



International  
School

德思齊加拿大國際學校

# Higher Education and Pathways

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# Higher Education and Pathways

DSC International School takes a whole community approach to student success. School staff support families to ensure that we work together to help each student understand their aptitude, learning preferences, passions, and to navigate the many options available to them, allowing students to reach their full potential and maximize their success at DSC and beyond. This process begins during the first introduction to the school and continues until graduation. Plans are made and adjusted each year with the help and support of our Higher Education and Pathways advisors, teacher mentors, social workers, and parents.

**Our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors** play an important part in this process by taking a leading role in the academic and post-secondary planning for Grade 7-12 students. The team provides a wide variety of ongoing support and bespoke workshops that ensure students are successful, that academic planning is tailored to their academic choices for future plans and destinations, and that a balanced program is developed to support social-emotional development alongside academic success.

## Interconnected Community Equals Student Success

Together, we ensure students are successful and develop the academic and social-emotional skills required for success in school and life.

### Higher Education and Pathways Advisors

Assisting students with the development of an individualized education plan, such as:

- course selection
- extracurricular activities
- community service
- university selection
- application procedures

### Parents

Helping students to identify their goals and understand the process by attending our:

- workshops
- course selection fairs
- university fairs
- consultations

### Teacher Mentors

Working closely with the students to monitor their academic progress, and help them to reach their set goals and graduation requirements for the university and program of their choice.

### Social Workers

Supporting students with social-emotional development, assist their educational and personal journey with our on-campus and confidential professional counselling service.

Student  
Success

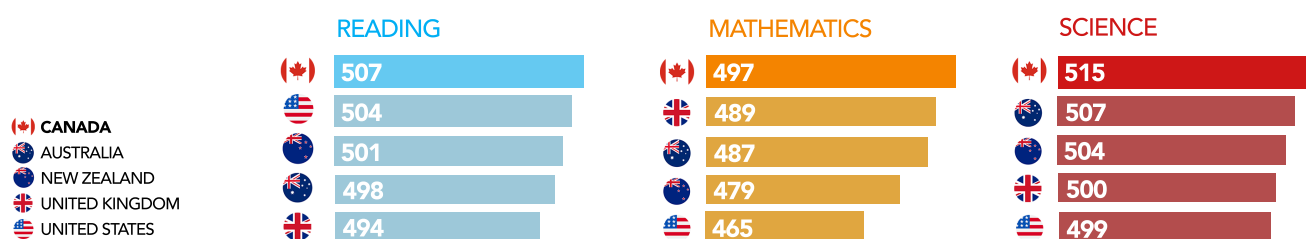
# Canadian Curriculum

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

### A pathway to top universities worldwide

The Canadian (Ontario) Curriculum is an internationally recognised curriculum equivalent to many other leading curricula and education systems around the world. As shown in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 results, Canada outperformed other English-speaking countries in Reading, Mathematics, and Science.

#### PISA 2022 Results



Students work closely with our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors to design their secondary program to meet their individual needs. Like other curricula, graduates with the OSSD qualification are eligible to apply to all the top universities worldwide.

The OSSD program is particularly suitable for students planning to attend university in Hong Kong or abroad, for students transitioning from a local curriculum into an international curriculum, and for athlete scholars or creative scholars who need the support of a flexible program that can be designed around their individual needs.

#### Comparison chart of OSSD / A-levels / IB / AP / DSE

	Canadian	IBDP	A-Levels	Advanced Placement	DSE
Country	Canada (Ontario)	International	UK	US	HK
Duration	Flexible	2 years	2 years	Flexible	3 years
Graduation Point	January June, August	June	June	June	June
Subject Combination	Flexible	More constraints	Flexible	Flexible	More constraints
Community Experience	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Exams	Internal with a compulsory Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test	External	External	External	External
Post-Secondary Destination	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide

# Academic Guidance

## Get into the program of your choice

With the support of the Higher Education and Pathways Advisors, students are encouraged to explore a range of subjects that can help them with a clearly defined career path. The Higher Education and Pathways Advisors will also carefully review each student's individual course selection to ensure they are making the correct choices in the process, so that they can meet the university entrance requirements for the program of their choice.

## Extensive course selections

DSC International School offers more than 80 courses from a wide range of subject areas to meet student interests, aptitudes, and post-secondary destination requirements:

BUSINESS STUDIES	INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES
CANADIAN AND WORLD HISTORY	MATHEMATICS
COMPUTER SCIENCE	SCIENCE
ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE	TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
GUIDANCE AND CAREER EDUCATION	THE ARTS
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE	

For more information about our Secondary courses, please refer to the Course Brochure.

### Grade 9

- Begin Compulsory Courses

### Grade 10 -12

- Complete Compulsory Courses
- Select Elective Courses based on interests and strengths from a wide range of subject areas

## OSSD+ Signature Program

The OSSD+ Signature Program provides an enhanced, rigorous academic framework that aligns with students' interests, passions, and goals. The program allows students to focus on a specialized academic discipline, enhanced community outreach and leadership development, real world experience and career mentorship through work placement. DSC offers Six Signature Streams which are individually designed for: **Artistic Creators, Athletic Scholars, Business Leaders, Global Influencers, Engineering Designers, and Scientific Innovators**. For more information about the OSSD+ Signature Program, please refer to the OSSD+ Signature Program brochure.

