Institute for Advanced Science,
Social and Sustainable Future

MORALITY BEFORE KNOWLEDGE

Strategies for achieving graduate scholarships to the student community with Mata Garuda

RIA WIERMA PUTRI[1], AGUS TRIONO[1], F.X. SUMARJA[1], KASMAWATI[1], MUHAMMAD HAVEZ[1], ANNISA RIYANTIKA[1]*

[1] Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University, Bandar Lampung, 35145, Indonesia;
*Correspondence: annisariyantika2000@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Backgrounds: Graduate scholarships are an important resource for pursuing postgraduate studies. However, the process of obtaining scholarships often poses challenges and confusion for students. **Methods**: In this context, this study aims to explain the effectiveness of socialization and interactive discussions as a strategy to obtain graduate scholarships. Through socialization activities, students can obtain relevant information about the requirements, application process, and success tips in obtaining graduate scholarships. In addition, interactive discussions with fellow students who have similar experiences enable the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and strategies that are useful in facing challenges in the scholarship process. Involvement in student communities such as Mata Garuda also provides access to a wide network and emotional support which is important in motivating and guiding students during the scholarship application process. **Results**: Involvement in these community activities also helps students build confidence and social skills that can increase their competitiveness in obtaining graduate scholarships. Through this service, it provides important insights for students who are interested in obtaining postgraduate scholarships, especially in terms of the importance of joining student communities and taking advantage of opportunities for socialization and interactive discussions. **Findings**: The implication of this research is that universities and educational institutions should encourage and support student community activities that can assist students in effectively obtaining graduate scholarships.

KEYWORDS: graduate scholarship; socialization; student community; student support

1. Introduction

Education is a basic need that should be fulfilled by every thinking individual. Society should prioritize education as one of the important elements in our lives. Higher education has a role in creating competent and professional resources in their fields, enabling them to compete globally (Wartoyo, 2016). Recognizing the importance of improving the quality of human resources, the government and society have been actively working towards this goal. These measures include initiatives to develop education quality and education equity (Kadi, 2017). Every Indonesian child has the right to receive an education that supports the development of their potential, interests and talents, so that they are expected to become the nation's successors who have intellectual abilities. This is expected to create potential human resources who are able to lead the nation and state towards a better direction. However, fulfilling the need for education is not as easy as it seems. Article 31 of the 1945 Constitution related to education states the provisions for education, namely:

1. Every citizen has the right to education
2. Every citizen is obliged to attend basic education and the government is obliged to finance it.

Article 28C paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution every person has the right to develop themselves through the fulfillment of their basic needs, the right to education and to benefit from science and technology, arts and culture, in order to improve the quality of their lives and for the welfare of mankind (Hakim, 2016).

Based on these provisions, it can be interpreted that the state has the main responsibility in implementing the education system in Indonesia. The state also has the authority to encourage the establishment of legal protection for the human rights of every citizen, especially the right to education.

The provision of the right to education aims to humanize individuals, considering humans as a whole entity in their existence (Triningsih, 2017). Education plays a crucial role in ensuring the survival of the nation and state, as well as being a means to improve and develop the quality of human resources.

Overall, further study is an effort to increase the capacity of human resources in an institution. By pursuing higher education, a person can expand their knowledge and gain new experiences, which will later become capital for the progress of the institution concerned. As stated, further study reflects an individual's dedication to improving the quality and credibility of an institution. In addition, further study can also help individuals focus on specific expertise, thereby increasing their competitiveness (Affandi, 2017).

Advanced study provides opportunities for individuals to advance their careers and self-actualize. The autonomous learning process at postgraduate level can enhance one's initiative, independence, motivation and ability to manage time (Akbar, 2019). By having these abilities, one's career and life can develop optimally. This shows that further study brings many benefits, both for the institution and for the individual.

Indonesia provides dozens of advanced study scholarships available from various government, private, and foreign institutions. These scholarships include opportunities to continue studies both domestically and abroad. Some of the scholarships that are popular among the public include LPDP, Fulbright AMINEF, Australian Awards, and DAAD.

LPDP, or Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan, is an institution that works with the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia to manage and optimize national education funds through the provision of scholarships to Indonesians. LPDP scholarships mainly focus on postgraduate education, covering S-2 and S-3 levels. The types of LPDP scholarships include: targeted scholarships aimed at specific professions, affirmation scholarships given to people with disabilities, affirmation regions, candidates with limited economic conditions, and sons and daughters of Papua, and general scholarships aimed at all levels of society. Candidates have the freedom to choose the type of scholarship that suits their needs by website lpdp.kemenkeu.go.id.

A challenge that arises is the lack of knowledge and understanding of scholarship programs provided and offered by the government to the community. Although information can be accessed easily through current technology, this weakness becomes an obstacle. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a communication platform as a media-based information and counseling center that can be easily accessed by undergraduate students. The goal is to facilitate the exchange of information, provide warnings, and form a healthy and competent generation of Undergraduate Students.

The target of this mentoring program includes undergraduate students who will continue their master's degree with a scholarship. The main objective of this program is to provide psychoeducational activities to undergraduate students. This program is expected to attract students and provide a platform to continue their master's level education so as to prevent the occurrence of delinquent behavior of undergraduate students that may arise due to lack of education. Undergraduate student delinquency is, in essence, behavior that violates norms, harms oneself, inflicts material losses on others, and has a physical impact on others.

The teaching team (lecturers) and scholarship students have a dual role as models and encouragers for undergraduate students. They participate in setting examples, providing encouragement, and being a source of inspiration for undergraduate students to be encouraged to pursue a master's degree. The formation of undergraduate students' personalities becomes the main focus in the effort to instill character values in them. As a precautionary measure to help undergraduate students overcome the challenges they face, an understanding of the psychology of undergraduate students is provided.

Therefore, our goal in involving students is to share their experiences and impressions when receiving scholarships, with the hope of creating an atmosphere of intimacy among fellow Bachelor and Master Students. In accordance with the description above, the team from the Faculty of Law, University of Lampung, together with master's students who received scholarships took the initiative to go directly to undergraduate students to provide assistance to Undergraduate Students of the Faculty of Law, University of Lampung. The goal of this program is to provide assistance and motivation to Undergraduate Students so that they continue to be motivated to continue their education to a higher level, supported by a scholarship program.

2. Methods

This activity is part of the assistance program for receiving scholarships for further master's education held by a team of lecturers and students of the Master of Law Studies Program as a form of service. This activity is targeted at undergraduate students in the Master of Law Science with school age criteria, including those who have just finished school and those who have graduated in the last two years but have not continued their further education. The implementation of this activity involves several stages of procedures organized as follows.

a. Activity preparation stage

Preparation for the implementation of this activity began with observation, consultation, and consolidation with the undergraduate students. Some of the steps taken in preparing for this activity involved the preparation of materials, assigning tasks to a team of presenters consisting of lecturers and scholarship recipient students, and preparing the venue for the training

b. Activity implementation

Assistance for Masters Scholarship Program for undergraduate students is an activity that will be initiated by a team of lecturers from the Law study program, involving students who get scholarships from the same study program. The process of implementing this activity will be attended by 30 undergraduate students from the Faculty of Law, Lampung University.

c. Monitoring and evaluation

After the implementation of this activity, it is expected to be able to trigger interest and motivate to continue their studies to master's degree through the scholarship acceptance program that has been provided. However, this effort does not stop at that stage. After obtaining information about this scholarship, the team will follow up by monitoring and evaluating the activities that have been carried out. This aims to facilitate undergraduate students in the scholarship application process and ensure that prospective students fulfill all the necessary requirements to be nominated for the scholarship.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Activity Implementation Results

a. Knowledge

The knowledge of students and members of the Student community at the Faculty of Law, Unila related to Scholarships for Postgraduate S2 programs, can be seen through the following pre-test and post-test:

Table 1. Participants' pre-test and post-test scores

No.	Name	Pre-Test Score	Post-Test Score	Enhancement
1.	Word Afrinanisa Simamora	60	70	10
2.	Salso Bila Wijaya	50	70	20
3.	Zahra Zamaya Please	70	80	10
4.	Geaga Aerospace	50	60	10
5.	Wan Atdyawarman	50	70	20
6.	Iswan Agustiar	40	50	10
7.	Inna Syakira	70	80	10
8.	Reisa Zahra	60	80	20
9.	Hakim Oktamadhani's Fiqh	60	80	20
10.	M. Narki Z.	50	70	20
11.	Yesidia Debora	40	70	30
12.	M. Tegar Aldin T.	70	80	10
13.	Hanifah Nisa A.	70	80	10
14.	Melinda Sari Surachman	70	80	10
15.	Avicenna Muhammad Rafif	50	70	20
16.	Nodic Imham Ark Salman	60	70	10
17.	Desbi Ananda Putri	40	80	40
18.	Muhammad Aziz	50	70	20
19.	Febi Mahdalena	50	80	30
20.	Ainur Yasmin Shofura	60	70	10
21.	M. Gusti Andanira	70	80	10
22.	Mirza Alfarhanny	50	70	20
23.	Fahmi Nilwansyah	60	70	10
24.	Joshaphat Dearda Situmeang	60	70	10
25.	Primary Ramadhan	50	80	30
26.	Bina Alitia	50	60	10
27.	Khairunnisa	50	70	20
28.	Zevanya Nadine S.	60	80	20
29.	Nurul Indah Lestari	70	8 0	10
30.	Sabrina Azzahra	60	70	10

According to the data above, Unila law faculty students as service targets still have minimal knowledge regarding scholarships for Postgraduate S2 programs and minimal motivation to apply for scholarships. After the presentation of the material, the target knowledge has increased significantly. This is shown by the enthusiasm of students to compete to ask questions about the scholarship application process, types, and tips for passing scholarship interviews.

b. Attitude

Service activities are carried out through socialization to law faculty students who are members of the Unila law faculty student community related to scholarships for postgraduate S2 programs and efforts to increase student motivation to apply for S2 scholarships. This service activity was carried out in Lecture Room R3 Building B Faculty of Law, University of Lampung which was greeted with enthusiasm by students through question and answer sessions and the implementation of pre-test and post-test to measure the level of student knowledge related to scholarships available for S2. This socialization activity is expected to provide benefits in students' understanding of the various types of S2 scholarships available, how to register, and tips for passing scholarship interviews so that they can become scholarship awardees.

a

b

Fig. 1 (a-b) Documentation of the handing over of a token of gratitude to the speaker

Fig. 2 Photo with Participants and Activity Presenters

c. Beneficial results for students

The students of the Faculty of Law, University of Lampung assessed that the presentation of the material provided by the service team was very interesting and succeeded in providing them with an understanding of scholarships for postgraduate S2 programs and motivating them to apply for scholarships. Apart from focusing on providing understanding material related to the types of scholarships, the service team also actively discussed the students' problems related to how to qualify for scholarships, prepare good essays and design the right study plan. The expected results of this discussion and socialization, namely the achievement of student knowledge about S2 scholarship opportunities to continue their studies or to develop academic potential by passing the scholarship.

3.2 Discussion

A postgraduate master's scholarship is a form of financial assistance provided to students who wish to pursue a master's degree in various fields of study. These scholarships can come from a variety of sources, including the government, universities, private foundations, companies, or non-profit organizations. The chances of continuing your studies with a scholarship in a graduate program vary depending on several factors, including your field of study, funding source, and preparation. Although competition can be fierce, many scholarship opportunities are still available.

Certain scholarships may have different requirements and selection processes, so it's best to do thorough research on each scholarship you're interested in. Although competition can be stiff, never hesitate to try. Many students have successfully secured postgraduate scholarships with good preparation, dedication and determination. Thus, an interactive discussion forum is needed to be able to share information on various matters related to postgraduate scholarships.

The preparation required to qualify for a postgraduate scholarship can vary depending on the funding source, the type of scholarship, and the requirements set. However, in general, there are some essential preparations that can help you increase your chances of securing a postgraduate scholarship:

a. Research Available Scholarships. Start by searching for scholarships that match your field of study, your destination country, and your desired level of education. Use online resources, government websites, universities, and scholarship databases to identify suitable scholarships.
b. Maintain a Good Academic Record. Make sure you have a strong academic record with high grades. Scholarships are often awarded to those who have demonstrated good academic performance.
c. Get Strong Recommendations. Ask for letters of recommendation from professors, research supervisors, or superiors who can provide strong references about your quality as a prospective graduate student.
d. Compose a Compelling Cover Letter. Create a strong and compelling cover letter that explains your motivation, your goals, and the reasons why you deserve the scholarship. Make sure to customize the cover letter for each scholarship application.
e. Develop a Research Proposal (if required). Some scholarships require a research proposal. If required, create a research proposal that is clear, relevant, and focused on a problem or topic relevant to your field of study.
f. Prepare for an Interview (if required). Some scholarships may require you to attend an interview. Prepare yourself well by practicing answering questions that may be asked and demonstrating your motivation.

g. Learn the Language Requirements (if applicable). If you are applying for a scholarship in a country that speaks a language other than your own, make sure you meet the specified language requirements, such as TOEFL or IELTS scores.

h. Pay Attention to Time Limits. Make sure to follow all application deadlines carefully. Submitting your application late may reduce your chances.

i. Look for Additional Scholarship Sources. If possible, submit multiple scholarship applications to increase your chances. You don't have to rely on a single source of funding.

j. Consult with an Academic Counselor. Talk about your plans with an academic counselor or career advisor at your university or institution. They can provide valuable advice and guide you in the application process.

k. Pay attention to the scholarship application details. Make sure all the required documents and information have been correctly included in your application. Administrative errors could hamper your chances.

l. Set Clear Goals and Plans. Show in your application how the scholarship will help you achieve your academic and professional goals. Describe your study plan clearly.

Remember that your preparation and dedication in applying for the scholarship will affect your chances of getting the scholarship. Make sure to fulfill all the requirements and give your best in every aspect of the scholarship application. Also, never give up if you are unsuccessful in one application, keep looking for other opportunities. In addition to discussing the preparations that can be made, the presenters also discussed the stages in the scholarship application as follows:

a. Scholarship Research. Search for and identify scholarships that match your field of study, destination country and desired level of education. Use online resources, government websites, universities and scholarship databases to search for information on suitable scholarships.

b. Scholarship Requirements Data Collection. Each scholarship has different requirements and selection criteria. Reading and understanding these requirements carefully is essential before starting the application.

c. Preparation of Application Documents:. Documents that are generally required in a Master's scholarship application include:

1) Cover letter: Write a cover letter that includes your motivation, goals, and reasons why you deserve the scholarship.

2) Academic transcript: Attach your academic transcript listing your grade history during your undergraduate studies.

3) Letters of recommendation: Ask for letters of recommendation from professors or academic advisors who can provide references about your abilities and potential.

4) Research proposal (if required): If the scholarship requires a research proposal, prepare one that is relevant to your field of study.

5) Language exam score (if applicable): Attach language exam scores such as TOEFL, IELTS, or other language tests if the scholarship requires it.

d. Fill out the Application Form. Fill out the application form completely and correctly according to the requirements specified by the scholarship provider. Make sure you provide accurate and relevant information.

e. Document Collection. Gather all the application documents you have prepared, including the application form and supporting documents such as transcripts and letters of recommendation.

f. Scholarship application submission. Submit your application according to the instructions provided by the scholarship provider. Be sure to adhere to the application deadlines.

g. Interview (if required). Some scholarships may involve an interview stage as part of the selection. If you are called for an interview, prepare yourself well and attend the interview with confidence.

h. Waiting for the Decision. After submitting your application, you will have to wait for notification regarding the selection results. Decisions usually take several weeks or even months depending on the scholarship program

i. Scholarship Acceptance. If you are accepted, you will receive official notification and guidance on the next steps to take, such as registration, payment requirements, or procedures for arranging arrival to your intended university or institution.

j. Preparing for Masters Study. Once you have secured a scholarship, prepare yourself well for the start of your Master's program. This includes planning for travel, accommodation, and attending student orientation (if required).

k. Comply with Scholarship Requirements. During your study period, make sure to comply with all requirements related to the scholarship, including maintaining good academic standing where required.

The speakers were also enthusiastic to provide tips to pass the scholarship that was raised during the event, among the tips are as follows:

a. Research Scholarship Requirements. Each scholarship has different requirements and selection criteria. Research the scholarship requirements carefully and make sure you meet all the specified criteria. This could include academic qualifications, grades, scholarship type (merit-based, need-based, or other), and other specific requirements such as a research proposal.

b. Prepare Application Documents/Scholarship Application Well. Application documents, such as cover letters, academic transcripts, and recommendation letters, are very important. Make sure they are well prepared. Write a strong cover letter that explains your motivation, study goals, and how the scholarship will help you achieve those goals. Make sure your academic transcripts are complete and up-to-date, and request letters of recommendation from individuals who can provide strong references on your abilities and potential.

c. Show Relevance to Field of Study: In your cover letter and research proposal (if required), demonstrate how your planned graduate program will be relevant to your field of study. Clearly explain how the scholarship will help you achieve your academic and professional goals.

d. Showcase Academic and Non-Academic Achievements. In addition to academic qualifications, scholarships also often look at achievements outside of academics, such as work experience, extracurricular activities, and community contributions. Be sure to highlight these achievements in your application and how they strengthen your claim as a worthy recipient.

e. Use Strong and Professional Language in the essay. The language used in your application should be strong, clear, and professional. Check your grammar, spelling, and writing style. Make sure to answer all questions and explain important points well.

In addition to the five tips above, it is important to follow all instructions and deadlines given by the scholarship provider. Also, do not hesitate to seek help from academic counselors, teachers, or scholarship advisors at your university. They can provide valuable advice and help you prepare a strong application.

Lastly, be diligent and passionate in your scholarship search. You may experience rejection, but don't be discouraged. Keep looking for other scholarship opportunities and

keep improving your qualifications. Patience and determination are the keys to success in securing a Masters scholarship.

4. Conclusions

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that postgraduate master's scholarships are an important source of financial assistance for students who want to continue their master's studies. These scholarships can come from a variety of sources, including the government, universities, private foundations, companies, or non-profit organizations. Although competition for scholarships can be fierce, there are still many opportunities available.

To increase your chances of securing a Masters scholarship, it is important to do thorough preparation. This includes scholarship research, meeting application requirements, preparing application documents well, demonstrating the relevance of your field of study, highlighting your academic and non-academic achievements, and using strong and professional language in your application..

Author Contribution
All authors fully contributed to the writing of this article

Ethical Review Board Statement
Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement
Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement
Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

Affandi, H. (2017). Tanggung jawab negara dalam pemenuhan hak atas pendidikan menurut undang-undang dasar tahun 1945. Jurnal Hukum Positum, 1(2), 218-243. https://doi.org/10.35706/positum.v1i2.848

Akbar, A., & Noviani, N. (2019, July). Tantangan dan solusi dalam perkembangan teknologi pendidikan di Indonesia. In Prosiding Seminar Nasional Program Pascasarjana Universitas Pgri Palembang. https://jurnal.univpgri-palembang.ac.id/index.php/Prosidingpps/article/download/2927/2764

Hakim, L. (2016). Pemerataan akses pendidikan bagi rakyat sesuai dengan amanat Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional. EduTech: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan Dan Ilmu Sosial, 2(1). https://doi.org/10.30596/edutech.v2i1.575

Kadi, T., & Awwaliyah, R. (2017). Inovasi pendidikan: Upaya penyelesaian problematika pendidikan di Indonesia. Jurnal Islam Nusantara, 1(2). https://doi.org/10.33852/jurnalin.v1i2.32

Triningsih, A. (2017). Politik Hukum Pendidikan Nasional: Analisis Politik Hukum dalam Masa Reformasi. Jurnal Konstitusi, 14(2), 332-350. https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1425

Wartoyo, F. X. (2016). Tanggung jawab hukum pemerintah dalam penyelenggaraan pendidikan nasional. Yustisia, 5(1), 216-230. https://doi.org/10.20961/yustisia.v5i1.8734

Biographies of Author(s)

RIA WIERMA PUTRI, Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email:
- ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1665-9136
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID: 57850320600
-
- Homepage:

AGUS TRIONO,   Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email:
- ORCID:
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID:
- Homepage:

F.X. SUMARJA, Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email:
- ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8869-9869
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID: 57208779083
- Homepage:

KASMAWATI,   Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email:
- ORCID:
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID:
- Homepage:

MUHAMMAD HAVEZ,   Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email:
- ORCID:
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID:
- Homepage:

ANNISA RIYANTIKA,   Law Science, Faculty of Law, Lampung University
- Email: annisariyantika2000@gmail.com
- ORCID:
- Web of Science ResearcherID:
- Scopus Author ID:
- Homepage: