

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS/TRAINEES

Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q01: What is Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ)?

Please visit the following website link for information:

http://www.ssg.gov.sg/wsqa.html?_ga=1.12669873.70109828.1476073963

Q02: What are the WSQ courses available at HMI Institute of Health Sciences?

HMI Institute of Health Sciences offers the following WSQ Healthcare Support courses:

- **WSQ CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (NURSING CARE)**
- **WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (NURSING CARE)**
--with WSQ Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) as admission prerequisite
- **WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT)**
- **WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (OPERATING THEATRE SUPPORT)**
- **WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (STERILISATION SERVICES)**
- **WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (THERAPY SUPPORT)**

Please visit the following website link for more information:

<https://hmi-ihsc.com/index.php/our-courses/wsqa-courses>

Q03: Is there any government subsidy for the WSQ courses?

SkillsFuture Singapore subsidised up to 90% of the course fee for Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents (PRs) to pursue the WSQ Healthcare Support courses if they are offered admission into the course by the Institute and successfully complete the course.

Course applicants who are eligible for the Workfare Training Support (WTS) Scheme can get up to 95% course fee subsidy if they are offered admission into the course by the Institute and successfully complete the course.

More information on the scheme at this website link:

http://www.wsqa.gov.sg/programmes-and-initiatives/workfare-training-support-individuals.html?_ga=1.136113977.964122203.1476079777

Q04: Do I need to have healthcare related work experience to take the WSQ course?

While having some healthcare related work experience is an advantage, you do not need to have such experience to take the WSQ course. You might like to know that 90% of our trainees have no prior healthcare work experience.

Q05: Can I take the WSQ course when I am unemployed?

Yes, you can take the WSQ course even if you are unemployed but it is important to note that the Institute does not pay training allowance to trainees.

Q06: Can I take the WSQ course when I am employed in a non-healthcare industry?

Yes, you can take the WSQ course even if you are employed in a non-healthcare industry but it is important to note that:

- the Institute currently does not offer part-time WSQ courses. You will therefore need to make arrangement with your employer to attend the course full-time (Mondays to Fridays daily, 8.45am to 5.45pm).
 - upon your completion of the course, you **MUST** take up employment as a healthcare worker in the healthcare industry (of Singapore) for a minimum period of 6 months and subject to employment tracking by HMI Institute of Health Sciences throughout the mentioned period for reporting to SkillsFuture Singapore.
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Q07: Can a foreigner apply for the WSQ course?

Only Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents (PRs) are entitled to course fee subsidy by SkillsFuture Singapore for the WSQ course. Foreigners on Singapore work passes and sponsored by healthcare industry employers can also take the WSQ courses but are not entitled to course fee subsidy.

HMI Institute of Health Sciences does not and cannot apply Student's Pass for foreigners who want to take up the course.

Q08: What financial assistance is available to help pay for the non-subsidised portion of the course fee?

A trainee can either pay the non-subsidised portion of the course fee on his/her own or via one or more of the following schemes - subject to eligibility and availability:

- SkillsFuture Credit
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SkillsFuture Credit aims to encourage individuals to take ownership of their skills development and lifelong learning. All Singaporeans aged 25 and above will receive an opening credit of S\$500 from January 2016. Your credit will not expire and the government will provide periodic top-ups, so you may accumulate your credit.

Please visit the following website link for information:

<http://www.skillsfuture.sg/credit/about#programme1>

- **Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA)**

The PSE scheme helps parents save for their children's post-secondary education by maintaining a Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) for each eligible child. This is part of the Government's efforts to encourage every Singaporean to complete his post-secondary education. It also underscores the Government's commitment to support families in investing in the future education of their children, and to prepare them for the economy of the future. PSEA is not a bank account. It is administered by the Ministry of Education and is opened automatically for all eligible Singaporeans.

Please visit the following website link for information:

<http://www.moe.gov.sg/initiatives/post-secondary-education-account/>

Q09: Who is encouraged to take up WSQ healthcare support course?

- Singaporeans and Permanent Residents (PRs) that are currently employed in the Healthcare industry and seeking to upgrade their skills.
 - Singaporeans and Singapore PRs that are currently employed in non-healthcare industry but seeking to acquire new skills for career switch into the Healthcare industry.
 - Singaporeans and Singapore PRs that are currently unemployed and seeking employment in the Healthcare industry.
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Q10: How can I apply for the WSQ healthcare support course?

You are required to attend a course preview organised by the Institute to have a better understanding on the WSQ healthcare support courses available as well as WSQ requirements and trainees' obligations when admitted into a WSQ course. It is compulsory to attend the preview before applying for the course.

If you are convinced and would like to apply for the WSQ course after attending the preview, you may immediately put up your application to the Institute. You will be interviewed by our interviewer(s) as part of our trainee admission selection process.

A Conditional Offer of Admission will be made to eligible and suitable applicant.

Q11: Do I need to register for the course preview if I would like to attend it?

YES, you can register for the upcoming course preview via one of the following channels:

- **-via our website**

<https://hmi-ihs.com/index.php/upcoming-wsq-course-preview>

- **-via our BLP campaign page**

<http://healthcare.hmi-ihs.com/courses/>

- **-via phone SMS messaging to 81211892**

Please indicate full name and state your interest in our courses and to attend our course preview.

As some course enquirers might have opted out of marketing messages via the Do-Not-Call Registry under the Personal Data Protection Act, we regret that we are not able to contact you for follow-ups unless you have registered (via the above channels) with the Institute on your interest in our courses and/or course preview.