## Experiential Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA)

DSC offers university campus tours in Hong Kong, Canada, and the UK. These tours help students to learn more about university options and campus culture. Students also have the opportunity to chat with DSC alumni and get valuable insights into university life.

In addition, DSC offers a wide range of ECA for students to develop their interest and knowledge based on their individual goals. Students are encouraged to align their ECA choices with their personal goals and passion, and take the opportunity to develop practical transferable skills that are meaningful for the student's pathways planning.

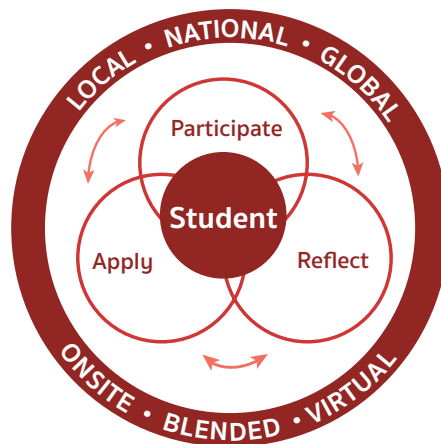


# Future Ready Education

## Career Integrated Learning (Cooperative Education)

An integral part of the OSSD<sup>+</sup> experience is a Career Integrated Learning course. Our Career Integrated Learning program combines real world, workplace experience with in-class instruction and reflective assignments designed to assist students in career exploration and the development of global competencies. Students will participate in the experience, reflect on their learning, and then apply that learning to education and career/life planning.

This is an invaluable learning experience empowering students to be future ready by allowing them to extend their learning from theory-based in-class studies to a real world setting in the workplace. By completing a work placement, students gain valuable insights into a specific career and field.



## The Benefits of Career Integrated Learning

Cooperative Education is a program that offers students the opportunity to extend their classroom learning in supervised placements throughout the community.

Students will:

- Gain experience and explore career opportunities
- Increase understanding of workplace expectations and ethics
- Increase confidence and leadership skills
- Improve interpersonal skills, work habits and attitudes
- Develop employability and networking skills
- Earn up to 2 credits through their workplace experience
- Develop transferable skills
- Stand out during the university application process



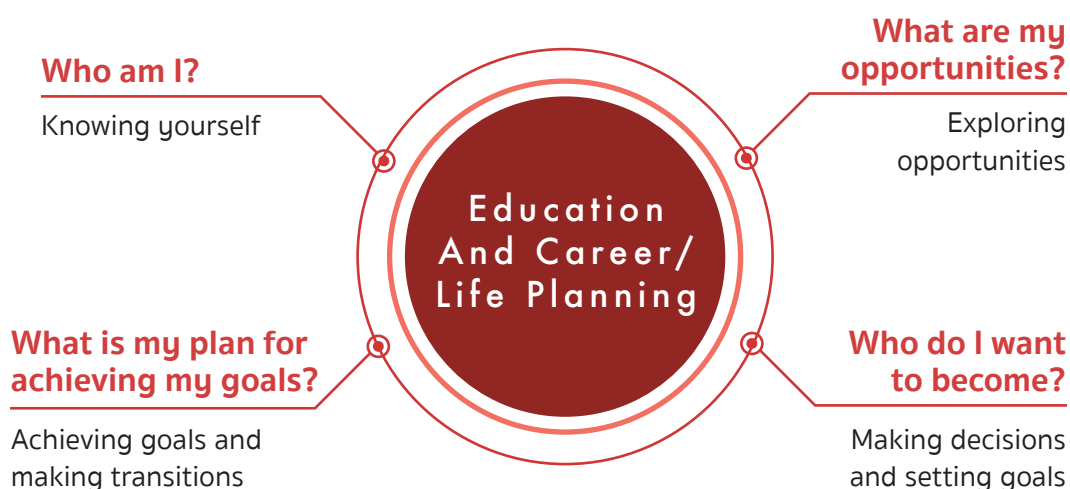
# Career and Life Planning

Find your direction beyond

## Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)

Beginning in Grade 7, each student will create an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP). An Individual Pathways Plan will help students to reflect on their Education and Career/Life Planning. Developing their IPP increases students' awareness of their strengths and interests and of the related opportunities for learning and work. As students move through school and in life, they will be making choices about their further education and career plans.

