

FAQs on SkillsFuture Mid-Career Support Package

(a) Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) for Singaporeans Aged 40-60

Q1. Why do those aged 40 to 60 get an Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)? Why is the cut-off age at 60?

The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) is for Singaporeans in their 40s and 50s and have 15 to 30 years before retirement, to help them stay employable and move on to new jobs or new roles.. The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) provides an additional boost to help them access reskilling and upskilling opportunities and seek employment in jobs in demand across various sectors. This is especially so as they have many remaining years in their careers.

Q2. For Singapore Citizens who turn 40 years old from 1 January 2021, or those who are 61 years or older as at 31 December 2020, are they eligible for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)?

This Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) is only for Singapore Citizens who are aged 40 to 60 as at 31 December 2020.

For citizens who turn 40 years old from 1 January 2021, or those who are 61 years or older as at 31 December 2020, they will receive the top-up credit available for all eligible Singaporeans aged 25 and above as at 31 December 2020.

Q3. When will eligible Singaporeans receive the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)?

Eligible citizens will receive the credit in their SFC accounts on 1 October 2020. You may login to your SFC account at MySkillsFuture portal at www.myskillsfuture.sg after 1 October 2020 to check your SFC balance.

Q4. Will the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) expire?

The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) will be valid for five years and will expire on 31 December 2025. As such, you are advised to plan your learning and skills development journey early.

Q5. If the intent of the SkillsFuture Credit (SFC) is to encourage lifelong learning, why is there an expiry date for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)?

The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) is time-limited to encourage individuals to take timely action to learn, reskill and seize new career opportunities.

Q6. Can I combine the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) with my existing SFC for training programmes?

The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) can be used with existing SFC for career transition programmes at the Continuing Education and Training (CET) Centres. More information about the eligible courses will be provided closer to 1 October 2020, when the credit will be available.

Q7. Will mid-career individuals be given any guidance so that they know which useful skillsets or courses they should go for?

SkillsFuture Singapore has various resources to help Singaporeans make more informed choices about their training plans. The MySkillsFuture portal offers industry information and tools to help individuals search for suitable training programmes. SkillsFuture Advice workshops are also available for those who wish to learn about how they can tap on the available support for their career planning skills upgrading needs.

In addition, the CET Centres also provide career advisory services for individuals who participate in training programmes. The career advisory service will provide participants of the programmes with the support they require to find a new job in the sector that is relevant to the training. You may contact the relevant CET Centres for further enquiries. (<https://www.ssg.gov.sg/wsq/cet-centres.html>)

Q8. Why is the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) set at \$500?

The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) was set at \$500, taking into account the net course fees of career transition programmes at CET Centres. Aside from this credit, eligible Singaporeans aged 40 and above can also tap on the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy to access MOE/SSG-supported courses, which provides up to 90% course fee subsidies for SSG-supported courses, and at least 90% for MOE-subsidised courses.

(b) Career Transition Programmes

Q9. What are the training programmes for which the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)?

Eligible individuals can start using the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) from 1 October 2020 on about 200 career transition programmes offered by the CET Centres. These programmes will provide the relevant skills training to help individuals take advantage of new or enhanced job opportunities across various sectors.

Q10. Why are the eligible training courses for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) for those aged 40 to 60 so limited?

This Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) is meant to enable those aged between 40 to 60 to better access career transition programmes and improve their employability. While there are only around 200 career transition programmes currently, SSG is working with the CET Centres to increase the range of offerings.

Q11. What are examples of these training courses that are eligible for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)? What sectors and job roles do they cover?

The list of courses covers a range of sectors and job roles, and is curated based on industry needs.

Example 1

Programme/course: National Infocomm Competency Framework-Advanced Certificate in Infocomm Technology (Infrastructure)

Course description: Train learners on operating systems, solve technical troubleshooting problems and to manage IT Help Desk activities through effective communication, and problem solving techniques

Duration: 5 months

Target: ICT sector

Example 2

Programme/course: WSQ Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care)

Course description: Train learners on basic skills and knowledge needed to perform general housekeeping, transport and dispatch and basic nursing care to patients.

Duration: 2 months

Target: Healthcare sector

Example 3

Programme/course: Work-Study Certificate (leading to a Diploma in Food Services (Culinary Arts)/ Diploma in Food Services (Pastry & Bakery))

Course description: This is an 18 month Work-Study Certificate leading to a part-time Diploma. Trainees will be trained in culinary techniques/pastry techniques through an apprenticeship, allowing them to pursue a career in the Food Services industry.

Duration: 18 months

Target: Food services sector

Q12. How much will these courses cost? Is the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) enough to offset the course fees?

SSG and MOE will work with approved Training Providers to ensure that course fees remain affordable.

These courses are already highly subsidised by the Government, with up to 90% course fee subsidies under the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy (MCES) scheme for Singaporeans aged 40 and above. This is to ensure that training costs are affordable. The SFC, including the top-ups, can be used on top of existing course fee subsidies provided by the Government.

Q13. Where can I find more information about the training courses that are eligible for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support)?

More information about the training courses eligible for the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) will be provided closer to 1 October 2020, when the credits will be available.

Q14. I am 39/ 61 years old and I just lost my job. Can I apply for any of the programmes under this package?

Reskilling programmes, which include Professional Conversion Programmes and career transition programmes delivered by CET Centres, are open to all working adults, beyond those in their 40s and 50s. Individuals can also consider seeking help from WSG's Careers Connect for career advice.

Q15. Can I use the Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) for eligible career transition programmes if I do not get successfully placed at the end of the programme?

Yes. The Additional SkillsFuture Credit (Mid-Career Support) can be used to defray the cost of the career transition programmes upon enrolment, on top of existing subsidies.

For Training Providers

Q16: As a training provider, can I register to deliver career transition programmes?

SkillsFuture Singapore will select a set of CET Centres to deliver career transition programmes, based on their track record in delivering strong training outcomes, range of training courses, and ability to deliver related services such as employment advisory and placement.