

The background image shows a classroom or computer lab setting. In the foreground, a student's hand is visible using a computer mouse. Several other students are seated at desks with laptops, some wearing face masks. A red pencil case is on a desk. The scene is brightly lit with overhead fluorescent lights.

DSA Information Session



DSA

01

What is DSA

02

Timeline of events

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DSA Conditions

What is DSA?

Direct School Admission (DSA)



Early placement

Secure a place before everyone else

Students can apply for and receive conditional offers for admission to the school they want

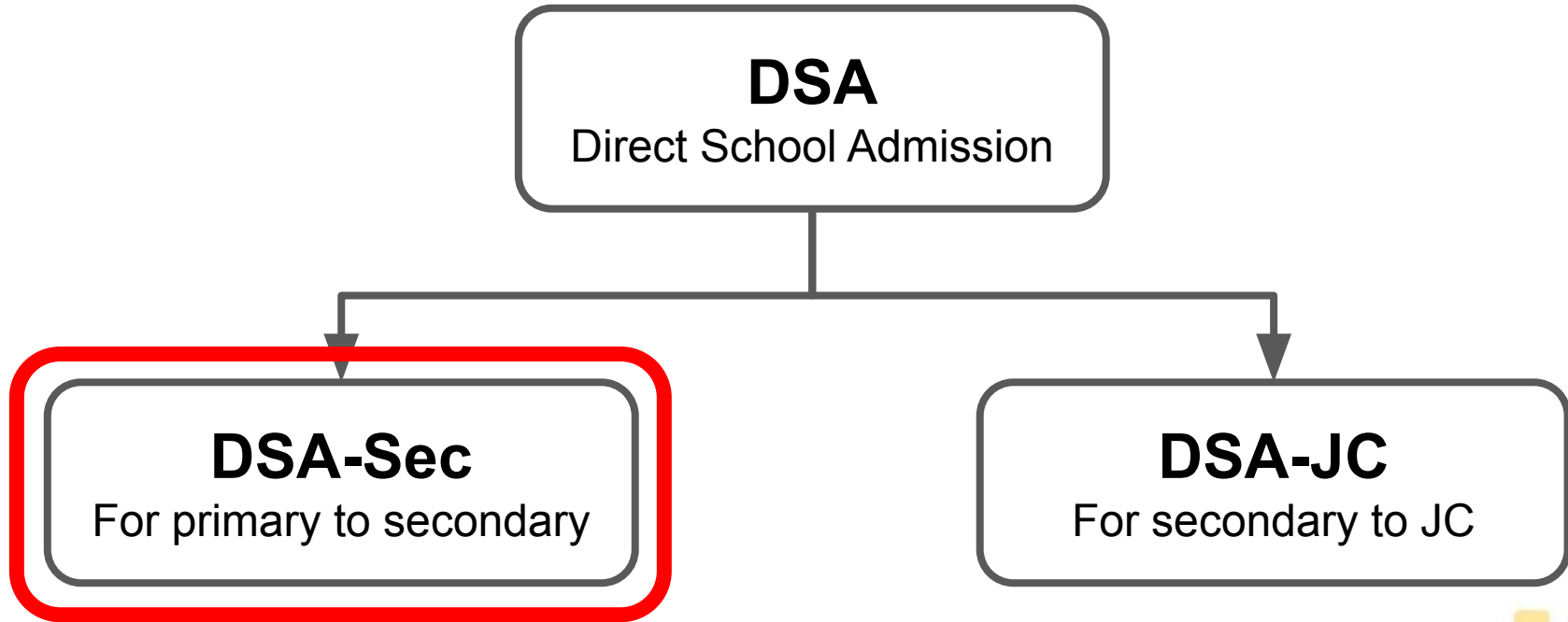


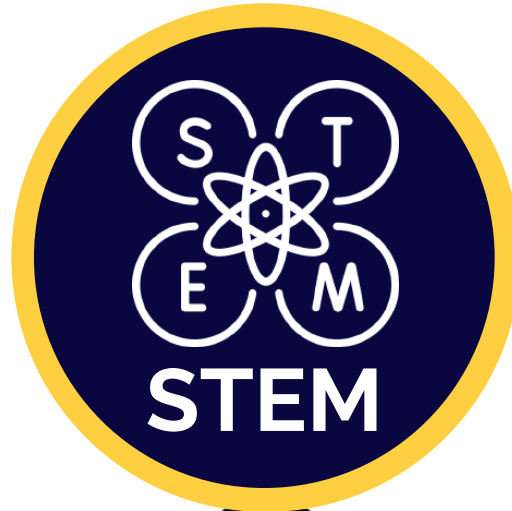
Talents

Aptitude-based admissions

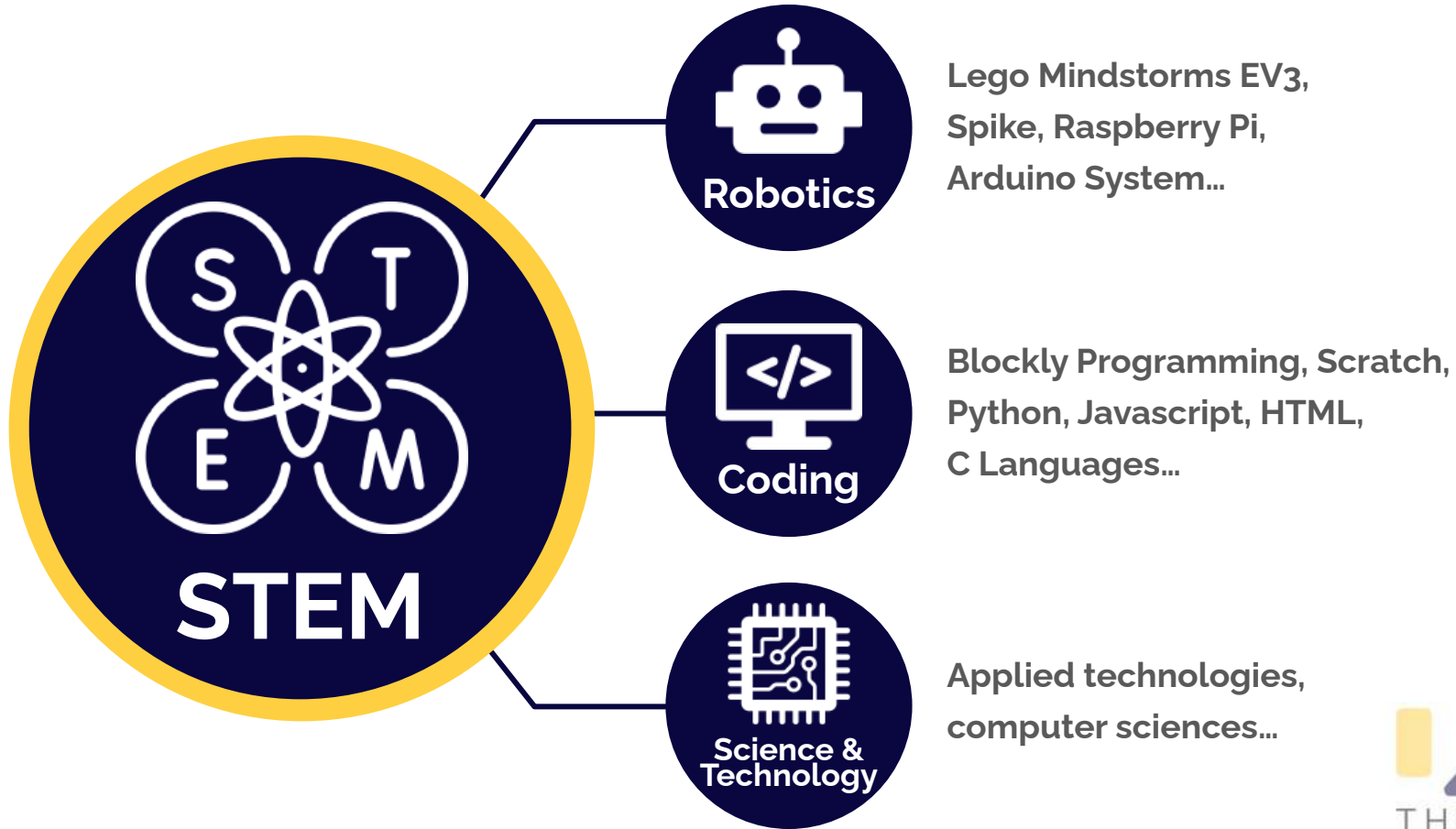
Schools will select and admit students based on their talents, aptitudes and interests