## The four pillars of Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)



## IPP Roadmap

Grade 7 and 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Become familiar with strengths and interests as they relate to potential careers</li><li>• Learn more about the OSSD program</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outline a plan for selecting courses in Grades 10 to 12</li><li>• Explore career opportunities and post-secondary pathways</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create individualized career pathways plan</li><li>• Set personal development and academic goals for Grade 11 and 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore post-secondary options that align with career goals</li><li>• Prepare materials for admission applications</li><li>• Start admission application process</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize post-secondary options and complete their admission applications</li><li>• Prepare for transition to post-secondary education</li></ul>

## Teacher Advisor Program (TAP)

Students are assigned a Teacher Mentor who mentors them throughout their secondary educational journey. Students remain with the same Teacher Mentor from Grade 9 to 12. Mentors support students by delivering bespoke workshops and helping with course selection each February. In February, students will be provided with a course selection sheet for the subsequent academic year. During a TAP session, a teacher mentor will work with students in identifying completed OSSD requirements and those they still need to complete.

# Application Process

## Student responsibilities

The DSC Higher Education and Pathways Advisors are fully committed to supporting students in their post-secondary education. To minimize stress during the application process and ensure fair distribution of guidance among students, several expectations are in place. Support for students in their university application should be carried out in accordance with the student responsibilities and internal deadlines indicated in the table below. DSC internal deadlines are earlier than application deadlines to ensure the application process runs smoothly for everyone. For many applications, the Higher Education and Pathways Advisors, our Head Office, and teachers need to generate specific documents on students' behalf. The earlier deadline allows sufficient time to do this before the official deadline.

### Responsibilities

- Students need to be realistic about their expectations and consider both their interests and aptitude in the process of selecting best fit higher education institutions.
- Students need to maintain good communication with their advisor throughout the application process. This includes attending scheduled meetings, responding to email communication in a timely manner, and completing assigned tasks in the Google Classroom.
- Students are expected to follow up on all instructions provided by the advisor.
- Students should complete all necessary documentation and forms without delay to avoid missing deadlines.
- Students must register independently on the admission platform at the targeted higher education institution. Applications are made independently by the student and their families, not the advisors.

### Timeline

	*DSC Internal Deadline	Official Deadline
UK – Oxford and Cambridge Programs: Medicine, Vet Med, Dentistry	End of September	Mid October
USA– Early Applications	Mid October	November
Hong Kong – Early Applications (HKU, CUHK, and HKUST)	End of October	Mid-November
Canada – University of British Columbia	Mid November	December
UK – UCAS Main Round	End of November	January
Hong Kong – Other Universities	End of November	January
USA – Regular Applications	End of November	January
Canada – OUAC	End of November	January
Canada	3 weeks before the official deadline	Deadlines will vary
Australia		
Europe		
Other Countries	See the Higher Education and Pathways Advisors	

\*Specific dates/deadlines will be provided to students each year. They will be set based on the official deadlines published by the various institutions.

# Planning Timeline

## Grade 11

Grade 11 is a crucial time for university planning. Students begin taking prerequisite courses that will help them meet the requirements for university admission. This is when students should start their research and become familiar with the admission requirements and processes so that they are well prepared for when applications become available at the beginning of Grade 12.

September-January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin researching universities</li><li>• Attend university fairs and campus visits from university representatives</li></ul>
February-June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet with your advisor to discuss university interests and review course selection for Grade 12</li><li>• Shortlist university destinations and confirm entrance requirements</li><li>• Complete community service hours</li><li>• Register with UCAS (opens mid-May) for UK university admissions</li><li>• Register for supplementary exams if necessary (SAT or UKCAT)</li></ul>
Summer Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize university destinations and program</li><li>• Draft personal statement / essay</li><li>• If necessary, take English Language Proficiency test such as IELTS or TOEFL</li><li>• Participate in a meaningful internship, volunteer experience or summer program</li></ul>

## Grade 12

A majority of post-secondary applications open in September and October. Students should return from summer break with their final list of institutions and programs to which they wish to apply along with final drafts of personal statements/essays when required. With the support of our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors, students will be ready to tackle their applications with ease, leaving plenty of time to focus on their studies.

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit drafts of your personal statements/essays to your advisor</li><li>• Update your university tracking sheet with your advisor indicating where you intend to apply</li><li>• Register for online application portals</li><li>• Make requests for transcripts, reference letters and predicted grades for October application deadlines</li></ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize your personal statement/essay</li><li>• Make requests for academic transcripts, reference letters and predicted grades for November application deadlines</li><li>• Application deadline: UCAS (Oxford and Cambridge and Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry)</li></ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application deadline: Early Applications for USA</li><li>• Application deadline: Early Applications for Hong Kong and Main Round for The University of Hong Kong</li><li>• Make requests for transcripts, reference letters and predicted grades for December application deadlines</li></ul>



# Planning Timeline

## Grade 12

December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application deadline: UBC (Canada)</li> <li>• Research scholarship opportunities for all destinations</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application deadline: OUAC, UCAS, Main round USA and most other Hong Kong universities</li> <li>• Ensure that your university tracking list is up to date with your advisor indicating where you submitted applications</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update universities with Semester 1 grades</li> <li>• Complete additional applications with later deadlines</li> <li>• Follow up on any document requests from universities</li> </ul>
February-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend interviews</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update your advisor with acceptances, denials and waitlist decisions</li> <li>• Shortlist your acceptance</li> <li>• Respond to offers</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All offers will be made by universities in Ontario by this date</li> <li>• Universal deadline to accept/decline by US Universities</li> <li>• Apply for residence and begin the visa process when necessary</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm your final destination with your advisor</li> <li>• Study for final exams</li> <li>• Make sure you send your final transcript to the university you will be attending</li> </ul>



