



HIGHER EDUCATION OFFICE

Guidance for Graduated Students

Greetings to our alumni!

Now that you have your A-level results, there will probably be questions you have about universities and courses. This guide should come in handy when you make decisions.

First, some words of counsel, when it comes to choices:

1. **AUTONOMY.** Don't pick courses because they are popular or prestigious: pick courses because *you* decide so. On the cusp of adulthood, it's time for you to make *your* choices. Explore with an open mind and avoid following the crowd.
2. **INTEREST & APTITUDE.** People who excel are those whose interests and aptitude can sustain the length and rigour of the course. The Indicative Grade Profiles (IGPs) are there for a reason—be practical in selecting your choices, as you *balance idealism with realism*.
3. **CHECK ASSUMPTIONS.** Before selecting a course, it is a good idea to look at the actual modules you will be studying: are you drawn towards them, or do you only like the *idea* of the major? Check out the academic curriculum and avoid preconceptions or biases. *Look at what is real*.
4. **OPEN HOUSES!** Attend them, as they give you the most updated information on what is available. Take time to consider the plethora of options before choosing. There are many new majors, cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary options available nowadays: avoid sticking to fixed mindsets, as you don't know what you don't know. Take time and pro-offered opportunities to explore.
5. **OPEN-NESS OF MIND.** Sometimes, the offers that come may not be your first choice. When facing rejection, *keep an open mind, and give value to that which values you*. The best thing you can do for yourself is to keep moving forward and excel in the field which chooses you!

Local universities

- 1) All applications to local universities are done **online**, via their individual admissions portals. You will find the following links useful:
 - NUS: <https://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/apply-to-nus/application>
 - NTU: <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/admissions/undergraduate/admission-guide>
 - SMU: <https://admissions.smu.edu.sg/admissions-requirements/singapore-cambridge-gce-levels>
 - SUTD: <https://www.sutd.edu.sg/Admissions/Undergraduate/Application/Application-Timeline>
 - SUSS: <https://www.suss.edu.sg/full-time-undergraduate/how-to-apply>
 - SIT: <https://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/admissions/undergraduate>
- 2) Application portals generally open from A-level results day onwards. For 2022, the deadline is **19 March** for most courses. Aptitude-based Admissions may have earlier deadlines. Check university websites directly. Don't miss your deadline!
- 3) Admission is primarily merit-based. Two things are important here: the **Indicative Grade Profile (IGP)** and your **University Admission Score (UAS)**. When prioritizing courses in your applications, consider IGP and your UAS carefully. Rank order matters.

Check out the **IGP** of your courses of interest—this indicates the representative grades of the 10th and 90th percentiles who gained entry in the previous year. What is reflected is 3H2 + 1H1 content subjects.

Quick link! You can find the IGPs here:

NUS: [https://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/undergraduate-programmes/indicative-grade-profile-\(igp\)](https://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/undergraduate-programmes/indicative-grade-profile-(igp))

NTU: <https://www.ntu.edu.sg/admissions/undergraduate/indicative-grade-profile>

SMU: <https://admissions.smu.edu.sg/admissions-requirements/indicative-grade-profile>

On IGP and how to calculate UAS:

The IGP assumption is that PW and GP are C grades. 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 assumption is that PW and GP are C grades.

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. There could be specific subject/grade requirements for different faculties.

To calculate your UAS, take the total score of 3H2 + 1H1 content subject + GP + PW. This means your maximum score possible is 3 x 20 (for 3H2s) + 3 x 10 (1H1 + GP + PW) for a total UAS of **90**.

The following table shows the scores:

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

Example: If a student scores the following: GP A, PW B, 4H2s = AABB, the score would be:

- 3H2s (A, A, B) = $20 + 20 + 17.5 = 57.5$
- Lowest H2 converted to H1 (B) = 8.75
- GP (A) + PW (B) = $10 + 8.75 = 18.75$
- **Total UAS = $57.5 + 8.75 + 18.75 = 85$**

This is equivalent to a published IGP of AAA/A, where the assumption is that GP and PW are C grades.

Our counsel: When choosing your course options, you will want to be realistic, by ensuring that your UAS is at least close to, or at, the IGP of your desired courses, at the minimum 10th percentile. The best situation would be where **both** your UAS and grades are at/beyond the published IGP.

- 4) **Personal statements:** reflect on 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, not what you are not. 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 your reflection that you demonstrate fit and understanding of the course.** Keep it concise.

Tip: 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 2022](#), for more details.

- 5) **Interviews:** Prepare yourself accordingly. Apart from traditional preparations of knowing yourself, why you are interested in the course and suited for it, it's useful to practice speaking out aloud, and to 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, ensure you dress smartly for the occasion.

6) **Open Houses:** You may find the following quick links useful. Some require registration, so do sign up for what you are interested in.

- NUS: [NUS open house](#)
- NTU: [NTU open house](#)
- SMU: [SMU open house](#)
- SUTD: [SUTD open house](#)
- SUSS: [SUSS open house](#)
- SIT: [SIT virtual booths](#)

7) **Discretionary/aptitude-based admissions.** Discretionary admissions are applied for on the basis of exceptional talent/ability. Some examples which the universities cite: winning an international Olympiad medal, National Representative in arts/sports, having key leadership positions in organisations outside of school. Refer to the relevant university admissions websites for more details. You do not need to apply under discretionary admissions if your UAS qualifies you for the course.

When applying under discretionary admissions, choose what to reflect wisely. Avoid spamming: the universities limit you to a range of 3-10 activities. Thus, highlight your **most exceptional achievements**. I.e., activities for which you have won awards, show sustained involvement in, and where you may hold key positions/be a key contributor, making for meaningful reflection.

Overseas Universities (especially for NS boys)

- 1) You will apply through RI. We will update application timelines for the 2022/2023 cycle by end May once the current cycle closes and universities refresh guidance. Keep a lookout then on our open website: <http://www.ri.edu.sg/school-life/higher-education-office>. Please do **not** start any UCAS/CIALFO/Common App accounts at this stage.
- 2) As the current situation stands, we are unable to conduct F2F appointments for alumni. In light of this, we will make guides available for alumni on our open RI webpage. You may write to us for counsel should you be looking at overseas applications for the new 2022/2023 cycle.
- 3) **Approaching your tutors for overseas recommendations:** A strong application takes months of effort to build and also requires the support of your teachers and our office. Everyone needs time to help you, so be considerate and timely when you approach your tutors. Do not leave things to the last minute.

All the best in your applications!

Your teacher-counsellors

Higher Education Office, Raffles Institution

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