Gap, we believe that where our Scholars start does not determine where they end up. Our Scholars are now pursuing excellence locally and globally in institutions like Stanford University, University of Melbourne, United World Colleges, Sunway University, University Malaya, Epsom College, and Charterhouse College.





# our impact

Since 2017, the Closing The Gap programme has:

447

secondary school  
students supported

372

mentors engaged to  
support students

121

schools partners

145

Scholars in university

13,000,000

ringgit worth of scholarships and financial aid unlocked



# the programme

The Closing The Gap programme is a structured 2-3 year programme that equips high potential and high need secondary school students with the skills, knowledge and mindset to reach their higher education aspirations. The programme consists of 3 main components which include:

1

## Mentorship

Scholars are paired with working professionals and graduates, who inspire and guide them to transition into higher education. Together with their Mentors, Scholars identify personal goals, explore interests, and apply for scholarships and higher education institutions.

2

## Enrichment Workshop

Scholars will engage in a series of workshops designed to equip them for scholarship applications and success in higher education. These sessions cover essential topics such as personal statement writing, mock interviews, critical thinking, and more.

3

## University Residential Camp

Scholars will participate in an immersive week-long Residential Camp where they attend tutorials, work on assignments, reside on campus and engage with career professionals to explore their post-schooling paths.



# our scholars

“

Joining this programme is a series of pushing myself out of my comfort zone and developing a positive mindset. This programme taught me skills that prepared me to do well in university as well as provided exposure to scholarships and courses I never knew about as a student.

## **Virman Juri**

*Biomedicine, Sunway University and Sunway-Teach For Malaysia Scholarship recipient*



“

Through the Closing The Gap programme, I had the opportunity to discover my strengths and weaknesses, gain skills that helped me apply for scholarships and seek opportunities that helped me to identify what I wanted to do after secondary school. It's what got me to where I am today!

## **Pui Shi**

*Medical Degree, International Medical University and JPA Scholarship recipient*



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As part of the programme, I was assigned to my Mentor, Dhruva who supported me with all my scholarship and university applications. His support and the workshops as part of the programme helped me, an ordinary boy from a school in Klang reach a bold dream to study at Stanford University.

## **Yugendran**

*Bioengineering, Mathematical & Computational Science  
Stanford University and Khazanah Global Scholar*



# our mentors

“

When the programme started, my Mentees were shy, reserved and uncertain about their future. Over time, they've grown in many areas including self-confidence and developed many skills. As a Mentor, it has been a privilege to walk with them through this journey of growth and self-discovery.

**Shannon Wong**

*2021 Closing The Gap Mentor*



“

A big part of Closing The Gap is about getting students to think bigger about their education, and how, for some, applying and getting into a top university can be a very real dream.

**Dhruva Murugasu**

*2017 Closing The Gap Mentor*



“

Being a Mentor was a valuable experience. Not only that you get to help bright students to reach their full potential, but you will also gain priceless lessons from them as well. I was fortunate enough to mentor two bright young girls, both who aspire to give back to the community in the future through public health, policy making, and raising awareness on mental health.

**Nadhirah Rashid**

*2021 Closing The Gap Mentor*





# timeline

The programme includes five key phases spread across the two years:

1

## Who Am I? [Launch Day]

- Meeting your Mentor
- Understanding Mindsets
- Goal-Setting Workshop

2

## Where Am I Going?

- Residential Camp
- What's After SPM/STPM Workshop

3

## How Do I Get There?

- Exposure workshops
- Scholarship application workshops
- Panel sharing sessions

4

## Preparing For The Future

- University and scholarship application support
- Transition to university workshop

5

## Programme Graduation

- Scholars enter university and become our Alumni

12

Personalised mentoring sessions throughout the two-year programme

# why you should apply



## Explore Higher Education Pathways

Gain in-depth knowledge of various higher education pathways, scholarships, and financial aid options to help you reach your higher education aspirations.



## Holistic Skill Development

Develop important skills such as critical thinking, effective communication, academic writing and research methods that are essential to succeed in higher education.



## Personalised Support

Receive personalised support and guidance during the scholarship and higher education application process. We're here to ensure you have the best chance of reaching your dreams!



## Mentorship for Success

Work closely with a Mentor who will support, inspire and guide you to reach your higher education aspirations. The personalized mentorship is designed to support your academic and personal development.



# selection criteria

## General Criteria

- In Form 5 or Lower 6 in 2024
- Reside within the Klang Valley
- Able to commit to the 2 year programme starting in 2024

## Priority Criteria

We prioritise students based on the following criteria:

### ● High Potential and Drive

Demonstrate strong potential and drive to succeed in higher education:

- Strong leadership skills
- Evidence of overcoming challenges in the past
- High level of curiosity and grit

### ● Need and Financial Background

We prioritise students who:

- Household income of less than RM 5000
- Parents/family members have never attended university

*Note: Proof of income will be requested during the selection*

# selection process

1

## Application Form

The application form can be found [here](#). Please take the time to answer the questions carefully and honestly. Promising applications will be shortlisted to the next stage.

2

## Virtual Interview

We will conduct interviews to get to know you better and why you want to be part of the programme. Do research about the programme and prepare for the interview!

3

## Briefing and Offer

If you pass the interviews, you will be required to attend a briefing before we send you an official email offer. You will need to obtain your parent's permission to participate in the programme.



# Apply Now!



[bit.ly/CTGScholars2024](https://bit.ly/CTGScholars2024)



[www.closingthegap.yayasantar.org.my](http://www.closingthegap.yayasantar.org.my)



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