# Finding the Best-Fit University

Selecting the best fit university can be a daunting task. Our best advice is to start with gathering as much information as you can about the opportunities available to you. Attending university fairs, visits by university representatives, virtual information sessions, and taking campus tours will be an excellent start in learning more. There are several factors to consider when selecting the best fit university. Although reputation and ranking can provide valuable insights into the overall academic standing and recognition of an institution, we advise you to consider the following:

## Interests and Aptitude

Reflecting on your interests, strengths and goals will help you to more clearly identify the subject area that you should pursue. Students should also be realistic about their aptitude. When selecting universities, choose schools that fit into three categories: Reach, Target and Safe. You should easily be able to meet the admission requirements of the Safe option, while a Target school will be the best academic fit and the one you really want to attend. Target schools will make up the majority of schools on your list. A Reach school will be the one you dream of attending but it may be very competitive or the admission requirements may be slightly higher than your predicted average grade.

## Geographic Location

Narrowing down your search by limiting yourself to 1-2 countries maximum will be very helpful. When selecting a destination, you should be thinking about whether or not you want to study in an urban, suburban or rural setting. Travel distance from your home country may also be a factor. The climate will also be something to consider. If you have grown up in a tropical climate, moving to a part of the world that has harsh winters may influence your wellbeing and negatively affect your education.

## Academic Programs

Students should seek out universities that have a strong reputation for their chosen field of study and offer programs that align with their interests and career goals. It is a good idea to review the curriculum and also look for additional opportunities such as joint degrees, study abroad/exchange programs, co-op programs or internships. Students should also consider the professional qualifications they wish to achieve and their transferability to other countries (ie. law, education, medicine, dentistry etc.).

## Class Size and Student-Faculty Ratio

When evaluating universities, it is important to consider the class sizes and student-faculty ratios. Smaller classes allow for a more personalized learning experience, as they provide greater opportunities for individual attention and interaction with professors. On the other hand, larger universities often offer a broader selection of courses and research opportunities due to their extensive faculty resources.

## Financial Considerations

Take into account the cost of tuition, availability of scholarships and the overall cost of living. In some countries you will pay very high international tuition fees; other countries may offer lower tuition fees for international students.

## School Services and Facilities

Students should consider the available services and facilities when making their choices. Both can contribute to the comfort, support and wellbeing of a student. Having access to academic, career and educational support advisors can be impactful on student success while access to facilities such as the library, gym, on campus housing options and dining are also important.

## Campus Culture

Students should research the campus culture including diversity, inclusivity, extracurricular activities, clubs and organizations that align with their interests. When given the opportunity, students should aim to visit a campus, connect with international student mentors or DSC alumni to gain better understanding of the campus culture.

# Glossary of Key Terms

## IELTS

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is an English language proficiency exam jointly managed by the British Council, IDP, and Cambridge English. IELTS scores are accepted by universities worldwide but it is preferred by universities in the UK and Australia.

## OUAC

OUAC stands for Ontario Universities' Application Centre. It provides a central service for applicants to apply to universities in Ontario, Canada. Students can apply to 3 universities or programs for one fee. They may wish to apply to more universities for an additional charge. The OUAC application is straightforward requiring students to complete a basic application form. Student grades will be sent to the OUAC on behalf of the student at the midterm and end of each semester. It is the student's responsibility to check with each university if any supplemental information is required.

## SAT

Stands for the Scholastic Assessment Test, a standardized test that the College Board manages. Most colleges in the US accept SAT scores as part of the admissions process. Most students take the SAT in 11th or 12th grade in preparation for college applications.

## TOEFL

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standardized test to measure the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities. TOEFL scores are accepted by universities worldwide but it is preferred by universities in the US.

## UCAS

UCAS stands for the University and Colleges Admissions Service, it provides a central application service for universities in the UK. UCAS opens each year in May for students to apply for the next academic year. A buzzword that is unique to DSC students is created by our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors that students need to link their application to DSC International School. A teacher reference and personal profile questions are required to complete the application. Good communication is required between the students and their advisor as the advisor will submit the student application once it is complete.

## UCAT

The University Clinical Aptitude Test is an admissions test used in the selection process by a consortium of universities in the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand for their medical and dental degree programs.

## Unifrog

Unifrog is an online platform that supports students Individual Pathways Planning. From Grade 7-12, all DSC students have access to the Unifrog platform which provides useful tools and curated resources for students to learn more about themselves, explore career opportunities, and set goals for the future.

## University Tracking Sheet

Potential graduates in Grade 12 are asked to complete a University Tracking Sheet. This document is shared with their Higher Education and Pathways Advisor and serves to track their university application process. It is a living document that tracks potential post-secondary applications, requirements, and eventually the student's final application and acceptances.



