



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on DSA-JC (Year 5 IBDP)

Dear Students

We thank you very much for your interest in the ACS (Independent) Direct School Admission (DSA)-JC Exercise. We hope that this FAQ will help to answer the questions you may have. You may also wish to access the school website: <https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/admissions/dsa-year-5/> for more information.

While we understand that you may be anxious about the outcome of your application, **there is no need to call to enquire about the status of your application**. We assure you that **all applicants** will be duly notified about the DSA-JC outcome: successful students will receive a phone call from the school and unsuccessful applicants will be informed via email by 10 August. Please note that no appeals will be entertained. We ask for your patience and understanding in this matter.

ACS (Independent) DSA-JC Committee

A. Questions relating to DSA-JC application

A1. Is the DSA-JC exercise open to students who are not pursuing the Singapore Cambridge GCE O-Level Programme (for example returning Singapore Citizens, Singapore PRs or international (foreign) students studying in an international school)?

DSA-JC exercise is opened to all secondary 4 students in Ministry of Education (MOE) mainstream schools and international schools. Hence, returning Singapore Citizens, Singapore PRs or foreigners are also eligible to participate in DSA-JC exercise if they meet the age criteria for admission into Junior College by MOE.

A2. I am presently an Integrated Programme (IP) student in another school; am I eligible to take part in DSA-JC (Year 5) exercise?

IP students who were admitted through the DSA-Sec exercise will not be eligible to take part in the DSA-JC exercise. DSA-Sec students are expected to honour their DSA commitment and are required to complete their junior college education in their current IP School.

IP students who were posted to the IP school via PSLE results will only be eligible to take part in the DSA-JC exercise if there are extenuating circumstances for their application as they are strongly encouraged to complete and benefit from the customized 6-year IP of their current school. Please seek the advice and guidance from your current school before making such an application. Your application forms will not be accepted unless you enclose written documents from your current School Principal and the Ministry of Education that they have no objection to your application.

A3. What is the application procedure for DSA-JC in ACS (Independent)? Do DSA applicants need to sit for any tests?

There are no tests administered for the DSA-JC exercise in the school.

The ACS(I) online DSA-JC Portal will open from 4 May 2023, 11am to 23 June 2023, 3pm. Applicants are required to complete an application form including their personal portfolio which are available online at <https://site1.acsindep.edu.sg/Appls/Y5DSA/ApplicationForm.aspx> and print out a hardcopy for submission to the school. **Please note that application is only valid upon receipt of hardcopy of completed application form with photocopies of required supporting documents by the school by the closing date of 23 June 2023, 3pm.**

A4. How many DSA-JC vacancies are there?

The number of DSA-JC vacancies ranges year to year from 20 to 25.

A5. What is the basis of selection for the DSA?

Students are selected based on talent areas that meet the school's requirement. There is no fixed quota for each talent.

MALE applicants with the following talent domains will be considered: Badminton, Basketball, Bowling, Canoeing, Cricket, Golf (a Golf handicap of not more than 9), Leadership, Mathematics, Music Elective Programme (required to offer Music Higher Level as 6th subject in Year 5 and Year 6; and take up a Performing Arts CCA), Robotics, Rugby, Sailing, Science, Shooting, Softball, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field and Water Polo.

FEMALE applicants with the following talent domains will be considered: Bowling, Leadership, Mathematics, Music Elective Programme (required to offer Music Higher Level as 6th subject in Year 5 and Year 6; and take up a Performing Arts CCA), Robotics, Science, Squash, Swimming and Tennis.

B. Questions on JAE (Joint Admission Exercise)

B1. What is L1R5 cut-off point to enter ACS (Independent) Year 5 (IBDP) via MOE JAE?

The nett L1R5 aggregate score was 5 for the 2023 MOE JAE (Joint Admission Exercise). The nett aggregate score is computed after deduction of bonus points for CCA and/or both first languages (i.e., English and a Higher Mother Tongue). **There is no bonus point for affiliation.** However, not all 5 nett pointers were posted in as JAE posting is based on available vacancies in the school.

B2. How many places are available for JAE?

The number of JAE vacancies is in the range of 110 – 130 places.

B3. Where can I get more information on the JAE?

All Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level students will be given a JAE Information Booklet when they received their GCE O-Level Examination results in January next year. Information is also available on the MOE website.

C. Questions on IBDP (Years 5 and 6)

C1. What are the subjects offered in IBDP?

IBDP students are required to offer 6 examination subjects (3 Higher Level subjects and 3 Standard Level subjects) as well as complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, write an Extended Essay (EE) in one of the chosen subjects and participate in the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Programme.

