

Direct School Admission - Junior Colleges (DSA-JC)

What is DSA?

- DSA allows students to apply to a DSA school before taking the GCE O-Level examinations.
- The students can apply based on your **talent in sports, CCAs & specific academic areas** that may not be demonstrated at the O-Level examinations.

Sports and CCA	Other Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sports (e.g. Top 4 finish in Zonal Inter-school competitions)▪ Performing Arts (e.g. SYF Participation and Awards received)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leadership (e.g. School-wide Leadership or record of strong leadership)▪ Debate (e.g. National or Zonal competitions)▪ Academic Talent (e.g. Science Research Mathematical Olympiads or Proficiency/ Achievements in Art/Music/Languages)

Accepting the DSA JC offer is a Commitment

- The conditional offer is automatically confirmed once the student meets the
 - Eligibility Criteria of $L1R5 \leq 20$; and
 - Requirements on Core Subjects
- Upon confirmation of the DSA Offer, the student must commit to the chosen school and cannot change the chosen DSA area.

JC Admission: Eligibility Criteria

Aggregate Range for L1R5 (excludes bonus points) <i>For further details on computing the aggregate, please refer to Section 5 Table 6.</i>	Meet Subject Requirements as specified in Table 10 ?	
	Yes	No
≤ 15	Eligible	Eligible for <i>Conditional Admission</i>
16 – 20		Eligible for <i>Conditional Admission</i> only if students have grades of 'A1' or 'A2' in all the R5 subjects

Table 10
Subject Requirements

Subject	Requirement
English Language	A1 to C6
Mother Tongue Language * : Chinese Language, Malay Language, Tamil Language <u>OR</u> Higher Chinese Language, Higher Malay Language, Higher Tamil Language <u>OR</u> Chinese Language 'B' Syllabus, Malay Language 'B' Syllabus, Tamil Language 'B' Syllabus	A1 to D7 A1 to E8 Merit or Pass
Mathematics: Mathematics <u>OR</u> Additional Mathematics	A1 to D7 A1 to D7

DSA JC Application Form:

You may be asked for the following information

- Personal Particulars
- Parent's Information
- Academic Results
 - Sec3 EOY
 - Sec4 MYE
 - Sec4 Term1/CA1 Results
 - Certified True Copies
- CCA Records, Awards
- Testimonials, Coach/ Teacher's recommendations
- Character Reference (1 - 2)
- Photo
- Reasons for applying to the JC
- Intended Subject Combination
- Personal Statement

- ✓ The student can apply directly to individual schools.
- ✓ Check the individual schools' websites for more details as the application period, procedures and selection criteria differ from school to school.

Personal Statement

Personal Statement

- A write-up that **showcases your skills and knowledge** that are relevant to the DSA Programme you are applying with.
- **Distinguishes** you from other applicants and explains that you should be considered because you are a promising candidate and you can value-add to the school.
- Some JCs require personal statements **based on given topics**.

Personal Statements based on given topics

5	Science Training and Research Programme	<p>(1) Demonstration of knowledge, interest and passion in STEM Research</p> <p>(2) Sharing of motivations, understanding, and goals in joining Research@NJC</p> <p>(3) Recount their past experiences relevant in their application for DSA Science Research</p> <p><i>As part of the shortlisting process, applicants need to submit a personal statement (maximum 500 words) detailing his/her involvement in STEM/research activities.</i></p> <p><i>Relevant supporting documents (e.g. abstracts of research reports, photos of exhibits, prototypes, certificates etc.) should also be submitted.</i></p>	<p>Students admitted through DSA Research must offer H3 Science Research. This is an examinable A-Level subject.</p>
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BILINGUALISM

- i) Two samples of writing (one in English; one in Chinese – could include school essays)
- ii) A 500-word personal statement on "What does being bilingual mean in the current world context?" 现今社会, 双语人才应该具备哪些条件?

HUMANITIES PROGRAMME

- i) Two samples of writing: school essays can be included
- ii) A 500-word response to "What is the value of the Humanities in today's world?"

MUSIC ELECTIVE PROGRAMME

- i) A music composition up to 3 minutes (can be existing composition)
- ii) A 500-word personal statement on "How do you envision yourself contributing to EJC's music and aesthetics scene as a Eunoia MEP student?"
- iii) An audition video of 5-10 minutes (can be existing video)

LEADERSHIP

- i) A 500-word personal statement on "Based on your personal experiences, what does it mean to lead?"
- ii) The names and contact details of 2 referees who can vouch for your leadership experiences. (Please state their positions and their relationship to you.)

Personal Statement: Be Yourself

- Be original and write in your own voice.
- Be **personality-driven** and not plot-driven (don't write based on what you think the JC wants to read).
- **Proofread** and allow time for multiple drafts.

Personal Statement: Things to avoid

- **Flowery/difficult words, Singlish, Youth slangs**
- **Quotations:** They want to hear from you, not someone else.
- **Negative comments or excuses:** Focus on the positives.
- **Plagiarism.** Don't copy and paste statements from the Internet.

Writing tips: Omit needless words

- ▶ Delete words that mean little or nothing
 - *kind of, a bit, sort of, really, very, quite, rather, actually, personally*
- ▶ Delete words implied by other words
 - *unexpected surprise, future plans*
- ▶ Delete words that are repetitive
 - *happy and delighted, determination and perseverance*
- ▶ Replace a phrase with a word
 - *in the event that = if*
 - *on a daily basis = daily*
 - *I'm someone who = I'm*
 - *due to the fact that = because*
 - *in order to = to*

What to include in your personal statement? *(You don't have to include everything)*

- What are my experiences in the talent/special area I'm applying with?
- What are my strengths/positive character traits?
- What is unique about me/my experiences?
- Explain your motivation: Why am I applying to the junior college?
- What do I know about the school and how can I contribute with my talent/special area/any other areas?
- How will I cope with the JC curriculum?
- What is my aspiration?

Portfolio

What is a Portfolio ?



An organised collection of evidence that shows your accomplishments in/out of school



Examples of work that showcase your accomplishments, skills and experiences



Digital or hard copy

What to include in a Portfolio?

Category	Examples
Academic Achievements	Top in English Language and Geography for Level in 2021
Non Academic Achievements	Edusave Character Award 2019
Leadership Experience	School Council, Prefectorial Board, Key Leadership Roles in CCA
Competitions	International, Regional, National, Zonal
Outside School Activities	Volunteer Work, Part-time Work
Talent - Performing Arts	Portfolio/Grading Certificates
Skills - IT, Language	Websites, App

Portfolio requirements vary across schools, programmes and talents areas

Special Programmes

Special Programmes		Criteria	Commitment
1	Art Elective Programme	<p>(1) Innovative traits (2) Curiosity (3) Flexibility in thinking (4) Perseverance</p> <p><i>To be Submitted Together with Application:</i></p> <p>1. Portfolio should be submitted as a single document that contains a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 artworks, in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All works must completed in the last 2 years – Works may be curated in a variety of 2D, 3D or time-based – Each 2D work is allowed a maximum of 2 photos – Each 3D work is allowed a maximum of 4 photos – Time-based works should be included via link indicated in the document – A title must be given to each work – File format: PDF – File size limit: 15mb – File naming convention: Secondary School_Full Name of Student.pdf 	Students admitted through Art Elective Programme must offer H2 Art. This is an examinable A-Level subject.

1	Aesthetics Club (Arts, Film and Photography)	<p>within the past 2 years.</p> <p>3. File naming convention: Secondary School_Full Name of Student.pdf</p> <p>Photographic Society</p> <p>(1) Technical proficiency in photography</p> <p>(2) Creativity and artistic disposition</p> <p>(3) Leadership qualities</p> <p><i>To be submitted together with application:</i></p> <p>Portfolio in PDF format in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <p>1. Maximum of links to 10 photos created by applicant</p> <p>2. Write-up about submitted photographic works</p> <p>3. All photos created should be completed within the past 2 years.</p> <p>4. File naming convention: Secondary School_Full Name of Student.pdf</p>	2-year commitment to CCA
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Interview

Various Interview Formats

- Online Video Interview
(Most interviews have been held in this format since 2020)
- Individual Interviews of 5-10 minutes
(1 interviewer to 1 student)
- Panel Interviews
(a few interviewers to 1 student)
- Group Interviews
(1 or a few interviewers to a few students)
- Case Interviews
(candidates to perform tasks individually or in groups)

Group and Case Interview: What do they usually look for?



Ability to work in a Team and under pressure



Ability to accept and improve from constructive criticism



Ability to communicate verbally



Analytical, Creativity and Problem Solving Skills

Prepping for the Interview

- Do have your **Portfolio** ready to help you with your key talking points.
- Do your **Research**:
 - Review your **Personal Statement**.
 - What is the institution's Subject Combination and Special Programmes offered?
- Prepare your **self-introduction** and answers to commonly asked interview questions.

Common Interview Questions

- Tell me more about yourself.
- Why did you choose to join our school?
- What do you know about our school?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?
- Do you have any questions to ask the Interviewer(s)?

DSA Timeline 2022

Phase 1 – All schools

Application

Application deadline for each DSA-JC school may be different

Offer

27 June -
11 Aug

Acceptance

12 Aug –
16 Aug

Cooling Off

17 Aug –
19 Aug

Withdrawal

By 7 Oct

Offer

17 Aug –
6 Sept

Acceptance

7 Sept –
12 Sept

Withdrawal

By 7 Oct

Phase 2 – 9 schools*

*Participating schools: ASRJC, ACJC, CJC, JPJC, NYJC, SSP, SAJC, TMJC, YIJC

FAQs

My results are not strong, will this affect this my DSA-JC chances?

- DSA is an exercise for students who has a talent in sports, CCAs & specific academic areas that may not be demonstrated at the O-Level examinations to apply.
- Academic results should not affect the DSA-JC chances.
- However, the student must consider if he/she is able to cope with the DSA Talent area commitment (e.g. Competition / trainings) and the academic rigour of the JC.

Can I apply for both DSA JC & Poly EAE?

- You can participate in the DSA-JC and Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) concurrently. However, you can only accept one offer (i.e. either a DSA-JC or EAE offer).
- If you have both DSA-JC and EAE offers concurrently, you will be disqualified from these exercises, unless you cancel either of these acceptances before the end of the Acceptance Stage.

If I have turned down the DSA-JC Phase 1 offer from one school, can I reconsider and take up their offer again in Phase 2?

- Once you have rejected a DSA-JC offer from one school, you will not be given another DSA-JC offer from the same school.

If I have just been offered a DSA-JC Phase 2 Offer by a school but have already accepted a DSA-JC Phase 1 Offer from another school, what must I do?

- If you are interested in taking up the DSA-JC Phase 2 Offer, your parent must cancel your DSA-JC Phase 1 acceptance by submitting a DSA-JC Cancellation Form. Your parent can contact the DSA-JC school, which he/she has accepted the offer, for the Cancellation Form.
- Once you have cancelled your earlier acceptance, your parent can accept the DSA-JC Phase 2 Offer during the DSA-JC Phase 2 Acceptance Stage from 7 Sept to 10 Sept 2022.

What should I do to cancel or withdraw my DSA-JC acceptance?

- To cancel or withdraw your DSA-JC acceptance, your parent must submit the DSA-JC Cancellation Form to the DSA-JC school, which he/she has accepted the offer. Your parent can contact the DSA-JC school for the Cancellation Form. You are required to attach the following documents in the submission :
 - The offer letter from the school.
 - The completed acceptance form submitted to the school together with the school's acknowledgment email.
 - A copy of your Parent's NRIC/FIN/Passport for verification.
 - The DSA-JC will reply on the outcome of your cancellation request.

All the best!