Visit our website for more  
useful information and links.

# Hong Kong

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- The University of Hong Kong
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

## OSSD Requirement for universities in Hong Kong

Minimum Requirement	The minimum entrance requirement ranges from 70-90% in six Grade 12 U/M courses.
Personal Essay / Statement	Required for most institutions.
English Proficiency	Minimum of 70% in English at the Grade 12 level from the Ontario curriculum is required for all institutions in Hong Kong except CUHK and HKU which require 80% or above.  Or, this may be satisfied by minimum English proficiency test scores from IELTS, TOEFL etc.
Second Language	Not required in general but may be program specific for some universities.  Proof of a second language is required by The University of Hong Kong.
Additional Requirements	Application Document Academic Transcript Letter of predicted grades Recommendation letters (1-2)





## Application Timeline\*

Deadline for first-round application	November
Deadline for regular round application	January
Offers announced	First Round: December/January Main Round: February – June

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- Students in Hong Kong should take advantage of University Open Days to explore the local campuses and speak to admissions representatives.
- A wide variety of summer programs are available to Grades 9-12 students that offer credit bearing courses which can be applied to a student's first year academic record.
- When possible, students are recommended to apply for the first round admissions as thereafter, applications may be accepted subject to availability of places. First round applicants may receive offers as early as January.
- Reference letters play an important role in the application process. When selecting a referee, be sure to select someone who can speak about your academic background and aptitude.



### Dylan Thein (2024 DSC Graduate)

I have been determined to learn about and work with computers since I was just 11 years old. Throughout my efforts to pursue this dream, the DSC Higher Education and Pathways advisors has given me invaluable support that I am truly grateful for. They helped me find an internship opportunity which has greatly strengthened my learning and passion for computing. I also received support in my course selection so that I could choose the best courses to fulfill the university requirements.

With all of this, I have secured offers to study Computer Science at the University of Hong Kong, as well as the University of Bristol and the University of Birmingham in the UK. I look forward to what the future holds for me, and will always be appreciative of the advisor's role in my success.



# United Kingdom

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- The University of Edinburgh
- King's College London
- The University of Manchester

## OSSD Requirement for universities in United Kingdom

<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	OSSD with an average of 70% in six Grade 12 U/M courses  Students with lower admission scores may apply to university programs in the UK with a Foundation Year.
<b>Personal Essay / Statement</b>	Required. Students will apply through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service).
<b>English Proficiency</b>	IELTS or equivalent. (IELTS 6.0 or 6.5 is the minimum overall score)
<b>Second Language</b>	Not required.
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	Application Document Academic Transcript Predicted grades (provided by the advisor through UCAS) Reference letter (academic focus)



## Application Timeline\*

Deadline for first-round application	May – September
Deadline for regular round application	September – January
Offers announced	January – May

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- Students will begin the application process by creating a UCAS profile that is linked to the DSC Higher Education and Pathways advisors.
- Students interested in studying medical programs in the UK need to write the UCAT Exam and need to be mindful of deadlines (May-September). A UCAS account is required to register for the UCAT.
- The personal statement is an important part of the application and provides the applicant an opportunity to explain their motivation for selecting the program and their future aspirations. A well written statement should emphasize academic achievements, subject specific knowledge and a clear interest in the selected program. Extracurricular activities and volunteer service in the personal statement are relevant if they relate to the academic profile and should focus on the learning skills gained from the experience. With the support of our guidance team, students can select extracurricular activities that will support their interests.



### Jack Gao (2024 DSC Graduate)

My interest in the sciences and medical field has grown since Grade 11, and this is when I have decided to study biomedical science for my university studies. The DSC Higher Education and Pathways Advisors provided me with exceptional support, especially for my application to UK universities. Since the very beginning, the advisors guided me through my application process by clearing up any confusion regarding admissions requirements, potential career opportunities, and the UCAS system. Not only that, the advisors also reviewed my personal statement and provided constructive feedback for me to better demonstrate my interest and personal growth toward the institutions. Their support made my last year of high school less stressful, allowing me to maintain a work-life balance. As a result, I have received offers from King's College London, the University of Manchester, the University of Warwick, the University of Birmingham, Newcastle University, and multiple other offers from universities in both Hong Kong and Canada. I am grateful and truly appreciate the hard work and support from the team of advisors in the past few years.

# Canada

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- The University of Toronto
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of Alberta

## OSSD Requirement for universities in Canada

<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	OSSD in six Grade 12 U/M courses Minimum entrance requirement ranges from 70-85%.
<b>Personal Essay / Statement</b>	May be required for Education programs only.
<b>English Proficiency</b>	English proficiency requirement may be waived if the student has been enrolled in a school with English medium of instruction for 3 or 4 years (varies across Canada).  Or, this may be satisfied by minimum English proficiency test scores from IELTS, TOEFL etc.
<b>Second Language</b>	Not required.
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	Application Documents Academic Transcript A supplemental application may be required for some programs such as Business/ Commerce, Engineering, and Education.





