

For Public/Employers	
A	COVID-19 Wage Support (Current and Extension) [New]
1	<p>What are the additional support measures which WSP employers can receive to cope with COVID-19 disruptions?</p> <p>Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, the COVID-19 wage support was introduced for WSP to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. support employers to continue to provide quality mentorship and OJT to WSP trainees and retain their inflight trainees till programme completion; and ii. encourage employers to remain open to hiring new WSP trainees while Singapore recovers from the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>WSP employers may look forward to the following support measures for existing and new trainees respectively:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. COVID-19 wage support, pegged at 70% of gross monthly salaries (including JSS¹) for up to 12 months for existing WSP trainees hired before 1 Sep 2020 ii. COVID-19 wage support, pegged at 45% of gross monthly salaries (including JSS) for up to 12 months for new WSP trainees hired from 1 Sep 2020 to 31 Mar 2021. This will be extended to 31 Mar 2022. <p><small>¹ JSS refers to Jobs Support Scheme. The COVID-19 Wage support is inclusive of JSS during the period when JSS is active, As announced in Budget 2021, Government will extend JSS for firms in Tier 1 and 2 sectors by up to six months, covering wages paid up to 30 Sep 2021. Rates will not change for the remaining duration of support after JSS expiry.</small></p>
2	<p>Which Work-Study Programmes (WSPs) qualify for COVID-19 wage support?</p> <p>All Place-and-Train Work-Study Certificate (WSCert), Work-Study Diploma (WSDip), and Work-Study Post-Diploma (WSPostDip) programmes qualify for wage support, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSCerts in Digital Marketing / Engineering 4.0 / Customer Service Associate, as these programmes do not involve upfront placement; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSPostDip in Entrepreneurship, also known as the Start-Up Talent Factory, as companies on this programme already receive salary support.
3	What is the qualifying period for COVID-19 wage support measures?
	Companies will qualify for COVID-19 wage support if they hire <u>new trainees</u> between 1 Sep 2020 and 31 Mar 2022. Companies will also qualify for wage support for <u>inflight trainees</u> who were hired before the qualifying period and were part of the programme as of 1 Sep 2020.
4	What is the duration of support? How long will MOE/SSG provide COVID-19 wage support for?
	MOE/SSG will provide companies salary support for up to 12 months from course commencement for new trainees, or up to 12 months from 1 Sep 2020 for inflight trainees* for the remaining duration of the programme. *Existing WSP trainees hired before 1 Sep 2020 and were part of the programme as at 1 Sep 2020.
5	Are there salary caps for the COVID-19 wage support?
	The salary cap for WSPostDip is \$3,000 per month, whilst the salary cap for WSCert and WSDip is \$2,400 per month. The monthly salary caps are levied on the gross monthly salary (including allowances and bonuses which attract CPF).
6	What is the level of COVID-19 wage support?
	WSP employers may look forward to the following support levels for existing and new trainees respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 70% of gross monthly salaries (inclusive of JSS) for existing WSP trainees hired before 1 Sep 2020 and were part of the programme as of 1 Sep 2020 ii. 45% of gross monthly salaries (inclusive of JSS) for new WSP trainees hired from 1 Sep 2020 to 31 Mar 2022.

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7	Why is the COVID-19 wage support rate lower for new trainees than existing trainees?
	The support rate is lower for new trainees because companies which hire new trainees may also qualify for salary support under the JGI, which was introduced from 1 Sep 2020.
8	Can employers receive wage subsidies from other government schemes, i.e. from the Jobs Support Scheme (JSS) and/or Jobs Growth Incentive (JGI) while receiving COVID-19 Wage Support?
	Yes, employers may continue to receive wage subsidies from other government schemes (i.e. the JSS and/or JGI). However, the nett amount paid out under the COVID-19 wage support will take into account any salary support received under the JSS.
9	Is the COVID-19 wage support subjected to the overall \$15,000 employer incentives cap?
	No, the COVID-19 wage support is on top and above the current WSP employer incentives and is thus not subjected to the \$15,000 cap. This will ensure that employers are adequately supported to continue to provide our WSP trainees fair remuneration throughout their training.
10	Is the WSP employer subjected to a cap on the number of new and existing trainees placed under the WSP?
	There is no cap on the number of trainees that each company can place under the eligible WSP.
11	How is the COVID-19 wage support disbursed to employers?
	COVID-19 wage support will be disbursed by the Programme Managers. Employers may submit their claims on a quarterly basis. They may start submitting their claims for Sep to Dec 2020 after they receive their JSS breakdown statements from March 2021 onwards.

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12	How can employers apply for the COVID-19 wage support?
	<p>WSP employers may approach their Programme Managers (i.e. SSG-appointed training providers which offer WSPs together with participating employers) to submit their claims for COVID-19 wage support. WSP employers are required to furnish supporting documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. CPF contribution statements showing gross salaries of eligible WSP trainees for respective months [Record of Payment can be retrieved from CPF e-Submit@web or requested from CPF if employers do manual submissions] ii. JSS breakdown statements showing the JSS quantum received for eligible WSP trainees for respective months [can be retrieved from e-service on JSS website]
13	Will WSP employers still be eligible for COVID-19 wage support if their trainees drop out of the programme midway?
	<p>The COVID-19 wage support serves to encourage and incentivise WSP employers to retain their trainees. Hence, the COVID-19 wage support ceases if the trainee is released prematurely and employer may be asked to return the COVID-19 wage support that they have received.</p>