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Foundation picks 50 undergrads for scholarships

KUALA LUMPUR: Fifty undergraduates have been selected to receive scholarships worth RM2mil by the Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation this year.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, who is foundation chairman, said the good response and increased quality of the applicants had resulted in 20 more recipients being awarded this year.

"This is a prestigious and exclusive scholarship. The recipients must meet strict criteria and go through a rigorous selection process before they can be declared Tunku Scholars," he said after launching the ministry-level Merdeka celebrations at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang near here.

This year, a total of 816 applications were

received with 508 meeting the criteria. Of this number, 100 were short-listed to attend a camp and 68 were called for an interview.

The scholarships are offered annually to undergraduates who have completed their first year of study at public or private universities.

The scholarships cover all the students' fees as well as a living allowance of RM1,000 per month. The foundation also provides a RM500 book allowance per semester and an annual return air ticket for Sabah and Sarawak students studying in the peninsula and vice versa.

The foundation was set up in 1966 to provide financial assistance to tertiary-level students. Since 2006, the foundation has been giving out scholarships instead of educational loans.