## Application Timeline\*

Deadline for first-round application	October – November
Deadline for regular round application	January (Ontario) November – March (Rest of Canada)
Offers announced	January – May

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- Each province and university in Canada will have subtly different admissions requirements.
- Students apply directly to a program rather than a faculty or department and select a major.
- Students will either apply through a centralized application system or directly to the institution. Examples of centralized application systems include:
  - Alberta-Apply Alberta
  - British Columbia-Education Planner
  - Ontario-Ontario Universities Application Center (OUAC)
- Application to Canadian universities should be made as early as possible as offers are given on a rolling basis.
- In Canada, entrance scholarships are available to both domestic and international students and will be automatically considered upon admission. Entrance scholarships are merit based.
- Professions such as medicine, dentistry or law are only offered at the postgraduate level, so in Canada, students should focus their undergraduate degree on major subjects that will help them be successful in a chosen professional field. Some pre-professional degree pathways are available such as Health Sciences.
- There are many excellent post-secondary options for study across Canada. Students should begin their research by exploring universities that have a strong reputation in your field of interest and explore their



### Megan Tan (2024 DSC Graduate)

I have been inspired to set foot in the business field for my future career since Grade 10. Realizing that the business industry consists of multiple streams ranging from marketing to quantitative finance, the DSC Higher Education and Pathway Advisors explained to me what it means to be in each of these streams, as well as researched and recommended great university programs in Canada, where I plan to continue on my future studies. The advisors also made the application process a lot more comfortable by providing first-hand information from various universities and keeping track of document deadlines. I have received offers to study Business and Finance from the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, McMaster University, and Wilfrid Laurier University.

# Australia

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Queensland

## OSSD Requirement for universities in Australia

Minimum Requirement	OSSD with an average of 70-90% in six Grade 12 U/M courses.
Personal Essay / Statement	Some universities may require a personal statement as part of the application process. (Non universal requirement).  Goals for chosen field and interest in the program.
English Proficiency	Completion of Grade 12 English (ENG4U) or TOEFL/IELTS etc. (Example, IELTS min. Overall 6.5 with no band lower than 6.0)
Second Language	Not required
Additional Requirements	Application Document Academic Transcript Letters of Recommendation (may be required)





## Application Timeline\*

Australia universities offer three intakes per year: **February, July, and November**, each with unique benefits and limitations. The major intakes in Australia are in February.

	February Entry (S1)	July Entry (S2)	November Entry (S3)
Deadline for regular round application	October – November	March – April	May – June
Offers announced	December – January	May – June	July – August

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- If a student visa is required, students should take into consideration the student visa application process as it can take from several weeks to several months. This is particularly important when considering which month of intake you would like to apply for. A DSC June graduate should apply for November or January intake.
- Applications for Australian universities can open up to 2 years in advance. The universities in Australia have strict deadlines so students can prepare their research in advance to ensure they are following the guidelines.
- Scholarships are available to international students. In most cases, an additional application should be submitted by the student. This opportunity should be taken advantage of.



### Ned Dela Pena (2024 DSC Graduate)

I have developed my confidence and a strong interest in becoming an organization leader since Grade 10. I have always wanted to pursue Business Management since it provides opportunities for me to develop my leadership skills. Having the Higher Education and Pathways Advisors helped me shape my future because it allowed me to ask the proper questions and get the answers I needed without feeling weighed down by doubts or concerns. They helped me receive offers from the University of Queensland, the University of Western Australia, Macquarie University, and La Trobe University. I'm overjoyed with the tremendous help I received from the advisors.

# China

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- Tsinghua University
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Donghua University

## OSSD Requirement for universities in China

<b>Minimum Requirement (International Admissions)</b>	Completion of the OSSD with high academic performance will be considered. Students should consider relevant subjects to support academic pursuit in a given subject area.
<b>Personal Essay / Statement</b>	Required for most institutions.
<b>English Proficiency</b>	IELTS/TOEFL scores may be required for English taught programs. Requirements may be waived for native English speakers.
<b>Second Language</b>	Chinese taught programs: HSK (Chinese proficiency test) Level 5 or above. Requirement may be waived for some English taught programs.
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	Application Document Academic Transcript Recommendation Letters (1-2) School Profile Certification of good physical and mental health Criminal conviction record may be required For students under the age of 18, a guardianship must be assigned.

## Application Timeline\*

<b>Deadline for first-round application</b>	October
<b>Deadline for regular round application</b>	November – March
<b>Offers announced</b>	First Round: December – January Main Round: February Late Round: March – June

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

# Macau

Macau has a unique cultural setting with its blend of eastern and western cultures providing an environment for both academic exploration and cultural immersion. Students can embrace the fusion of Chinese and Portuguese influences across the city through Macau's local cuisine and architectural landmarks. Macau is home to several public and private schools such as University of Macau and Macau University of Science and Technology, these colleges offer opportunity for international OSSD students to apply for direct admission upon the completion of 6 Grade 12 U/M courses with an overall minimum average of 70% or higher. Eligible students may be invited to complete English and Math examinations as well as program-specific examinations and interviews.

# Taiwan

Taiwan is an increasingly attractive destination for post secondary studies due to its affordable tuition, low cost of living and the rich cultural experience it can provide. Taiwan has an outstanding higher education system with many world class universities, such as National Taiwan University and the National Tsing Hua University, offering opportunities to study English taught degrees across many subject areas. An increasing number of English programs are being offered to attract international students along with an increasing number of scholarships. DSC students can apply to universities in Taiwan with completion of the OSSD and evidence of English language proficiency demonstrated through IELTS, TOEFL or other. Applicants should also be prepared to complete a personal statement, provide reference letters and meet subject specific academic requirements.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- Top universities in China that accept the OSSD include: Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University.
- Carefully review the admission requirements for each university as they may vary.
- Students with Chinese Nationality will apply under a local application scheme and are advised to check with the university regarding completion of the Gaokao entrance exam and additional requirements.



# Japan

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- Keio University
- Waseda University
- International Christian University

## OSSD Requirement for universities in Japan

<b>Minimum Requirement (International Admissions)</b>	<p>Each university or program has their own requirements.</p> <p>Generally, an OSSD with an average of 80% in six Grade 12 U/M courses is recommended.</p> <p>Some institutions may additionally require SAT's (program specific).</p>
<b>Personal Essay / Statement</b>	<p>Required</p>
<b>English Proficiency</b>	<p>May be required by some institutions. Example: IELTS 6.0</p>
<b>Second Language</b>	<p>Japanese language proficiency is not typically required for English-taught degree programs.</p> <p>Examination for Japanese University Admissions (EJU) is required for international students wishing to study at Japanese language institutions.</p>
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	<p>Application Document Academic Transcript School profile Letter of projected graduation Letter of predicted grades Reference Letter/Evaluation</p>





## Application Timeline\*

For some universities in Japan, two admissions intakes are available based on the programs.

	April Entry (mostly for Japanese-taught degree program)	September Entry (mostly for English-taught degree programs)
Deadline for regular round application	June – September	January – March
Offers announced	October - December	Vary

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- The academic year in Japan begins in April with the first semester from April-August and the second semester from September-March. However, many English taught undergraduate programs begin in September.
- Understand the application process. Japanese universities have different entrance examination systems within the university to select international applicants with different abilities and qualities. Usually each institution has a comprehensive application guide that outlines the application process and documents required.
- There are many opportunities to study in Japan in both English taught and Japanese taught programs. Students should consider taking Japanese language courses to enrich their experience of living and studying in Japan, even if they are not required by the university.

### Yuito Kanai (2024 DSC Graduate)



I have had the privilege of being a part of DSC community since Grade 1. The best part of the Higher Education and Pathways Advising support at DSC is that they adapt to unique individual circumstances. In my case, I aspired to pursue my football career and had flexible options for which country to go to after graduating from high school, however, I was uncertain about which country exactly. The advisors had given me advice for future career planning. Growing up as a Japanese away from Japan in an international environment, the post-secondary stage would be the last chance for me to experience Japan as a student, so with further consideration, I have decided to attend universities in Japan.

Japanese University application is complex compared to where many of my peers are going to, such as Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, etc. Scheduling applications, collecting documents, and creating personal statements for some universities was a lot of work especially when the deadline overlapped with the assignments and exams. Through the great support from the advisors, I was able to prepare in advance with confidence, which led to the successful acceptance from Keio University in Japan.



# United States

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- Columbia University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego

## OSSD Requirement for universities in United States

<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	OSSD with an average of 70% in six Grade 12 U/M courses.  SAT or ACT may be required. Students are recommended to check if their school is SAT/ACT Optional.
<b>Personal Essay / Statement</b>	May be required. Both the Common Application and Coalition for College Application will provide an essay prompt for students to reply to.
<b>English Proficiency</b>	SAT or IELTS
<b>Second Language</b>	Not required
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	Application Document Academic Transcript Recommendation Letters 1-3 (academic and personal qualities) Supplemental essays may be required by some universities (motivation to study program/at the institution)



## Application Timeline\*

Deadline for first-round application	November
Deadline for regular round application	January
Offers announced	February - April

\*Each university application timeline may vary, please refer to university website and publication for details.

## TIPS by DSC Advisors

- In the United States, students can choose from private or public universities or liberal arts colleges. Private institutions tend to be smaller, have less choice of programs and fees are higher when compared to public institutions that have a wider range of programs and lower tuition rates.
- When required, register for your SAT and/or ACT tests early. Spaces for these tests fill up quickly. SAT and ACT should be written in the summer before a student begins Grade 12.
- Professions such as medicine or law are only offered at the postgraduate level, so in the US, students should focus their undergraduate degree on major subjects that will help them be successful in a chosen professional field.
- Did you know you can apply to universities under Early Decision and Early Action? Early Decision (ED) is binding, you may only apply to one university via early decision and, should you receive an offer, you are legally obliged to attend that university. Early Action application is not binding, students simply receive an early response from the university.
- The personal essay written for US applications provides more opportunity for the applicant to share personal experiences, extracurricular activities and interests in a manner that showcases their overall character. The essay is less focused on academic interest and achievement and should demonstrate the applicant's personal growth and capacity for leadership and community engagement.

