



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on DSA-Sec (Year 1)

Dear Parents & Guardians

We thank you very much for your interest in the ACS (Independent) Direct School Admission (DSA)-Sec Exercise. It is our hope that this FAQ will help to answer the questions you may have. You may also wish to access the school website <https://www.acs indep.moe.edu.sg/admissions/dsa-year-1/> for more information.

While we understand that you may be anxious about the outcome of your son's 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-Sec outcome: successful students will be contacted by telephone from the 1st week of September; and unsuccessful applicants will be informed via email by 13 September. Please note that no appeals will be entertained. We ask for your patience and understanding in this matter.

ACS (Independent) DSA-Sec Committee

A. Questions relating to DSA application

A1. What is DSA?

DSA stands for Direct School Admission. The Direct School Admission (DSA)-Sec exercise provides a pathway for students to gain direct entry into secondary schools based on their diverse talents and achievements, beyond their performance at the PSLE. Participation in DSA-Sec is optional. Students not participating in DSA-Sec will participate in MOE Secondary 1 (S1) Posting. They will be posted to secondary schools based on their PSLE results.

Students who wish to participate in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)'s DSA-Sec exercise are required to apply through the MOE Centralised DSA-Sec Portal which is open from 11am, 5 May 2021 to 3 pm, 1 June 2021. Applicants can opt for O-Level Programme (Express stream), Integrated Programme (IP) or No Preference (i.e., to be considered for IP and O-Level Programme).

- O-Level Programme (Express stream) is a four-year course which leads to the Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level certificate.
- Integrated Programme is a six-year through train course which leads to the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Students who are successfully admitted to the school via DSA are expected to honour their commitment to the school and programme (4 years for O-Level Programme or 6 years for Integrated Programme) and participate in the activities related to the talent they are selected for from Year 1 to 4. If they are not able to fulfil the DSA commitment without valid reasons, they may be required to transfer out to another school. Hence, please consider carefully before you accept an offer to be admitted to a school through DSA-Sec.

A2. How do you select the students? What do you look out for?

For DSA-Sec O-Level Programme (Express stream) and DSA-Sec Integrated Programme (IP), students will be selected based on their Primary 5 and 6 academic results or equivalent results from 2020 and 2021 and ability in talent domains: Badminton, Basketball, Bowling, Canoeing, Cricket, Cross Country, Golf, International Chess, Mathematics, Music Elective Programme,

Robotics, Rugby, Sailing, Science, Shooting, Softball, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field and Water Polo.

Records in the MOE Centralised DSA-Sec Portal to be considered for selection includes national age group rankings and/or results from national inter-primary school competitions and/or results from other competitions sanctioned by the respective National Sports Associations. Physical fitness test results, experience, qualifications and participation in the CCA(s) will also be considered.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted after 17 June 2021.

For Mathematics and Science, shortlisted applicants will be contacted for e-interviews.

For Music Elective Programme, shortlisted applicants will be contacted for e-auditions.

For Golf, applicants must have a Golf handicap of not more than 18.

Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.

A3. Are students who are not studying in the Singapore local schools eligible to apply for the DSA? I am not sitting for PSLE; can I apply for DSA? How and when do I apply?

Yes, you can participate in the DSA-Sec exercise. However, you need to obtain a Registration Number (RGxxxxxxx) to access the DSA-Sec Portal. Please refer to MOE website at <https://go.gov.sg/nmsdsa-sec-application>. Such students include Returning Singaporeans, International Students studying overseas or in local international schools, students in Special Education Schools (e.g., Pathlight) and home-schoolers. For all shortlisted International Students, please be reminded that you are required to take and fulfil the requirements of the Admission Exercise for International Students (AEIS) test to be successful in DSA.

A4. When and how do I apply for DSA?

Below are the details of applying through the MOE Centralised DSA-Sec Portal:

