

# 2025: HEO's Guidance for Graduated Students

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# YOU GOT THIS!

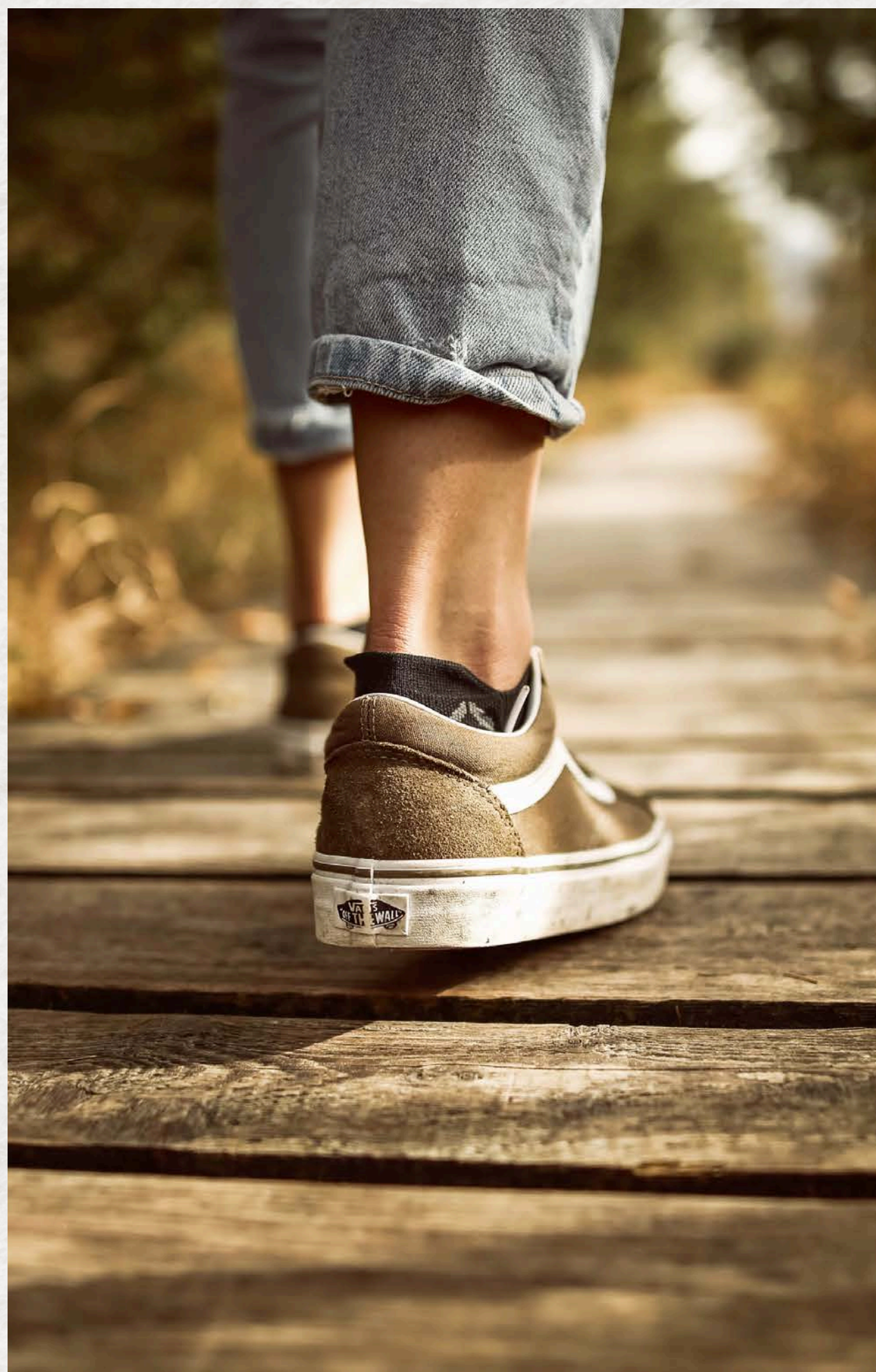
## KEEP BELIEVING IN YOURSELF

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### I've gotten my results. Now what?

Follow this guide to help you with to-dos and decision-making about universities and courses. :)

**Firstly: balance between aspiration and reality. The truth is that many pathways lead to the same careers.** What are the IGPs of the courses you are interested in? Measure that against your results, to know the chances you stand. Cast your net wide, go into applications with an open mind.



