Understanding SkillsFuture Funding Tiers and Fee Breakdowns

Guidance pages on the workforcelearning.unitedceres.edu.sg site now include a detailed breakdown of how SkillsFuture-funded training costs are calculated. The pages explain that the Skills and Workforce Development Agency, formed on 1 July 2026 through the merger of SkillsFuture Singapore and Workforce Singapore, administers course fee funding through two tiers for eligible self-sponsored individuals. Tier 1 covers courses that deliver emerging skills or have a direct impact on employability. Tier 2 covers courses offering skills demanded by employers or industries. Singapore Citizens aged 40 and above may receive enhanced subsidies of up to 90% for Tier 1 courses and up to 70% for Tier 2 courses. The pages also note that the opening SkillsFuture Credit of $500 is available for Singapore Citizens aged 25 and above, while the $4,000 Mid-Career credit applies to Singapore Citizens aged 40 and above and selected courses only. The current SkillsFuture Enterprise Credit continues until November 2026, with an Enhanced version launching on 1 December 2026.

Why Funding Tiers Matter for Learners

The two-tier structure is designed to direct subsidies toward training that aligns with national manpower priorities. Tier 1 courses focus on emerging skills, such as those in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, or green technologies. These areas are seen as critical for future economic competitiveness. Tier 2 courses address skills that are in current demand by employers, such as digital marketing, data analytics, or project management. By distinguishing between these categories, the funding system aims to encourage upskilling in fields where talent gaps are most acute.

For a self-sponsored individual, the tier of a course determines the subsidy rate. Learners who are Singapore Citizens aged 40 and above qualify for the highest subsidies, reflecting the government's emphasis on supporting mid-career workers. Younger citizens and permanent residents may receive lower subsidy percentages, though the exact rates depend on the course and the individual's eligibility. The system also provides a base SkillsFuture Credit of $500 for all citizens aged 25 and above, which can be used alongside tier-based subsidies.

Calculating the Net Course Fee

One of the key pieces of advice on the guidance pages is for learners to request a written breakdown of the full fee, funding, net course fee and GST. The net course fee is the amount a learner pays after all applicable subsidies and credits are applied. This figure is important because it represents the actual out-of-pocket cost for a course. Understanding how to

calculate this can help learners budget for training and compare options across different providers.

To arrive at the net course fee, a learner starts with the full course fee listed by the training provider. From that amount, the system deducts any tier-based subsidies for which the learner qualifies. For example, a Singapore Citizen aged 45 taking a Tier 1 course could receive a subsidy of up to 90%, leaving a remaining fee of 10%. The SkillsFuture Credit of $500, or the $4,000 Mid-Career credit if applicable, can then be applied to cover part or all of that remaining amount. GST is added after subsidies and credits are deducted, so the final net course fee includes GST on the subsidised amount. The guidance pages advise learners to check the MySkillsFuture listing for each course to see the exact funding breakdown and verify their eligibility.

The Role of Enterprise Credits

While the individual funding tiers focus on self-sponsored learners, enterprise credits support employers in upskilling their workforce. The current SkillsFuture Enterprise Credit, which continues until November 2026, allows companies to claim subsidies for approved training programs. The Enhanced version launching on 1 December 2026 is expected to expand these benefits, though specific details about the new structure are not yet available in the guidance pages. For now, businesses that rely on the existing credit should plan their training budgets before the transition date.

Enterprise credits and individual funding can sometimes be used together, depending on the training arrangement. For example, an employer might sponsor an employee for a course and claim the enterprise credit, while the employee also uses their SkillsFuture Credit to reduce the remaining fee. The net course fee in such cases would reflect the combined subsidies. However, the guidance pages emphasise that each funding source has its own eligibility rules, and learners should verify their specific situation before enrolling.

How to Check Your Funding Eligibility

The guidance pages recommend that learners start by visiting the MySkillsFuture portal, where course listings display the full fee, the applicable funding tiers, and the estimated net course fee for different eligibility groups. Users can filter courses by skill area, funding tier, and credit eligibility. The portal also provides information on whether a course qualifies for the Mid-Career credit or the base SkillsFuture Credit.

For those who are unsure about their eligibility, the pages suggest contacting the training provider directly. Providers are expected to issue a written breakdown of the full fee, funding, net course fee and GST upon request. This written breakdown serves as a record that the

learner can use to plan their finances. It also helps prevent misunderstandings about what subsidies have been applied.

Self-sponsored individuals should also check their SkillsFuture Credit balance through the MySkillsFuture account. The $500 opening credit is automatically available to eligible citizens, but the Mid-Career credit requires a separate application. The guidance pages note that the Mid-Career credit is only available for selected courses, so learners should confirm that their chosen program is on the approved list before applying.

Implications for Training Providers

For training providers, the two-tier funding system means that course design and marketing must account for which tier a course falls under. Tier 1 courses, which cover emerging skills, may attract higher subsidies and therefore more enrollees, especially among older workers. Providers that offer Tier 2 courses still benefit from employer demand but may need to compete on price or quality. The guidance pages do not specify how providers apply for tier classification, but they imply that the Skills and Workforce Development Agency makes the determination based on the course content and its alignment with national skills priorities.

Providers also have a responsibility to issue accurate fee breakdowns. The written breakdown requested by the guidance pages should clearly itemise the full fee, the amount of funding applied from each source, the net course fee after subsidies and credits, and the GST. This transparency helps learners make informed decisions and reduces disputes over billing. Providers that fail to provide such breakdowns may risk losing learners to competitors who offer clearer pricing.

Looking Ahead

The formation of the Skills and Workforce Development Agency in July 2026 consolidates the functions of SkillsFuture Singapore and Workforce Singapore, streamlining the administration of training subsidies. The two-tier funding structure and the enhanced subsidies for older workers reflect a continued policy focus on lifelong learning and workforce adaptability. As the Enterprise Credit transitions to its Enhanced version in December 2026, both individuals and employers will need to stay informed about changes to funding rules. The guidance pages on workforcelearning.unitedceres.edu.sg provide a starting point for understanding these mechanisms, but learners should always verify their specific eligibility and the exact net course fee before committing to a course.