

More obtain scholarships

A TOTAL of 1,750 students obtained Public Services Department (PSD) scholarships to study overseas this year.

Of the figure, 971 went to bumiputra students while the rest were non-bumiputra candidates (see chart for breakdown).

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the criteria for selection for the PSD's Overseas Degree Programme was based on academic achievements, involvement in extra-curricular activities, family background and interview performance.

"The PSD received 18,844 applications for its Overseas Degree Programme this year and from that figure, 10,956 met the minimum grade and conditions for the programmes," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the two most popular fields among candidates were Medicine and Engineering while the three most popular study destinations were the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

He said 465,853 candidates sat for the SPM in 2009 compared to 442,936 candidates the previous year, adding that the increase in the number of candidates meant there was stiffer competition for the Overseas Degree Programme.

"A total of 847 places were provided for students who applied for critical courses in medicine, dentistry and pharmacy in various countries including Australia, New Zealand, India, Czech Republic, Poland and twinning programmes at the Penang Medical College, Melaka Manipal Medical College and the International Medical University," he said.

For engineering, there were 410 seats available at universities in France, Germany, the United States among other countries.

Muhyiddin said soon after the

PSD Scholarship Recipients

Race	Total
Bumiputra	971 (55.5%)
Malay	738
Sarawak bumiputra	128
Sabah bumiputra	102
Others	3
Non-bumiputra	779 (44.5%)
Chinese	603
Indians	161
Others	15
Total	1,750 (100%)

Breakdown of races who received overseas scholarships

* Source: Deputy Prime Minister's Office

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results of the Overseas Degree Programme were announced on May 21, there were 59 students who rejected the offers while 4,298 candidates had appealed.

Of the appeals, he said 1,218 were from candidates who obtained at least nine A+'s.

On June 9, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that another 250 scholarships would be offered this year under the Overseas Degree Programme, making it 1,750 scholarships in total.



MUHYIDDIN: There was stiffer competition for the Overseas Degree Programme.

Besides overseas scholarships, Muhyiddin said the Government also sponsored 100 top scorers who opted to pursue studies at the research universities, namely Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Malaya.

At the same time, Muhyiddin said 1,900 places were offered to top students not selected under the Overseas Degree Programme at higher education institutions and foreign branch campuses here including the University of Nottingham Malaysia

Campus, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus, Monash University Malaysia and Curtin University of Technology Sarawak Campus.

"Students who are selected under this are sponsored for both their matriculation, foundation or pre-university studies as well as undergraduate degree courses," he said.

He said SPM school leavers who did not receive any offers under the Overseas Degree Programme could still apply for sponsorship under the Local Degree Programme if they had been offered places at public universities at the diploma or undergraduate degree level.

Muhyiddin stressed that the PSD would continue sponsoring undergraduate overseas scholarships for top students pursuing critical courses.

They will focus on critical courses such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, engineering, science and technology as well as social science.

"This is because the civil service and the country require trained people in these areas," he said.

Muhyiddin said his statement was meant to clarify confusion among students and parents on PSD scholarships for top students who completed their SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia) last year.