- a) **Cost** – Free of charge.
- b) **Application Period** – From 11 am, 5 May 2021 to 3 pm, 1 June 2021.
- c) **Authentication** –
 - Applicants studying in MOE mainstream primary schools: only one parent’s SingPass is needed to log in. If parent/guardian is unable to apply online, they can approach the child’s primary school for assistance.
 - Applicant NOT studying in MOE mainstream primary schools: You need to apply for a Registration Number (RGxxxxxxx) to access the DSA-Sec Portal. Please refer to MOE website at <https://go.gov.sg/nmsdsa-sec-application>. Such students include Returning Singaporeans, International Students studying overseas or in local international schools, students in Special Education Schools (e.g., Pathlight) and home-schoolers. For all shortlisted International Students, please be reminded that you are required to take and fulfil the requirements of the Admission Exercise for International Students (AEIS) test to be successful in DSA.
- d) **Choices** – An applicant can indicate up to three choices. Each choice consists of a secondary school and a talent area offered by that secondary school.
- e) **Maximum choices for each DSA-Sec school** – Of the three choices, an applicant may use a maximum of two choices to apply to the same school, for two different talent areas of that school.
- f) **Dual track school** – For each talent area, applicants are required to indicate their preference for O-Level Programme, Integrated Programme (IP) or No Preference (i.e., to be considered for IP and O-Level Programme). The school may offer the applicants a track that is different from their indicated preference, based on the school’s assessment of their suitability.

- g) **Information to provide** – To make the application easier, applicants will only need to provide (i) choice of schools and talent areas and (ii) contact details. An optional field will also be provided for applicants to indicate up to 10 non-school-based activities and achievements they may have participated in. Applicants studying in MOE mainstream primary schools will have their primary school information (such as their Primary 5 and 6 academic results, Co-curricular Activities (CCA), Values in Action (VIA) involvement, school-based activities/ achievements/ awards (such as Edusave awards), NAPFA result, and National School Games and Junior Sports Academy participation shared directly with the DSA-Sec secondary schools that they apply to.

A5. Can I apply for DSA in other schools too?

Each applicant is eligible to apply to a maximum of three DSA-Sec schools. Each applicant applying to the same school is eligible to select two different talent areas in that school. **Parents and students are encouraged to choose schools wisely based on the student’s aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools’ academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the area of talent. In addition, students in MOE mainstream primary schools must sit for the PSLE and obtain a score that will enable them to be eligible for admission to the Express stream.**

B. Questions on general DSA matters

B1. What is the number of places available for DSA-Sec? What is the maximum PSLE AL score for entry to ACS (Independent)? What is the highest PSLE AL score for IP?

Based on MOE guidelines, the school can admit up to 20% of our O-Level Programme (Express stream) Intake via the DSA-Sec and about 30% - 35% of our Integrated Programme (IP) Intake via DSA-Sec. Currently, the school does not know the total enrolment for O-Level Programme (Express stream) and IP as the enrolment numbers are decided by the MOE.

The indicative PSLE Score ranges of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) based on the 2020 PSLE cohort’s results and school choices are:

Course	Indicative PSLE Score	
	Affiliated primary schools (ACS (P) and ACS (J))	Non-affiliated primary schools
Integrated Programme	-	4 - 7
O-Level Programme (Express stream)	7 – 13	6 – 9

The Affiliate Minimum Requirement (AMR) for the O-Level Programme (Express stream) is 13 points for the affiliated primary schools (ACS (P) and ACS (J)). There is no affiliation score for the IP.

C. Questions relating to DSA outcome

C1. When will we know the e-auditions/ e-interviews results? When will we know whether I am successful? Will the school inform us?

The e-auditions/ e-interviews results will not be revealed to the students or parents. The result is not the only criteria for consideration. The school also considers applicants’ Primary 5 and 6 academic results or equivalent results from 2020 and 2021 and the records from the MOE Centralised DSA-Sec portal.

All applicants will be duly notified on the outcome of their DSA-Sec applications. **Successful candidates (Confirmed Offers and Waitlist Offers) will be contacted by telephone from the 1st week of September** and offer letters will be emailed to parents/students by 13 September. If you are not contacted, it is likely that you are unsuccessful in the DSA-Sec exercise and will be informed via email by 13 September. Please note the school will not entertain any appeals.

C2. Will there be interviews?

Interviews (by video conferencing) will only be conducted if deemed necessary.

C3. If I have been informed that I am successful in my application, do I have to accept the offer immediately?

There is no need to accept any offer during the DSA-Sec exercise period. Students who are given Confirmed Offers or Waitlist offers are required to indicate their DSA-Sec school preference during the School Preference Submission period from 25 Oct to 29 Oct 2021. Successful students will receive an email instruction and SMS notification from Postman.gov.sg regarding the School Preference Submission before the submission period starts. Upon the release of PSLE results in November and if the successful student is posted to Express stream (PSLE AL score of 22 points or less), he will be informed of his DSA-Sec posted school and is not required to participate in the MOE Secondary 1 (S1) Posting to opt for secondary schools. However, if he is eligible for third language, he may enter his option during the School Choice Submission period.