### Exploration & choice-making

Be aware that there are many courses on offer nowadays, which include interdisciplinary courses and cross-disciplinary choices, as well as specialised single degrees, double majors and double degrees.

So don't shortchange yourself! Take the time to **attend the Open Houses** so that you know what is out there. **Never** apply for a course simply for perceptions of prestige, or because 'others are doing it.'

### When shortlisting majors and putting in apps:

Take a **practical look at the curriculum and modules studied**. Do they spark interest? Are you open to pursuing this for the next 3-4 years? Ensure you submit your apps **on time**, meeting **all** requirements. If you require references, be considerate, **please ping your teachers early**.

**KEEP CALM**



**DO YOUR RESEARCH**



**BE ON TIME**



# LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

## WHEN & HOW TO APPLY



### INDICATIVE GRADE PROFILES: HOW TO USE?

The IGPs indicate the representative grades of applicants who gained entry in the previous year. E.g. a major that quotes 90th percentile as “AAB/B” means that at the 90th percentile of admission, students achieved H2 subject grades of AAB and H1 content subject B. The IGP assumes that PW and GP are C grades.

### UNIVERSITY ADMISSION SCORE (UAS): ALSO KNOWN AS RANK POINTS (RP)

To calculate UAS, take the total score of 3H2 + 1H1 content subject + GP + PW. See the table on the right for the indicative scoring. If you take 4 H2s, the lowest of your H2s is converted into a H1 score. If you take 3 H2s and 1H1, all the scores are directly taken into account. Refer to the university websites for more details on calculations. Do note that some courses have specific H2 requirements.

### PRACTICAL ADVICE ON APPLICATIONS

It's fine to have aspirational/competitive options as your top choices. However, to have apps that can yield fruitfully, it would be practical to ensure that, by at least the 2nd or 3rd choice option in *at least one university*, you have placed course(s) where your RP and grades match at least the 10th percentile of the IGP *and* UAS calculation. Should you be at the 10th percentile, it may be worthwhile to go for an ABA.

### HOW TO APPLY?

All applications are done directly on each university's admissions portal. Please be aware that certain faculties (like Medicine) have separate apps to be completed on top of the standard app portal requirements.

### WHEN TO APPLY?

Anytime after results are released, to **19 Mar 2025**. Do **not** miss this deadline.

For any apps requiring teacher references, please **ping your tutors early**. Avoid waiting until you have completed your app to ping your tutors, as your tutors need time as well.

Score*	H2	H1
A	20	10
B	17.5	8.75
C	15	7.5
D	12.5	6.25
E	10	5
S	5	2.5
U	0	0

\*All scores are indicative



# ON PERSONAL STATEMENTS, INTERVIEWS AND APTITUDE-BASED ADMISSIONS

## PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Your statement should reflect the **best sides** of yourself, and highlight how and why you are a **match** for the course of study. Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself: focus on your strengths and who you are. Talk about **academic as well as soft skills**, which are relevant to the field of choice. Use your activities (both within and without school) wisely: do not just list achievements; reflect on what you learnt in the process. It is through **meaningful reflection** that you demonstrate fit and understanding of the course. **Keep it concise.**

**#HEOprotip:** You may be tempted to ask your tutors for (unnecessary) references; avoid the urge to spam a university. It's good practice and good manners to submit only what is required. You should only ask for a reference if it is a stated requirement. Advocate for yourself instead!

For those of you interested in applying to Medicine, you can refer to our other guide, *Guide to Medicine Applications*, for more details.

## INTERVIEWS

Prepare yourself well! Know yourself, why you're interested in the course and how you're suited for it. **Remember that demonstrating skills and aptitude to *practice* in a field is not the same as demonstrating intellectual ability to *study* the major.** Balance between the two, as apt to your conversation with your interviewers.

**#HEOprotip:** Practice speaking out aloud and practice listening. Remember that every interview is a conversation. Articulate your opinions and thoughts, get comfortable to the sound of your own voice, even as you get similarly comfortable with a two-way dialogue. Should your interview be online, ensure a secure connection and a conducive place for interviews. Of course, be it online or F2F, do dress smartly for the occasion.