Please refer to the document 2023 IBDP Write-up & Subjects Offered for more details and www.ibo.org for more information.

C2. What is the difference between Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level and IBDP?

Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level is structured on three levels of study, namely Higher 1 (H1), Higher 2 (H2) and Higher 3 (H3) and is examination-based like the GCE O-Level.

IBDP is structured on Higher and Standard Level and students are required to offer 3 subjects at Higher Level (HL) and 3 subjects at Standard Level (SL) as well as 3 core requirements: CAS, EE and TOK. The IB diploma subjects are examined by a combination of continuous coursework (Internal Assessments) and written examinations at the end of the two-year programme. Internally assessed work usually accounts for a minimum 20% of the final grade in a subject.

C3. Does a student who has been exempted from offering Mother Tongue Language be required to offer the Group 2 Language Acquisition in the IBDP?

Students who are exempted from Mother Tongue Language will be required to offer a Group 2 Language Acquisition subject: Language B or Language ab initio (beginner). The following beginner's level languages are available in the school: Spanish ab initio, French ab initio and Mandarin ab initio.

C4. How many CCAs must I participate in the school?

All Year 5 and Year 6 students are expected to participate in at least one CCA.

C5. Will a student be allowed to retake an IB subject if he/she has not done well in the IB exam?

Provisions are in place for students to retake the IB subject. However, students must note that subjects' syllabi do change from year to year in the IBDP and it is solely the students' responsibility to prepare themselves for the retaking of the subject.

D. Questions on School Fees and Financial Matters

D1. What are your school fees per month?

Fees charges for 2023 are as follows:

Level	Citizenship	School Fee (per month)	Miscellaneous Fee (per month)	Total Fee (per month)
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) Year 5 to Year 6	Singaporean	\$450	\$50	\$500
	Singapore PR	\$1,250	\$50	\$1,300
	Foreigner (ASEAN)	\$2,550	\$50	\$2,600
	Foreigner (Non-ASEAN)	\$2,850	\$50	\$2,900

Please note that school fees and miscellaneous fees are subject to change during the year.

Students who will pay Foreigner (ASEAN) school fees are citizens of the following countries:

Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia
Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam	

D2. Does your school offer scholarship? How do I apply?

Students who are Singapore Citizens and who have obtained outstanding results in their Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examinations may be awarded the ESIS (Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools) by MOE. There is no need to apply for ESIS. All awardees will have a clause in their Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) Form A stating that they qualify for the ESIS. The clause states: *You are eligible for the Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools (ESIS). The Scholarship is tenable at any independent school (IS) offering the Integrated Programme (IP). You will obtain the ESIS only if you are admitted to an IS offering the IP through the JAE.*

ESIS Award amount

If your child is not receiving the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB), they will be awarded the lesser of the following amounts:

- \$2,400 a year.
- The total annual school fee minus the amount of school and standard miscellaneous fees that they would pay to attend a government or government-aided school.

If your child is receiving the ISB, they will be awarded the lesser of the following amounts:

- \$2,400 a year.
- The total annual school fee minus the school fee subsidy provided under the ISB.

D3. Do you have financial assistance scheme? How do I apply?

The MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) is available for application for **Singapore Citizen** students enrolled in Independent Schools. The school does not offer any financial assistance schemes for Singapore Permanent Residents (SPRs) or International (Foreign) Students.

Singapore Citizens applying for the MOE ISB need to meet either the monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) or the Per Capita Income (PCI) criterion. PCI is computed based on the monthly GHI divided by the number of members in the household. Once approved, the ISB will provide the benefits shown in the table below:

Income Limits (Meet one of the following criteria)		Benefits
Monthly Gross Household Income (GHI)	Per Capita Income (PCI) ²	
Not exceeding \$3,000	Not exceeding \$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees• Free textbooks and school attire at Secondary level; Annual Bursary of \$1,200 at Pre-University

		level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full subsidy for examination fees³ • Transport Subsidy: \$17 per month from the month of approval, up to \$204 per annum (for students taking public transport). <i>The public transport subsidy will only be provided from the effective month of the MOE ISB till December of the year.</i> • School meal subsidies of \$3.50 per meal for 10 meals per school week for secondary level.
\$3,001 - \$4,400	\$751 - \$1,100	Subsidy such that student pays the same fee ⁴ as students studying in government and government-aided schools (GGAS)
\$4,401 - \$7,500	\$1,101 - \$1,875	Subsidy such that student pays 1.5x GGAS fee ⁴
\$7,501 - \$10,000	\$1,876 - \$2,500	33% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees

¹Include specialized independent schools, namely, NUS High School of Math and Science, and School of Science and Technology. Does not include Singapore Sports School and School of the Arts which have their own schemes to provide financial assistance for their students. Please refer to the schools' website for information on their financial schemes.