You can contact the Institute at 63707102 / 81211892 / 62533818 or email coursepreview@hmi.com.sg to enquire on the schedule of next upcoming course previews.

Q12: What are my commitments and obligations when taking up the WSQ course?

- You **MUST** be able to commit into full-time training for a period of 2 - 6 months depending on the course duration without disruption to your course/training.
 - Approx. 2 months for WSQ Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) course only
 - Approx. 3 - 4 months for all other WSQ Higher Certificate in Healthcare Support courses
- You **MUST** achieve at least 75% attendance for each and every of the WSQ modules required under the respective WSQ course.
- You **MUST** achieve competency (passed) for all the modules required under the respective WSQ course.
- You **MUST** maintain good conduct and attitude in learning.
- You **MUST** take up full-time employment as a healthcare worker in the healthcare industry (of Singapore) immediately after your successful completion of the WSQ course. You are also expected to attend all job interviews as scheduled by HMI Institute of Health Sciences.
- If you have your own avenue of securing an employment and does not require HMI Institute of Health Sciences to assist in your employment, you **MUST** secure the

employment within the first month after successfully completing your course. After which you are obligated to attend all job interviews as scheduled by HMI Institute of Health Sciences.

- You MUST submit your employment/appointment letter or contract to HMI Institute of Health Sciences once you have been offered employment upon successful completion of the WSQ course.
- You MUST be employed as a healthcare worker in the healthcare industry (of Singapore) for a minimum period of 6 months and subject to employment tracking by HMI Institute of Health Sciences throughout the mentioned period for reporting to SkillsFuture Singapore.

Trainees receiving other course fee funding(s) for the WSQ course will be subject to the terms and conditions laid out by the respective funding bodies and this may include a longer job retention period, etc.

Q13: What is the academic entry requirement for the WSQ healthcare support course?

WSQ CERTIFICATE

You must be able to listen, speak, read and write in English. The recommended proficiency level of ESS Workplace Literacy & Numeracy (WPLN) is Level-3 or equivalent.

WSQ HIGHER CERTIFICATE

Passed ITE Skills Cert. in Health Services

OR

Passed GCE 'N' Level English and Maths or Science

OR

Obtain Workplace Literacy & Numeracy (WPLN) Level-4 for Speak, Listen, Read & Numeracy & Level-3 for Write

Applicant for the WSQ Higher Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) course must first achieve the WSQ Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) on top of the entry requirement stated above.

Q14: What are the conditions for admission to the WSQ course?

- You must satisfy the academic entry requirement stipulated by SkillsFuture Singapore.
 - You must be assessed to be suitable for healthcare training and employment by our admission assessor/interviewer. Assessment include but not limited to the following:
 - Your ability to commit into full-time training for the course duration and period required for the WSQ course without disruption;
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- Your medical, physical and mental state/condition in order to take up training and employment as a healthcare worker;
 - Your expectations on the WSQ course/training and employment (roles, responsibilities, work-hours, remunerations, etc.) as a healthcare worker;
 - Your ability and willingness to comply with expectations of the current healthcare setting in Singapore;
 - Your personality, attitude, behaviour, etc. that might affect your training and employment as a healthcare worker;
 - The likeliness of you completing the WSQ course successfully; and
 - The likeliness of you securing employment in the healthcare industry/sector.
- If you are issued with a Conditional Offer of Admission for the WSQ course, you must pass the compulsory health screening and be certified by the doctor to be fit for healthcare training and employment.
 - Applicant for the WSQ Higher Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) course must first achieve the WSQ Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) as a prerequisite stipulated by SkillsFuture Singapore.
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Q15: What if I do not satisfy the academic entry requirement for the WSQ course?

If you are keen to apply for the WSQ course but do not satisfy the academic entry requirement of the WSQ course, you can attempt the Workplace Literacy & Numeracy (WPLN) Assessment to make up for it.

A WPLN Level-4 grade is required for WSQ Higher Certificate course – except Level-3 for Writing component.

Q16: If I do not satisfy the academic entry requirement for the WSQ course, do I need to achieve a satisfactory WPLN result before applying for the WSQ course?

You should put up your application to the Institute first and be assessed by our admission assessor/interviewer.

As not all applicants who satisfy the academic entry requirement will be suitable for the WSQ healthcare support course, we would recommend that you meet up with the admission assessor/interviewer first to confirm your suitability for the WSQ course before proceeding for WPLN assessment.

Q17: Can I appeal and/or re-apply for the course if I am not offered admission to the course? Can I know the reason for not being offered admission?

While a course applicant can appeal and/or re-apply for the course, the Institute cannot and will not disclose the reason(s) for not offering admission to an applicant.

Our admission assessment would generally cover a wide area of considerations including but not limited to satisfying academic requirements, complying to training practices/needs, career goals and expectations, and candidate's commitment to job placement obligations. These would be thoroughly assessed by our admission assessors/interviewers through discussion with course applicants during our course previews.

We would also assess the Institute's ability to help the candidate secure a clinical attachment place with a Singapore healthcare institution that has both the environment and supervision for the trainee to practice and be assessed in specific competencies required by the course. A trainee who is not able to secure a clinical attachment place will not be able to complete the course.

The Institute is a private training provider and has responsibilities to ensure that most if not all trainees enrolled into the course can successfully complete the course and be employed in the Singapore healthcare industry upon completion of course.