## APTITUDE-BASED ADMISSIONS (ABA)

ABAs are applied for on the basis of exceptional ability and suitability for a course of study. Invariably, within the application there will be requirements for a list of a specified number of achievements, and one or more essays. If you are going for an ABA, take the time and effort to collate a **thoughtful and meaningful list of activities, that demonstrate your suitability for your course of study.** This means selecting activities that are **relevant**, which show **sustained involvement**, and which you have **meaningful insight** on, be it about skills you have learnt, what you have gained greater understanding of, or self-growth.

Also take the time to properly clarify your thinking and what of yourself you wish to write about for the essay(s), to demonstrate the motivation and capacity to pursue what you wish. Be authentic and succinct, given the short word count for many ABAs. As instructed by the universities, AI should **not** be used in writing. **Stand for yourself, only you can speak for you.**



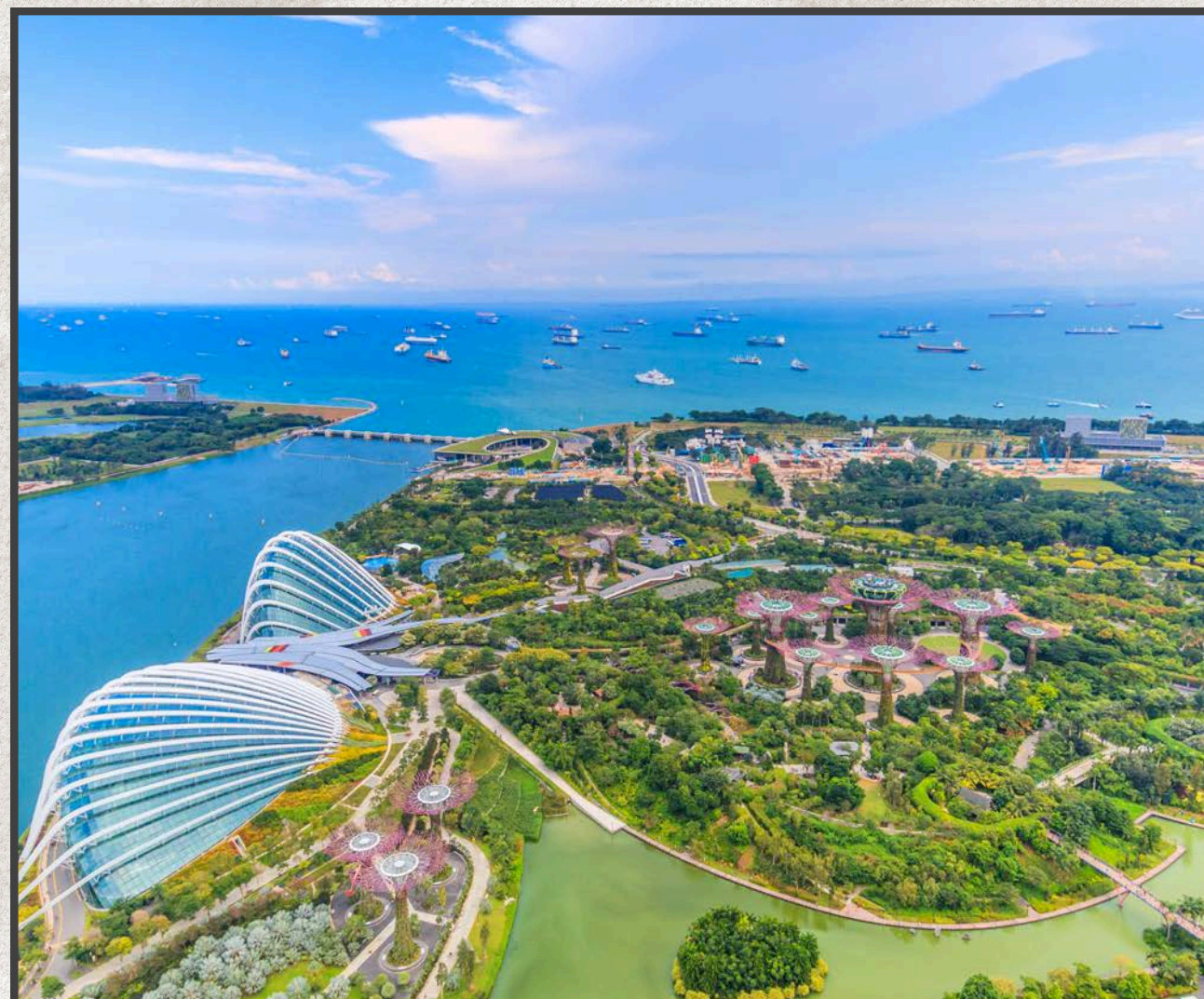
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# THE NUTS & BOLTS

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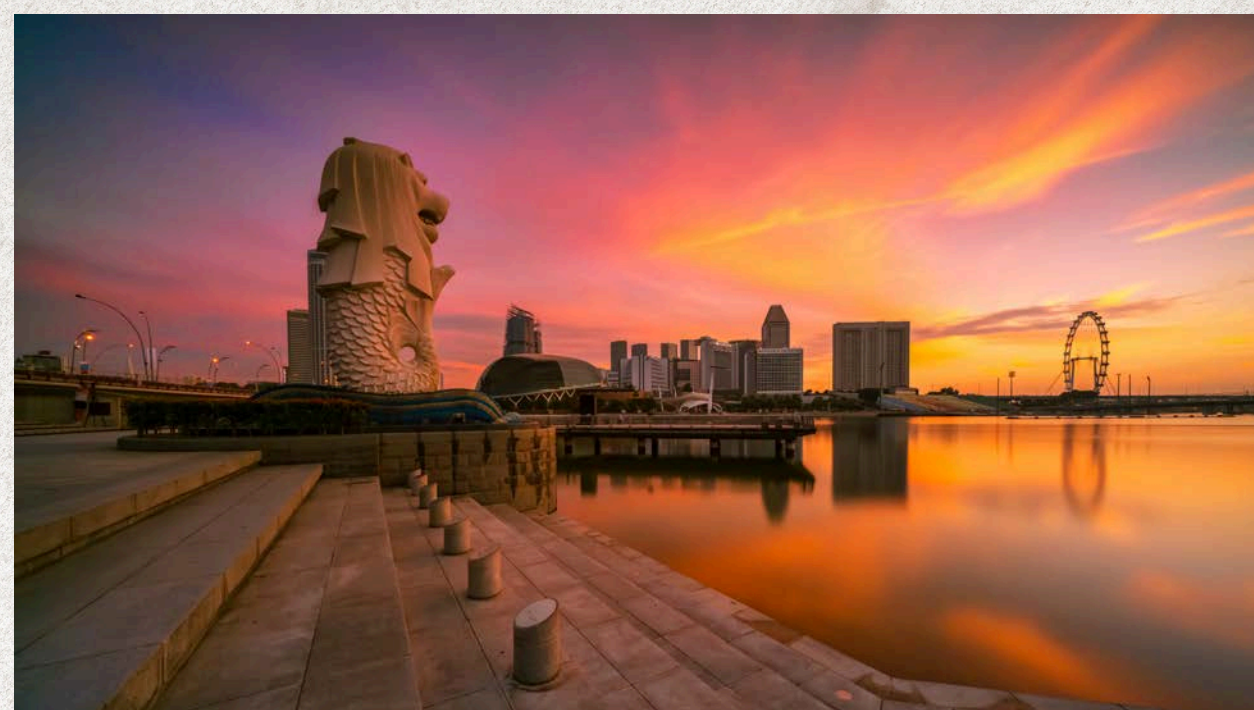
## **LINKS TO THE ADMISSIONS PORTALS:** (See under *Apply Now/apply online*)

- [NTU admissions portal](#)
- [NUS admissions portal](#)
- [SIT application portal](#)
- [SMU application portal](#)
- [SUSS application website](#)
- [SUTD application website](#)
- [UAS application portals](#)



## **LINKS TO UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS AND IGPS**

- [NTU IGP & link to admissions guide](#)
- [NUS IGP & link to requirements](#)
- [SIT 2024 IGP and profile](#)
- [SMU IGP and admissions criteria](#)
- [SUSS IGP and admissions criteria](#)
- [SUTD IGP and admissions criteria](#)
- [UAS degree programmes & requirements](#)



## **LINK TO UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **Brightsparks:** <https://brightsparks.com.sg/scholarshipproviders.php>

**Alert!** HEO is conducting a special alumni session, *Compass of a Scholar*, for students who are interested in scholarships on **1st Mar, Sat, 9am-12pm**. Please register via our [MOE forms](#) if interested (You can also link to it on <https://www.ri.edu.sg/school-life/higher-education-office>).

**This is only for Raffles Institution students.**

**Importantly: Please be mindful** that scholarships should **not** be pursued for the reasons of financial support for studies or prestige. It is a **work commitment** to be undertaken, from the perspective of **careers**. This alumni session is meant to take you through the considerations and guide you in a) clarifying and aligning your personal purpose, with b) dedication to causes greater than the self, and c) how you can prepare yourself consequently, in specific sectors of interest. Should you decide *not* to take a scholarship after the session, that is fine! The key thing is **knowing who you are and what you are willing to commit to**.



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# OVERSEAS UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS (ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WITH NS)

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## ***HEADSUP! HOW, WHEN, WHERE TO APPLY?***

For applications to the UK and US, they are **centralised via the high school, i.e., RI**. As such, if you are looking to apply to either of these destinations, headsup on the following:

a) Consider first your country and choices of majors. Be aware that in the UK, you select your major *from the start*. With the US, all US universities are liberal arts. So take the time after you have settled your SG apps, to shortlist your countries/majors of choice.

b) Then, ***Timelines*** will be published in [May 2025](#), once this current cycle ends. Look out for it on our open webpage, and **adhere to all internal RI deadlines** please. This is to enable HEO & your teachers to do the necessary to support your apps.

c) Actual apps: UK applications go via UCAS, US applications via Common App and CIALFO. These guides will be published by [mid-Jul](#) and [mid-Aug](#) respectively, once the current cycles end and platforms are updated. Look out for our [UCAS and CIALFO guides](#) and follow through on how to apply. Do **not** create accounts prior. As well, to guide all of you along, we will be publishing [statement writing guides](#) (approx. May), and [written feedback guidance](#) will be available (Aug – Late Oct/Early Nov).

d) **#HEOprotip**: Once you have shortlisted your schools/majors, start writing the necessary essays, and prepare for tests (if necessary): Good apps that yield require **months** of effort to refine writing. Ensure you know the requirements of the universities, and fulfil them on time. All applicants register independently for any required tests (e.g., SATs, subject-specific tests). UK apps require a CT reference, and US apps require three references: your CT, and two STs. Approach them early!

HEO provides guidance and support for applications to all countries of interest. [Email us](#) if you are interested in alternative destinations.





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# YOU'RE STILL READING! :) FINALLY, BECAUSE WE ARE YOUR HEO, SOME LAST WORDS OF COUNSEL

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## ***THE THINGS THAT (ALMOST) NO ONE WILL TELL YOU.***

HEO has had the privilege of counselling very many of you. We thank you for the high trust you have placed in us through Y6, as you shared, so frankly, your stories of fears, frustrations, dreams and hopes with us. So this is the final story we will share with you.

For some of you, getting back your results is a time of happiness, for others relief, yet for others, disappointment, guilt, fear, even resentment. You may be looking at others around, thinking, they are all so *purposeful*. It seems like *everyone else* already knows what they want, and how to get to it. It seems like you're just being pulled along to the beat of someone else's rhythm, or you've worked so hard, yet just aren't *getting it*, or *getting there*. What now, you ask.

You know. Whether or not you've gotten the results you want, life isn't a missile target; living isn't a precision strike. Being 18 is really about being at this inflection point, where paths start to diverge. Between you and others? That is well known. What is less known: It also diverges *within* yourself, as you learn to make peace with the self that was, and the selves that could have been. **To be the self you can be, requires letting go of the selves that could have been.**

*How do I know who I can be.* Nobody does. Anyone who definitively tells you who you 'should' be is lying. **You do not live all of life at 18. And this is where the magic begins.**

The only way to find out is to start. So we won't say 'enjoy'. Instead,

**embrace the journey.**

It will be one of unknowns, of frets and fears, of hopes and happinesses, sometimes sunlight, sometimes night. Naturally so: life is seasonal, not eternal summer. So embrace, and embark.

By letting go of the selves that could have been, you break fresh energy for who you *can* become. As opposed to fixations, constant anxiety of what-ifs, constant calculations of perceived 'betters'. By opening your mind and heart to possibilities, *following* life and not *dictating* its flow, you will find greater strength within than ever before. In this journey, you don't so much *find* you, as much as you *shape* you. This takes time. *Living*, takes time.

So be gentle with yourself. Don't live life as an avatar of someone else's dreams. You are not a guided missile to one fixed destination, neither are you a vessel for the ambitions of 'society'. Let go, with grace and equanimity. Because the time to start exploring is right here, right now.

***With all our light to you,  
Your teacher-counsellors @ HEO.***