

## Radiance21

When I first heard about Radiance21 via Skolafund on Twitter, it sounded unfamiliar that I had to google it up. The more I found out, the more astounded I felt, since this initiative came from a student just like me, but of course, she has a bigger heart. Applying for Radiance21 was just an attempt to relief my financial burden as I come from a middle income family with all 5 siblings that are still in school and universities. I thought, “this is a good chance for me to help dad with my fees, even just for a few semesters, but it would mean so much”, hence – application sent. Being shortlisted and having to undergo an interview led me to a phase where I thought “oh my God, this is unbelievable and I am scared!” Having to compete with few other applicants gave me chills and anxiety. But, during the online interview was actually the first time I got to see (virtually) the founder of this remarkable initiative. Friendly, cheerful and so so so “lepak” – I felt a bit relaxed during the interview. Back then, little did I know I would be writing this narrative.

Radiance21 has been sponsoring me since my second semester and now I am in my fifth semester, with 3 semesters left to graduate, insyaAllah. It has helped me to pay for my academic fee which costs about RM1+k per semester, let me sit in class without having to worry about money to pay for current semester’s fee, let me sit for the examination not having to worry where should I get money to pay for my next semester’s fee. It has not only helped me financially, but also, mentally (indirectly), because I need not to worry anymore. This financial aid means so much and I could not be more grateful for the chance to be one of the receivers, and I am thankful that Ms Syaza did this for her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday project. Having to join community project in return to receiving this financial aid is another thing that makes me feel so great about this scholarship, it becomes a drive for me to keep on giving back to the community and also helps to remind me that, everyone can give back and help each other and a little help actually goes a long way. Together we can make this world a better place, is true, I suppose. I have been involved with community projects every semester (at least once per semester) since my first year in UniSZA and I will try to continue to do so in the future, hopefully even when I have graduated.

Every once in a while, Ms Syaza would email us and update us about a thing or two. On my end, I would send her updates about what’s going on in that particular semester, and reports on community program. I think the frequency of communication is just nice, not too frequent and not too seldom. Her warm and amiable personality can be felt even just by reading her mails. I have no complaints as I feel that everything is just fine.

In conclusion, I am very indebted to Ms Syaza and team, and also to the sponsors. Whoever you are, your kindness is truly appreciated and I pray so that each one of you are given longevity in life with good health, which is filled with happiness and endless blessings. This project is an inspiration for me to initiate something in the future to help those who are in need, just like me today. Thank you so much.

Sarah