Students successfully allocated to a school via DSA-Sec are NOT allowed to participate in the MOE Secondary 1 (S1) Posting as they are expected to honour the commitment made to the DSA-Sec school when they exercise their CO or WL offer. If they are eligible for third language, they may enter this option during the School Choice Submission period. Students are also NOT allowed to transfer to another school after the release of the PSLE results. They are expected to honour their commitment to the posted DSA schools for the duration of the programme they are admitted to (4 years for O-Level Programme or 6 years for Integrated Programme) and participate in the activities related to the talent they are selected for from Year 1 to 4. If they are not able to fulfil the DSA commitment without valid reasons, they may be required to transfer out to another school. Hence, please consider carefully before you accept an offer to be admitted to a school through DSA-Sec.

C4. Is my Confirmed Offer for DSA dependent on my PSLE results?

Once you have accepted ACS (Independent)'s Confirmed Offer during the School Preference Submission period in October, either for O-Level Programme (Express stream) or Integrated Programme (IP), it is guaranteed if you are eligible for the Express stream based on your PSLE results (PSLE AL score of 22 points or less).

C5. If I accept your offer, can I also accept other schools' offers? How many offers can I accept?

You can receive as many Confirmed Offers or Waitlist Offers as you wish. However, our school would appreciate that you inform us if you do not intend to put us as your first choice during the School Preference Submission period from 25 Oct to 29 Oct 2021. This would allow us to offer the place to other students who did not receive any offer letters from our school.

C6. I received a Wait List offer. How and when do I know that my offer is changed to Confirmed Offer?

Student who received Wait List offer and indicated our school as their first choice during the School Preference Submission period will only know if the offer is converted to a Confirmed Offer when he receives his PSLE results in end November.

C7. From previous years of the DSA-Sec exercise, how many students apply via the DSA-Sec exercise and how many will be successful in the application to ACS (Independent)?

The school received more than 1,000 DSA-Sec applications last year. Last year, the number of DSA-Sec places for IP (IB diploma) was 60 and for O-Level Programme (Express stream) was 50. However, the number of DSA-Sec places varies from year to year depending on MOE's advice on the enrolment numbers for the school for the year. The school takes in more students via the MOE S1 Posting exercise which is based on students' PSLE results.

D. Questions relating to IP, IB & Mother Tongue Language in the school

D1. What is the IP? What is IB? Do local universities recognize IB diploma?

IP stands for Integrated Programme – a six-year through train course. Students spend six years in ACS (Independent) and are not required to sit for the Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level Examination except for Mother Tongue Language at Year 4 (Secondary 4). In their fifth and sixth years, IP students will do the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) which is an established pre-university course of study. ACS (Independent)'s IP students will sit for the IB Diploma Examination, not the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level Examination.

As the IB programme is a university-bound course of study, most of our students will apply for a university course of study after obtaining their IB Diploma. The local universities recognize and accept the IB Diploma. University admission will depend on the university and the course applied for. The IB Diploma is a very well-recognised international pre-university qualification and established universities around the world readily give places to IB Diploma graduates.

D2. If I offer Higher Mother Tongue Language in primary school, do I have to do Higher Mother Tongue Language in secondary school?

Upon release of the MOE S1 Posting results, students will be informed by MOE on their eligibility to offer Higher Mother Tongue (HMT) Language in secondary school. Students are given the option to offer HMT Language or Mother Tongue (MT) Language. Please inform the school during the online Secondary 1 registration exercise, accessible through the school website, which will take place after the release of MOE posting results in December.

Students in O-Level Programme (Express stream)

HMT Language student will only be allowed to drop HMT Language if he is not coping well with the subject. HMT Language student will be required to sit for the MT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination in Secondary 3 and the HMT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination in Secondary 4. If a student does not perform well in the Secondary 3 MT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination, he may request to drop HMT Language and re-take the MT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination in Secondary 4.

Students in Integrated Programme (IP)

At Secondary 4, MT Language students will sit for the MT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination and HMT Language students will sit for the HMT Language Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination.

D3. I am exempted from Mother Tongue (MT) Language in primary school. Do I have to offer Mother Tongue Language in your school?

If you have been exempted from offering MT Language by MOE in the primary school, the exemption is still applicable in ACS (Independent).

If you are an IP student, the exemption will carry through until the end of Year 6. For International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, all Year 5 and 6 students are required to do a Group 2: Language Acquisition subject: Language B or Language ab initio (beginner). Students who are exempted from MT Language will offer *ab initio* languages such as French, Spanish and Mandarin. These *ab initio* subjects are offered in the school during curriculum time.