²PCI is monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) divided by number of members in the same household.

³Applicable only to Singapore Citizen students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) only in Government-funded schools. Examination fees for GCE A-level have been waived for all Singapore Citizen students in Government-funded schools since 2015.

⁴GGAS fee comprises school fee, standard miscellaneous fee and maximum 2nd tier miscellaneous fee payable by Singapore Citizen students in a GGAS.

Singapore Citizen students who wish to apply for the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) scheme can obtain application forms from the School Administration Office or download a copy from the school's website <https://www.acsindp.moe.edu.sg/about-acs-independent/fee/financial-assistance/>.

Applications may be made throughout the year as exigencies of each family's financial situation demand. However, each MOE ISB award is effective from the month the application is approved and **may not** be backdated. Approved ISBs are valid till December of the year. Fresh applications will have to be submitted for each school year. Please ensure that the ISB application is accompanied by all relevant documents required by MOE. Omission may result in a delay in the processing of the application and in turn, a delay in the awarding of the ISB. Students should pay the full amount of school and miscellaneous fees until their application for the ISB has been processed and have received written advice from the school.

In April 2019, MOE introduced the **UPLIFT Scholarship** for Singapore Citizens to recognise the achievements of students in independent schools/specialised independent schools who have performed well academically, or in specific talent areas, and are from lower-income families. The UPLIFT Scholarship consists of a cash award of \$1,000 per annum to help offset the out-of-pocket expenses for students from lower income households. The UPLIFT Scholarship is subject to students meeting the renewal criteria each year and is awarded to students who are:

- Singapore Citizens attending independent schools/specialised independent schools;
- Admitted to the independent school/specialised independent school through Direct School Admission (DSA) at Secondary 1 or Pre-University 1 and/or qualified for the Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools (ESIS); and
- From families with monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) ≤\$4,400 or Per Capita Income (PCI) ≤\$1,100.

Apart from the MOE ISB and UPLIFT Scholarship for Singapore Citizen students, our school has various financial assistance programmes in place for Singapore Citizens. Should you require assistance with school

fees, please approach our Deputy Principal, Mr Patrick Soo at patrick@acsindep.edu.sg or School Secretary, Ms Eunice Seah at eunice@acsindep.edu.sg or DID Tel No. 6870 0314.

D4. If my child already has an MOE Scholarship (ESIS/RSP/MEP/HSP/Pre-U), can my child still apply for the financial assistance scheme?

Yes, your child is eligible to apply for the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) if your child is a Singapore Citizen.

F4. If my child already has an MOE Scholarship (e.g., ESIS/RSP/MES/HSP/Pre-University), can my child still apply for financial assistance scheme?

Yes, your child is eligible to apply for MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) if your child is a Singapore Citizen.

E. Questions on Other School-related Matters

E1. What are your school hours?

The current school curriculum hours are as follows:

Year	Day	School Hours
Year 5 and Year 6 (JC 1 and JC 2)	Monday	7:45 am to 4:00 pm
	Tuesday and Thursday	7:45 am to ranges from 2:40 pm till 4:00 pm
	Wednesday	8:45 am to ranges from 3:00 pm till 4:00 pm
	Friday	7:45 am to 1:00 pm

Note

All students are reminded to arrive at school earlier to ensure there is sufficient time to report to Chapel or Assembly venues.

E2. Can students apply to ACS (Independent) Boarding School? What are the fees?

Yes, but this is subject to approval from the School Senior Admin. New applicants will be charged a non-refundable admin fee of \$80, along with a non-refundable application fee of \$200 which is deductible from the 1st payment. The current Boarding School Fees (exclusive of GST) which are charged by semesters are as follows:

Type	Fees per semester (20 weeks)	Additional Fees for vacation stay during the school holidays
ACS(I) Pupil (Singapore citizen) *	\$5,000	\$250 per week
ACS(I) Pupil (Singapore PR) *	\$5,600	\$280 per week
ACS(I) Pupil (Foreigner) *	\$6,600	\$330 per week
Single Room	\$9,000	\$450 per week
Double Room (30 SQM)	\$8,000	\$400 per week

*Refer to 4 or 6 Bedded Rooms only.

More information on the ACS (Independent) Boarding School are available at our school website - <https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/about-acsindependent/boarding-school/>