# Europe | European Union

## Top 3 university offers received by DSC graduates

- University of Amsterdam
- Leiden University
- University College Dublin

Europe provides a vast array of opportunities for students to study at institutions renowned for their high academic standards and quality education. A majority of universities are state/public universities, and offer 2 tier tuition fees for EEA/EU Passport holders, and international students. Across the continent, students will find a diverse range of undergraduate programs across a variety of disciplines. Beyond the academic opportunities Europe provides, students will have the opportunity to study in a multicultural environment, learn or improve language skills, and explore the rich history, diverse landscapes and vibrant cities that European countries have to offer.

The admissions requirements will vary between universities and programs in each country, therefore it is advisable to speak to a an advisor and visit the official university websites or contact the university admissions office for the most up to date information. Numerous students have applied and been accepted to universities across Europe that may not be listed below. Entrance exam may be required for some universities. For more information about European university applications, please contact the Higher Education and Pathways advisors.

### Germany

Tuition is free for international students at most public universities, so it makes studying in Germany an excellent option. The OSSD is accepted for admission in Germany if the student has met the following conditions:

- Completion of at least 12 credits between Grade 11 and 12 with a minimum of 6 credits at the Grade 12 4U/M level. A minimum average of 65% is required in these 6 courses.
- The subject and grade overview of the above must include (with at least two annual courses each):
- Two languages (i.e English + one foreign language)
- One credit from Advanced Functions or Calculus and Vectors
- One credit from Chemistry, Biology or Physics
- One additional subject corresponding to the upper classes of secondary school in Germany

Applicants who do not meet the above subject and grade profile will qualify for a general admission to preparatory course to meet the university qualification entrance exam.

Many universities in Germany will require students to apply via the uni-assist platform.

Please visit [www.uni-assist.de/en](http://www.uni-assist.de/en) for more information.

### Ireland

Admission requirements vary widely by university and program. Applicants with an OSSD are required to have at least 6 Grade 12 U/M courses, including Grade 12 English and minimum average score of 65% average and above. The minimum average score may be higher and applicants should check subject specific grade requirements. Competitive schools may require an average of 85% or above. The English Language requirement can be met with proficiency tests such as IELTS or TOEFL. Applicants to Irish post-secondary study will either apply directly to the institution or through the Central Applications Office (EU, Switzerland, UK passport holders). The applications open from September/October and students have a higher chance of receiving offers if they apply early, often within 3-4 weeks of application. Ireland provides exciting opportunities for students interested in studying medicine, offering students direct access to 6 year programs with the OSSD and no supplementary examinations.

## Italy

Students can apply for post secondary education in Italy with successful completion of the OSSD. Italian language proficiency may be required and can be met through completion of the CILS (Certificazione di Italiano come Lingua Straniera) or CELI (Certificato di Conoscenza della Lingua Italiana). Additional entrance exams specific to the program of application and a personal statement expressing interest in studying a specific program could be required. Applicants are advised to check the requirements of individual universities carefully. Generally a pre-application request is required and should be sent to the Italian embassy or consulate in the country of residence.

## Netherlands

University admission requirements are quite consistent across programs and institutions in the Netherlands, however it is always best to confirm with each institution before applying. Universities in the Netherlands require applicants to apply through Studielink ([www.studielinke.nl](http://www.studielinke.nl)), a centralized platform for enrollment where students can apply to up to four programs. For information about individual application procedures and admissions requirements, applicants are advised to visit the university website.

The minimum admission requirement is completion of the OSSD with at least 6 relevant academic Grade 12 U/M courses and minimum scores of 70% in each subject. Recommended accepted subjects include: Languages (e.g. English, French, Spanish), Sciences (e.g. Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry) and Humanities/Social Sciences (History, Geography, Economics). Applicants should consider subject specific requirements and minimum scores that may be required. International applicants applying to English taught programs usually require IELTS or TOEFL to meet the English language requirement but exemptions may be given if the applicant has studied under English medium of instruction for a set period of time.

## Switzerland

Switzerland offers a number of publicly funded post secondary education pathways at research focused universities, applied science and arts institutions, and those specializing in teacher education. Studying in Switzerland provides students the opportunity to learn Italian, German or French, depending on the region of study. Swiss universities will accept the OSSD with the completion of six Grade 12 U/M general education courses. In addition, students should complete 6 general education subjects from the list below in both grades 10 and 11:

- First language (native language)
- Second language
- Mathematics
- Natural sciences (biology, chemistry or physics)
- Humanities and social sciences (geography, history or economics/law)
- Elective (one subject from category 2, 4 or 5 or computer science or philosophy. Computer science and philosophy can only be chosen as a sixth subject)

Entrance examinations may be required by some universities so students are advised to check individual university admission requirements.





## Higher Education and Pathways

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