



Navigating Grade 11: A Guide to Success and Post-Secondary Planning

Grade 11 is one of the most critical periods for students to focus on academic excellence and explore post-secondary options because it is the year before students begin sending in their completed university applications. This year carries a lot of weight and is a time for self-reflection, where students evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and pave the way for informed decisions about their future. This article provides valuable tips and guidance to help grade 11 students make the most of their academic year and effectively plan for life after LAS.

Academic Empowerment

Achieving academic success now lays a strong foundation for future endeavors. Universities place a greater emphasis on academic grades from grade 11 since the courses are usually considered more challenging than in previous years. Therefore, these grades are often used as a main indicator by admission reps of the potential success of an applicant in a rigorous university setting. Alongside regular coursework, students should take advantage of a weekly Student Success course designed to enhance their learning skills and personal growth. Additionally, our school provides access to MaiaLearning, an online career and university program that is a valuable resource for students to research and explore various post-secondary options. Students applying to universities in the UK can utilize the UCAS course search tool, while those interested in Dutch universities should refer to Study in Holland for comprehensive information.

Individualized Guidance

Each student will have the opportunity to meet individually with a dedicated LAS university advisor. These meetings are instrumental in navigating the application process, discussing potential countries for study, creating a university consideration list, and developing strategies for application essays and personal statements. Students will also receive guidance on formulating a testing plan, if necessary, to ensure they are well-prepared for required exams.



Exam Preparation

To prepare for future standardized tests, students have the option to take the PSAT exam in October. This serves as excellent practice for those planning to take the SAT in March. Although many universities have remained test-optional since COVID-19 times, students should talk to their LAS university advisor regarding whether or not they should take the SAT exam. Additionally, students holding a passport from a non-English speaking country are encouraged to take the IELTS exam to demonstrate English proficiency, an important requirement for many universities.

Building Relationships

Students should consider the significance of building strong relationships with their teachers. These connections can lead to impactful letters of recommendation, which are essential for university applications. Engaging actively in class, seeking guidance, and demonstrating enthusiasm for learning are effective ways to foster these relationships.

University Exploration

Actively participating in university visits at LAS or attending virtual presentations provides students with invaluable insights into different institutions. These events allow students to explore campus environments, understand admission requirements, and gain a clearer understanding of potential programs of interest. It is an opportunity to gather first-hand knowledge and make informed decisions about future educational paths.

Extracurricular Involvement

Maintaining a commitment to extracurricular activities is highly encouraged during the junior year. Active participation in clubs, sports, or community service not only enriches students' high school experiences but also demonstrates their dedication, leadership skills, and passion outside the classroom. Admissions committees often value well-rounded individuals who showcase a variety of interests and experiences.

Student Success Class

Students should make the most of the weekly Student Success class hosted by the university advisors. Attending these sessions and actively engaging in discussions will provide valuable insights into post-LAS (post-high school) plans, application strategies, and essential skills for a successful transition to university. Taking advantage of this dedicated time ensures students stay on track and receive guidance tailored to their unique aspirations.



The Power of Research

Research is crucial for students to stay informed about university entry requirements, application deadlines, and necessary documents. Students are encouraged to utilize the resources available in MaiaLearning, where they can find a wealth of information and useful links under the Resource tab. Thorough research enables students to make well-informed decisions and increases their chances of securing admission to one or more of their desired institutions.

Grade 11 is a transformative period that lays the groundwork for future success. By focusing on academic excellence, engaging in meaningful extracurricular activities, and leveraging the guidance of our university advisors and online platforms like MaiaLearning, students can embark on a journey of self-discovery and confidently pursue their post-secondary aspirations. Embracing the opportunities and resources available will undoubtedly make the junior year a pivotal stepping stone toward a fulfilling and prosperous future. Finally, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the LAS university advisors at universityadvising@las.ch.