

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Quantedge Foundation announces Cambridge scholarship for students from less privileged backgrounds in Singapore



*Fitzwilliam College, Central Building (Credit: Marcus Ginns)*

- This will be the second of such Masters scholarships to offer students from challenging backgrounds an opportunity to further their studies at the University of Cambridge.
- Created in tribute to Lee Kuan Yew's commitment to education as a key driver of socio-economic progress in Singapore, the new scholarship helps to ensure that higher education in a top global university is within the reach of academically deserving Singaporean students from less privileged backgrounds.
- Applications open from 1 Sep 2020 to 3 Dec 2020 for admissions in the Academic Year 2021/2022 i.e. Oct 2021 to 30 Sep 2022.

**Singapore, 16 SEP 2020** – Quantedge Foundation, together with Fitzwilliam College in the University of Cambridge, has announced today the launch of a Masters scholarship available to students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Singapore. This is the second of such Masters scholarships supported by Quantedge Foundation, after the Quantedge - Cambridge Refugee Masters Scholarship at King's College announced earlier in February 2020<sup>1</sup>.

The bond-free scholarships offer a full funding package that covers university tuition fees and living costs for the period of study.

With these scholarships, Quantedge Foundation aims to ensure that students from low income families are not deterred from pursuing their dreams of further studies at a top, globally recognised university due to their financial difficulties.

## **Quantedge – Lee Kuan Yew Masters Scholarship**

The Quantedge - Lee Kuan Yew Masters Scholarship will fund academically deserving but financially disadvantaged Singaporean students for a one-year Masters programme in Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Through exposure to overseas experiences, the Scholarship hopes to nurture globally-minded, cross-culturally competent leaders to better navigate and shape our increasingly inter-connected and complex world. The Scholarship is available for full-time, one-year Masters courses across a wide variety of disciplines, ranging from the Arts and Humanities, to Sciences and Engineering. Applications for post-graduate study are open from 1 Sep to 3 Dec 2020 for admissions in the Academic Year 2021/22 i.e. Oct 2021 to 30 Sep 2022.

The Quantedge - Lee Kuan Yew Masters Scholarship is created in honour of Mr Lee Kuan Yew's contributions to Singapore, particularly his push for access to quality education to help all Singaporeans achieve their full potential. The scholarship will be managed by the Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam Fund, which was set up in honour of the late Mr Lee, an alumnus and Honorary Fellow at Fitzwilliam College, to invest in the next generation of scholars and promote intellectual exchange between Singapore and the University of Cambridge.

The Quantedge - Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship follows from the ST Telemedia - Lee Kuan Yew Undergraduate Scholarship launched in 2019. Together, the scholarships enable high-achieving Singaporean students from financially

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<sup>1</sup> The inaugural Quantedge Foundation – Cambridge Refugee Masters scholar has been awarded to a student who arrived in the United Kingdom with his family as refugees from Eritrea.

challenging backgrounds to pursue their aspirations at a top global university - at both the undergraduate and masters levels - and are stepping stones to doctoral degrees, if so desired.

Dr Lee Suan Yew, alumnus and supporter of the LKY Fitzwilliam Fund, said: *"I wish to thank Quantedge Foundation for their generous donation towards the Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam Fund for Singaporeans students who are financially disadvantaged to pursue their studies at Fitzwilliam College in memory of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, who was himself an outstanding law undergraduate at Fitzwilliam College."*

Baroness Sally Morgan, Master of Fitzwilliam College (Cambridge), said: *"Fitzwilliam College is well known for a strong commitment to academic excellence and our continued efforts for equality of opportunity, which was written into our founding principles. This generous scholarship will allow us to continue to offer an outstanding education to scholars from Singapore who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. We are proud to be able to break down financial barriers so that we are able to help young Singaporeans fulfil their ambitions."*

## **Quantedge Foundation's continuing efforts to expand and equalise access to quality education**

The Quantedge - Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship is part of a continuum of support offered by Quantedge Foundation to children and youths from disadvantaged backgrounds in Singapore to access education and developmental opportunities at all levels - from early childhood through to tertiary education. This complements the ongoing efforts by the Singapore Government to improve the affordability, accessibility and quality of education for every child, regardless of circumstances. A good education provides the strong foundation needed for our youth to pursue their aspirations, realise their potential and contribute to a better future.

Quantedge Foundation is committed to contributing to a more sustainable world, in line with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on Quality Education and Reduced Inequalities. In particular, the Foundation supports initiatives that help ensure the accessibility of quality education for vulnerable, disadvantaged or marginalised groups.

Quantedge Foundation is a philanthropic foundation established by the principals of Quantedge Capital. Mr Suhaimi Zainul-Abidin, CEO of Quantedge Capital and Director of Quantedge Foundation, said *"Social mobility in Singapore is a key priority for our Foundation. This Masters scholarship is part of our continuing efforts to expand and equalise access to quality education. We hope to address the barriers that talented youth from less privileged backgrounds in Singapore may face in trying*

*to access higher education, and to empower them to realise their aspirations at top, global universities. The launch of the scholarship, which coincides with what would have been Mr Lee Kuan Yew's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, pays tribute to Mr Lee's beliefs in the transformative power of education as a key driver of the sustained progress of Singapore as a nation."*

## Further details:

- Funding for graduates: Quantedge - Lee Kuan Yew Masters Scholarship: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/college-life/fees-funding-and-awards/postgraduate-scholarships-and-prizes>
- University of Cambridge Graduate Admissions: <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/application-process>
- Quantedge Foundation's Masters Scholarships at the University of Cambridge: <https://www.quantedge.org/cambridge.html>

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## About Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge

Fitzwilliam College is one of the 31 colleges of the University of Cambridge. Last year we were proud to mark 150 years since our origins in 1869, when students were admitted directly to provide a cheaper route into Cambridge. With more than 800 students (including postgraduates), and 60 Fellows, Fitzwilliam is today one of the larger Cambridge Colleges. We welcome students from all backgrounds to join our community of undergraduates, graduates and academic staff.

More than 150 students from Singapore have studied at Fitzwilliam College. In 2016, Fitzwilliam College established The Lee Kuan Yew Fitzwilliam Fund in honour of Lee Kuan Yew, who studied Law at Fitzwilliam from 1947-1949 and was later elected as an Honorary Fellow of the College. The Fund has supported a range of

scholarships, for undergraduates from Singapore and talented Masters and PhD students in a broad variety of fields connected to Singapore. The Fund acts as a living memorial to Lee Kuan Yew's memory, reflecting his strong belief in the power of education.

## **About Quantedge Foundation**

Quantedge Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that aims to deliver impactful solutions to social issues and challenges in Singapore and beyond. Established by the principals of Quantedge Capital, the Foundation is registered in Singapore as a Charity and has been an Institution of Public Character since February 2016.

The Foundation believes that every child or youth should have an equal opportunity to succeed. We work with partner organisations to design and support programmes that alleviate unfavourable starting conditions in life and expand the opportunity set for underprivileged children, as a pathway to lifting them and their families out of inter-generational poverty and achieving upward social mobility.

The Foundation has also supported efforts to promote a more inclusive and caring society, by raising awareness of vulnerable communities and seed-funding projects to meet their diverse needs.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.quantedge.org>