

Authentication Mechanism for "Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes" and the "Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students"

To verify whether the financial assistance funded by public moneys has been granted to students with genuine financial needs, the Student Finance Office (SFO) under the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency will select some successful cases of the "Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes" and the "Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students" (the assistance schemes) each year for authentication to check if there has been any omission or misrepresentation of information reported by the applicants and their parents/spouses in the applications. In addition to the existing means such as conducting home visits, the SFO will conduct bank searches to make the authentication more effective.

The above authentication mechanism of the SFO is stated in the "Important Matters" of Part I General Information of the Guidance Notes (GN) of the assistance schemes. Applicants are required to read carefully the "Important Matters" of the GN before they submit their applications. By signing the declaration on the application form, it signifies that the applicant and his/her parent(s)/spouse declare that all the information they provided in the application form is true, complete and accurate, and are aware that the SFO may verify the information by conducting a home visit, a bank search or through other means to authenticate the information they provided. The declaration also signifies full cooperation with the staff of the SFO in the authentication.

A successful applicant who has been selected for authentication will receive a notification letter and is required to cooperate with the SFO. Intentional obstruction to the staff of the SFO in the course of the authentication, any misrepresentation, providing misleading or false information, concealment of facts may lead to the full recovery of the financial assistance disbursed. The applicant and/or his/her family members may also be liable to prosecution.

Student Finance Office Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency