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Canada

The Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) Project

Presentation to the

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

Overview

- Announced by the Government of Canada in August 2017
- Awards scholarships to students and mid-career professionals from the ASEAN region
- Provides short-term opportunities for study or research in Canada in fields aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Contributes to the Socio-Cultural Cooperation pillar of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action
- Open to all 10 ASEAN Member States

Objective

To equip students and mid-career professionals, particularly women, with critical knowledge and skills that will enable them to contribute to ASEAN countries achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Linkages to the SDGs

- SEED overall addresses SDG 4 on Quality Education (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all).
- Specifically Target 4b, as the project provides scholarships to developing countries.
- SEED also contributes to achieving **all 17 SDGs.**



Examples of Studies

- SEED scholarships and educational exchanges can contribute towards all 17 SDGs. Candidates must demonstrate a link between their studies or research and one or more of the SDGs.
- Examples of studies:



- Goal 5 – **Gender Equality**

  Example: women's studies, political science, anthropology, and economics.



- Goal 13 – **Climate Action**

  Example: environmental sciences/policy examining climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy, peatlands and other land use effects, forestry.



- Goal 16 – **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

  Example: political science, international political economy, history and law.

Key Features

- **SDG implementation:** Selection criteria and review process in place to ensure that the candidate provides an explanation of how the chosen field of study or research is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (with one or more SDGs); also must include commitment to use research or studies in Canada to help combat poverty and narrow the development gap in the ASEAN region.

- **Institutional partnerships:** SEED scholarships are facilitated through institutional collaborations and student exchange agreements between Canadian and ASEAN academic institutions.

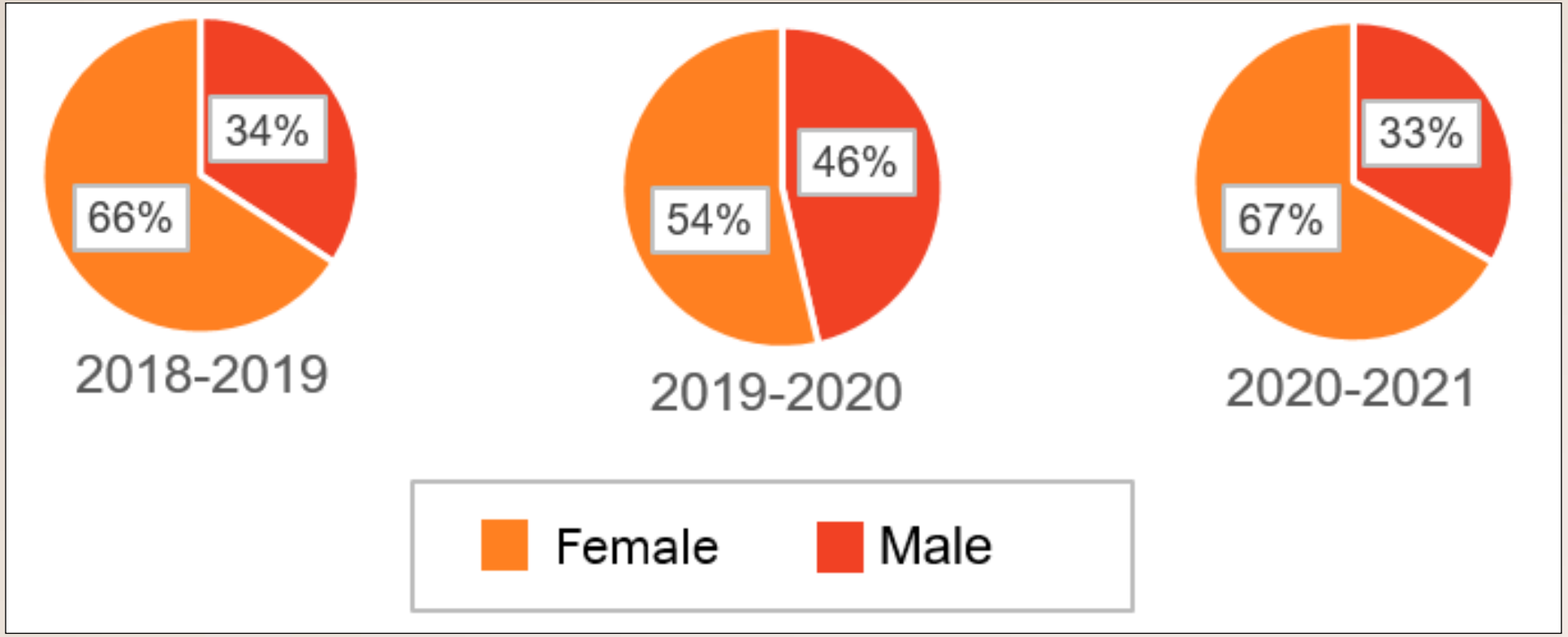
- **Annual cohorts:** SEED scholarship cycles follow the academic calendars. This includes four cohorts of students (2018-2019; 2019-2020; 2020-2021 and incoming cohort for 2021-2022); and one mid-career pilot cohort in 2019-2020.

Results for Student Component – by Country

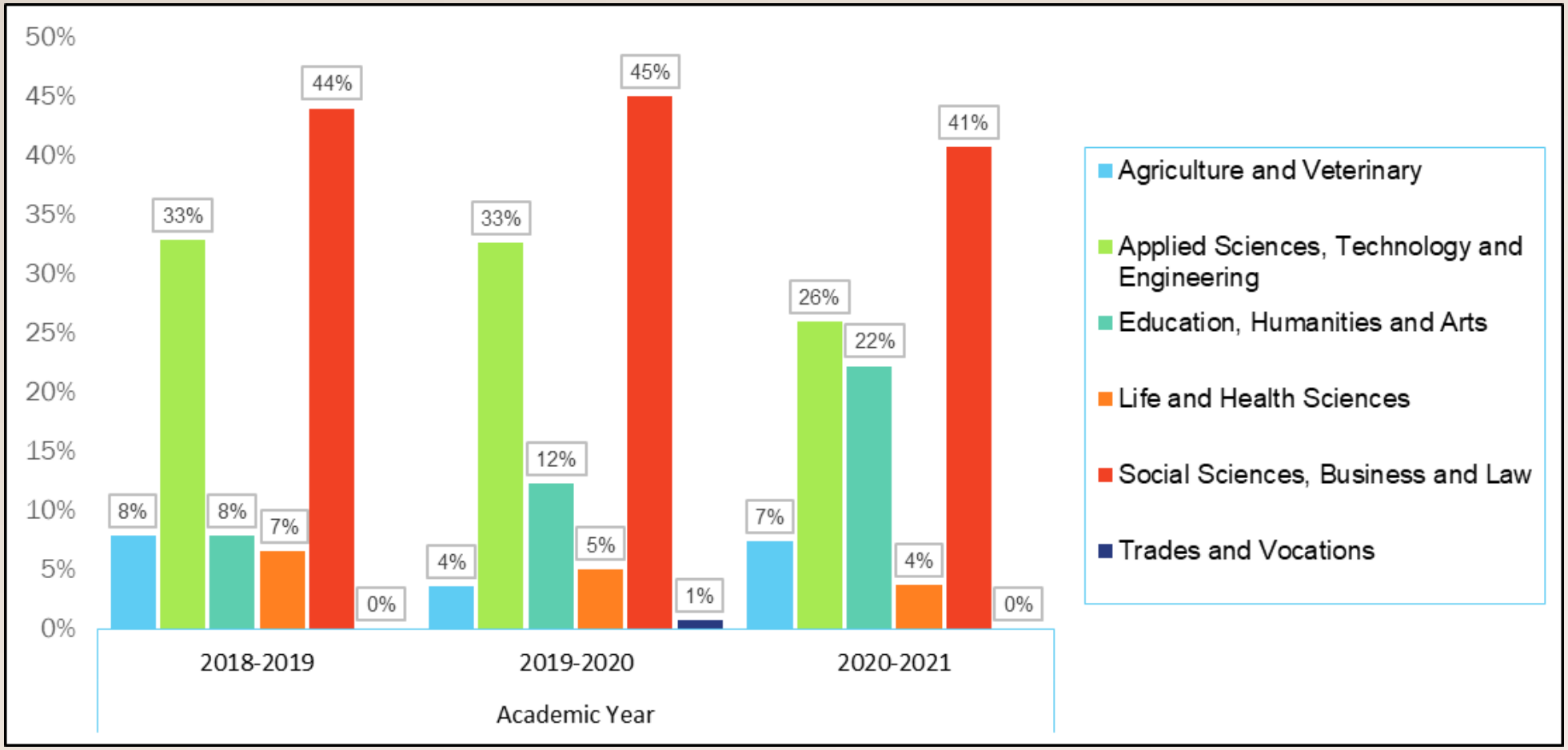
Academic Year	Scholarships Indonesia	Scholarships Malaysia	Scholarships Myanmar	Scholarships Philippines	Scholarships Singapore	Scholarships Thailand	Scholarships Vietnam	Total
2018-2019	6	13	0	5	12	18	22	**76**
2019-2020	8	12	3	9	38	24	44	**138**
2020-2021	0	3	0	8	0	8	8	**27***
Total	14	28	3	22	50	50	74	**241**

*Smaller cohort in 2020-2021 due to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

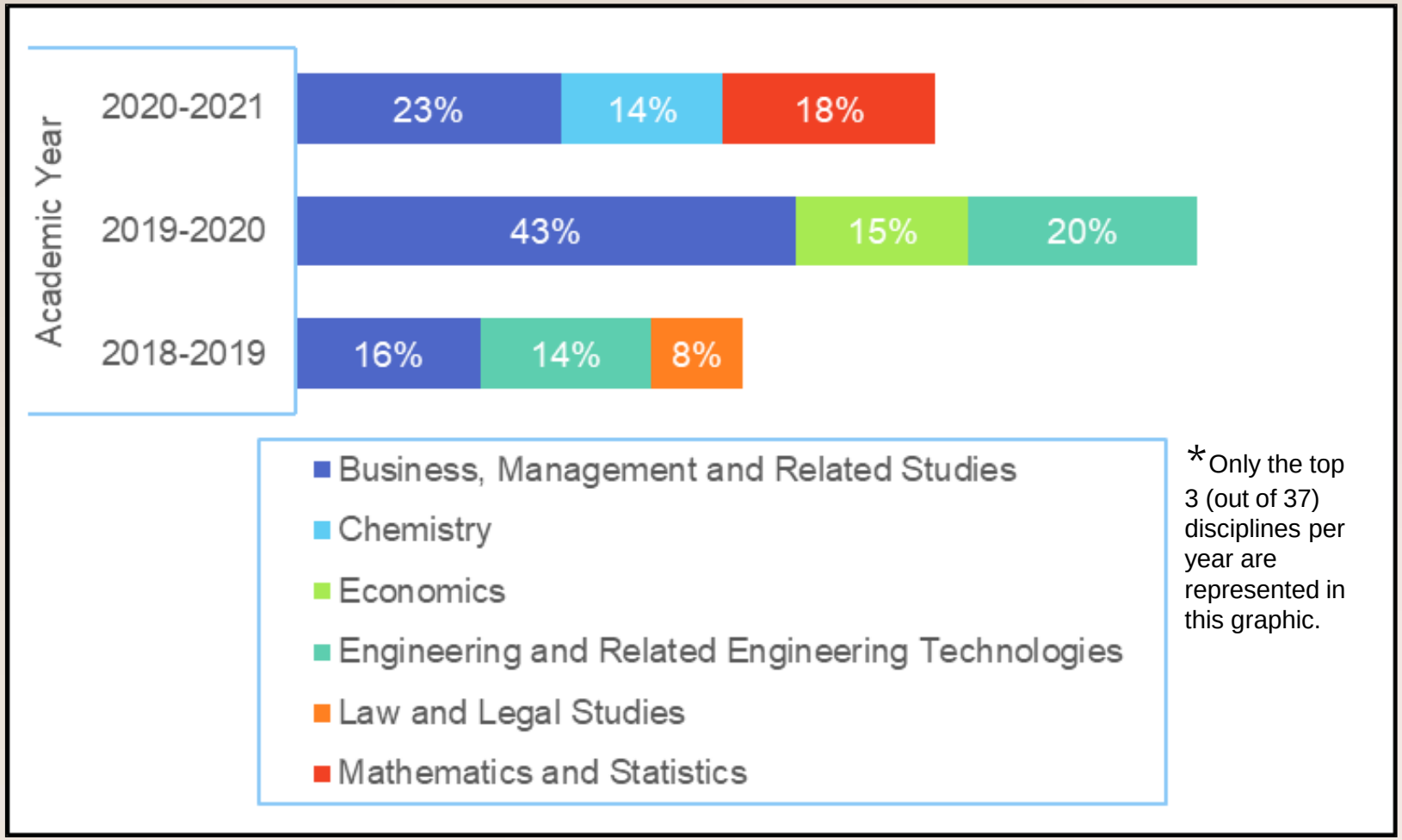
Results for Student Component – by Gender



Results for Student Component – by Field of Study



Results for Student Component – by Discipline



*Only the top 3 (out of 37) disciplines per year are represented in this graphic.

COVID-19 Impacts

- **Completion of studies in an online format:** A cohort of students from 2019-2020 returned to their home countries in the ASEAN region at the onset of the pandemic and were able to finalize their studies online.

- **Support to cohort remaining in Canada:** A cohort of students from 2019-2020 remained in Canada at the onset of the pandemic. The Government of Canada provided emergency funding for living expenses and new flights until they could safely return to their home countries in the ASEAN region.

- **International exchange format maintained for future cohorts:** For the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 cohorts, the short-term student exchange format to Canada was maintained with specific adaptations for the COVID-19 context.

- **Postponement of mid-career component:** The mid-career cohorts of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary and
Live testimonials from SEED alumnae