D4. Do you offer Chinese Language Syllabus B in your school? How do I apply to do it?

Yes, Year 1 to 4 students can opt to do Chinese Language Syllabus B (Chinese Language Syllabus B is of lower standard compared to normal Chinese Language). Students will be required to inform the school during the online Secondary 1 registration exercise, accessible from the school website. Year 1 to 3 students who do Chinese Language Syllabus B are required to travel to MOE Chinese Language Syllabus B Centre. Currently, our students go to ACS (Barker Road), after curriculum time to attend their Chinese Language Syllabus B lessons but this may change as the Centre is decided

by the MOE. Year 4 Chinese Language Syllabus B lessons will be conducted in our school after curriculum time.

D5. Can I opt to do Hindi, Punjabi or other Non-Tamil Indian Languages in your school? Are the classes conducted in the school?

Hindi is conducted in our school with a special arrangement with a private Hindi teacher. Students will be required to pay for the cost of these lessons. Students who wish to offer Punjabi or other Non-Tamil Indian Languages will be required to offer these languages outside school and after school curriculum hours.

E. Questions on CCAs

E1. What are your CCAs and how many CCAs must my son take?

We have a very wide range of CCAs. Please refer to the MOE booklet **“Choosing Your Secondary Schools”** which will be issued to all primary 6 students by their primary schools, for the full range of CCAs available in our school. It is compulsory for all our Year 1 to 4 students (Secondary 1 to 4) to have two CCAs – one Uniformed Group (UG) and the other, either a Sport, a Performing Art or a Club/Society. The school’s two-CCA policy aims to help students achieve a holistic education. It enables students to discover their strengths, interests and talents and equip them to handle challenges they may face later in life. For more details on CCAs, please refer to our website <https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/student-development/cca/>.

Year 5 to 6 students (equivalent to junior college year 1 to 2) are required to participate in one CCA.

F. Questions on School Fees and Financial Matters

F1. What are your school fees per month?

Fees charges for 2021 are as follows:

Level	Citizenship	School Fee (per month)	Miscellaneous Fee (per month)	Total Fee (per month)
Express Year 1 to Year 4	Singaporean	\$320	\$45	\$365
	Singapore PR	\$850	\$45	\$895
	Foreigner (ASEAN)	\$1,550	\$45	\$1,595
	Foreigner (Non-ASEAN)	\$1,750	\$45	\$1,795
Integrated Programme (IP) Year 1 to Year 4	Singaporean	\$340	\$45	\$385
	Singapore PR	\$880	\$45	\$925
	Foreigner (ASEAN)	\$1,700	\$45	\$1,745
	Foreigner (Non-ASEAN)	\$1,900	\$45	\$1,945
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) Year 5 to Year 6	Singaporean	\$450	\$50	\$500
	Singapore PR	\$1,050	\$50	\$1,100
	Foreigner (ASEAN)	\$2,200	\$50	\$2,250
	Foreigner (Non-ASEAN)	\$2,500	\$50	\$2,550

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	

F2. Does your school offer scholarship? How do I apply?

Students who are Singapore Citizens and who have obtained outstanding results in their PSLE may be awarded the ESIS (Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools) by MOE. There is no need to apply for ESIS. All awardees will be informed when they receive their PSLE results.

ESIS is tenable for studies at any Independent School (IS). The annual Scholarship quantum is \$2,400, or the annual school fees charged by the IS less the annual amount of school and standard miscellaneous fees paid by pupils in government/government-aided schools, whichever is lower, less any other subsidies provided by MOE or the school for IS fees.

F3. Do you have financial assistance scheme? How do I apply?

The MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) is available for application for **Singapore Citizens only**. The school does not offer any financial assistance schemes for Singapore Permanent Residents (SPR) or International 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 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) ¹	
Not exceeding \$2,750	Not exceeding \$690	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees• Free textbooks and school attire at Secondary level; \$1,000 Bursary per annum at Pre-university level• Full subsidy for exam fees[^]• Transport subsidy: \$15 transport credits per month from the month of approval, capped at \$180 per annum (for students taking public transport)• School meal subsidies of \$2.90 per meal for 10 meals per school week for secondary level;
\$2,751 - \$4,000	\$691 - \$1,000	Subsidy such that student pays the same fee ² as students studying in government and government-aided schools (GGAS) [#]
\$4,001 - \$6,900	\$1,001 - \$1,725	Subsidy such that student pays 1.5x GGAS fee ²
\$6,901 - \$9,000	\$1,726 - \$2,250	33% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees

¹PCI is gross monthly household income divided by number of numbers in the household.

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

[^]Applicable to students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) only in Government-funded schools. Examination fees for GCE O-Level and GCE A-Level are waived for all Singapore Citizen students in Government-funded schools from 2015.

[#]Except for NUS High Year 5 and 6 students who currently pay less than GGAS fee after receiving the current 90% fee subsidy. Hence, they will continue to receive 90% fee subsidy until the fee payable exceeds the prevailing GGAS fee for pre-university students, for which the enhanced subsidy indicated in the above table will apply.

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.acsinddep.moe.edu.sg/about-ac-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 academic 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 from lower income families who have performed well academically or in specific talent areas admitted into Independent Schools/Specialised Independent Schools. The UPLIFT Scholarship consists of a cash award of \$800 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) ≤\$2,750, or Per Capita Income (PCI) ≤ \$690. (Note: these students qualify for 100% fee subsidy under the ISB).

Apart from the MOE ISB and UPLIFT Scholarship for Singapore Citizen students, our school has various financial assistance programmes in place. Should you require assistance with school fees, please approach our Deputy Principal, Mr Patrick Soo (patrick@acsinddep.edu.sg) or School Secretary, Mdm Eunice Seah (eunice@acsinddep.edu.sg) or DID Tel No. 6870 0314.

G. Questions on Other School-related Matters

G1. What are your school hours?

The school curriculum hours are as follows:

Year	Day	School Hours
Year 1 to Year 4 (Sec 1 to Sec 4)	Mon, Tue & Thu	7:45 am (7:30 am for Year 4) to ranges from 2:25 pm till 2:40 pm
	Wed	8:45 am to ranges from 2:45 pm till 3:00 pm
	Fri	7:45 am (7:30 am for Year 4) to ranges from 12:45 pm till 1:00 pm
Year 5 to Year 6 (JC 1 & JC2)	Mon, Tue & Thu	7:30 am to ranges from 2:40 pm till 4:00 pm
	Wed	8:45 am to ranges from 3:00 pm till 4:00 pm
	Fri	7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Note: Year 1 to Year 4 students will be involved in Values in Action (VIA) programmes on selected Thursdays. In order to ensure meaningful interaction and engagement with the community, VIA sessions are likely to end after 2:40 pm. The actual dismissal time and dates will be advised closer to the date(s), and the format of VIAs will also be made known in accordance with Safe Management Measures given COVID-19.

However, the school will revert to the following regular school hours once the COVID-19 situation permits.

Year	Day	School Hours
Year 1 to Year 4 (Sec 1 to Sec 4)	Mon, Tue & Thu	7:30 am to 2:40 pm
	Wed	8:45 am to 3:00 pm
	Fri	7:30 am to 1:00 pm
Year 5 to Year 6 (JC 1 & JC 2)	Mon	7:30 am to 4:00 pm
	Tue & Thu	7:30 am to ranges from 2:40 pm till 4:00 pm
	Wed	8:45 am to ranges from 3:00 pm till 4:00 pm
	Fri	7:30 am to 1:00 pm

G2. Can students apply to ACS (Independent) Boarding School? What are the fees?

Yes, but this is subject to approval from the School Senior Admin. The current Boarding School Fees are as follows:

ACS (Independent) Students	Fees per semester	Additional Fees for vacation stay during May, Jun, Nov & Dec
Singapore citizen	\$3,700	\$185 per week
Singapore PR	\$4,440	\$222 per week
Foreigner	\$5,000	\$250 per week
Non-ACS (Independent) Students		
Singapore citizen	\$4,900	\$245 per week
Singapore PR	\$5,880	\$294 per week
Foreigner	\$6,600	\$330 per week

For more information on the ACS (Independent) Boarding School, please refer to:

<https://www.acsindp.moe.edu.sg/about-acs-independent/boarding-school/>

G3. How will the Secondary One registration exercise be carried out at the end of the year?

The Secondary One (S1) registration exercise will be conducted online after the release of the posting results in December. The link for the registration will be made available on the school's website. Parents and students need not visit the school to take part in the S1 registration exercise. Computer terminals will be made available at the School Administration Office for students without internet access. Information on orientation, sales of books and uniforms will be available for download after the completion of the online registration.