What is DSA?






*Not all fields are listed




*Not all fields are listed

MOE School Finder


 MOE
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/schoolfinder/journey=Seco...>

SchoolFinder

Explore schools based on their distance from your home, locations, CCAs, subjects and programmes offered.


 Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

Education levels ▾ Financial matters ▾ Education in SG ▾ News Careers About MOE



MOE > SCHOOLFINDER >

Last Updated: 30 May 2022


 [How to use SchoolFinder](#)

SchoolFinder

Explore schools based on their distance from your home, locations, CCAs, subjects and programmes offered.

Secondary ▾

Search for a school or keywords e.g. "Admiralty" or "football"

 **SEARCH**

STEM / Coding / Infocom School choices



Pei Hwa Sec



Admiralty Sec



Broadrick Sec



Ngee Ann Sec



Commonwealth Sec



Beatty Sec



Dunman Sec



Gan Eng Seng



Presbyterian High



Hwa Chong



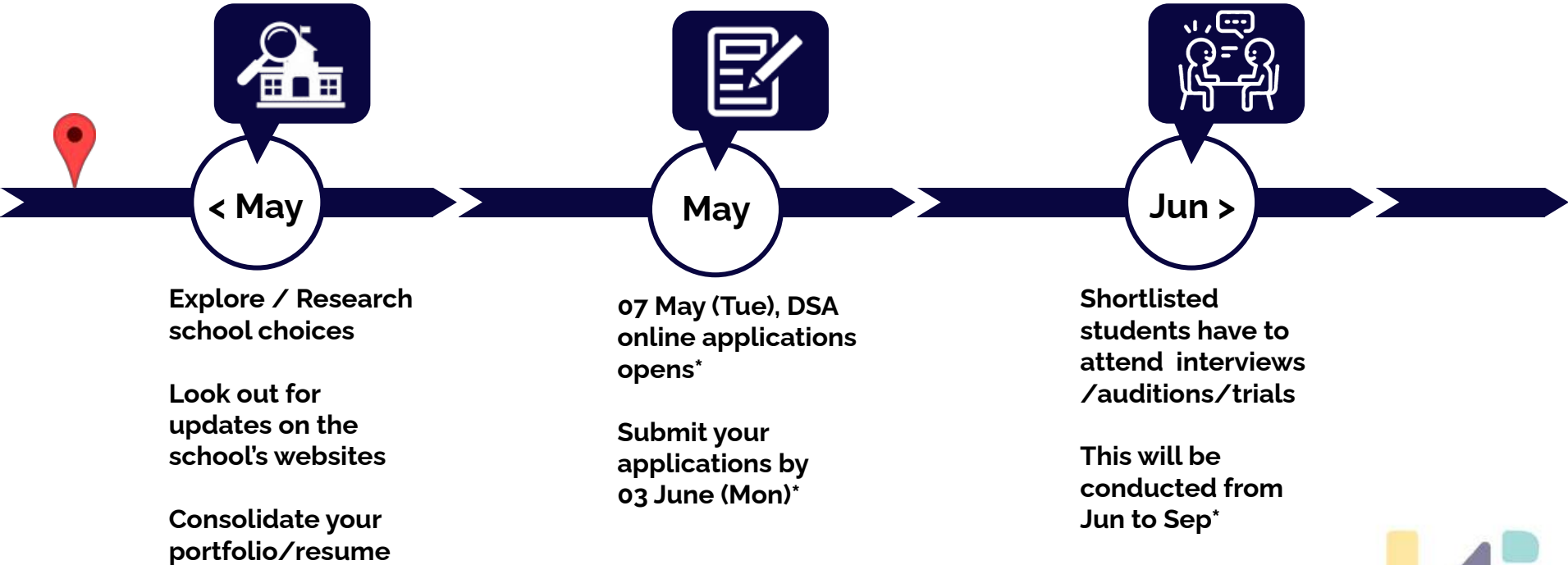
Yusof Ishak Sec



*Data is based on 2024's census

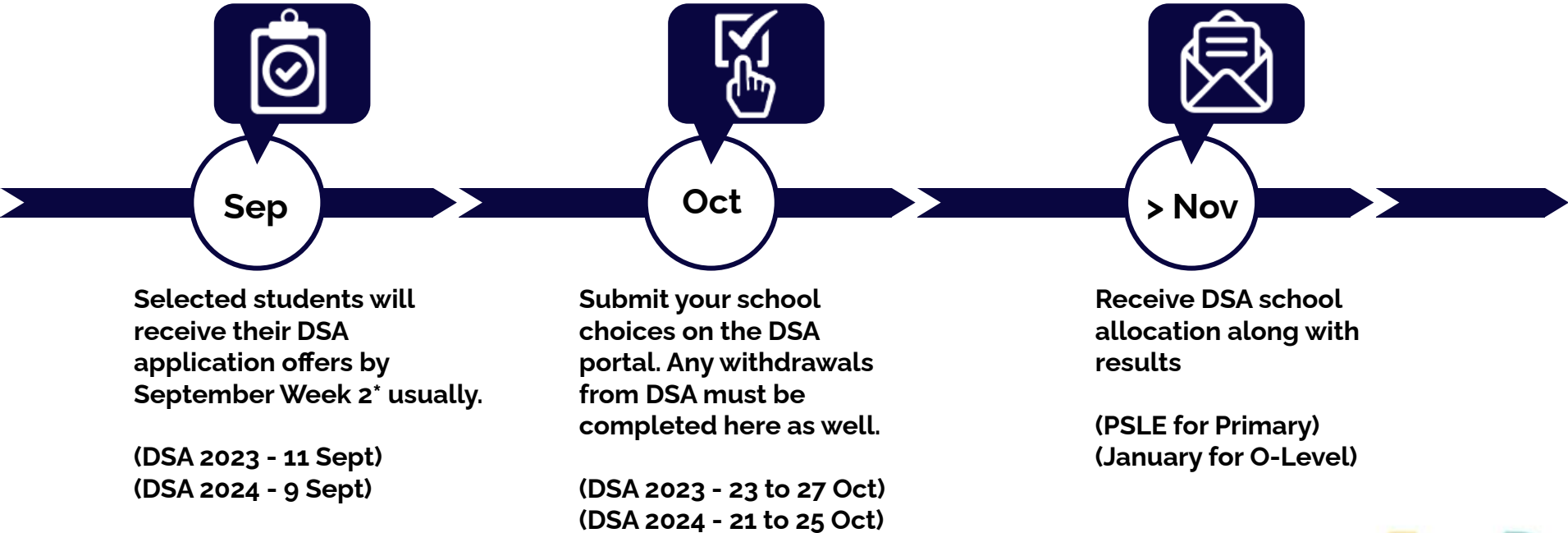
*Not all schools from the MOE database are listed

DSA Timeline



* As dates may vary each year, use this timeline as a rough estimate
** Current timeline is based on MOE's timeline for 2024's DSA exercise

DSA Timeline



* As **dates may vary each year**, use this timeline as a rough estimate
** Current timeline is based on **MOE's timeline for 2024's DSA**

What to prepare

Schools will be looking for students that will nurture their talent in their specialised programmes, carry the school name and fit into the school's culture.



Portfolio

A compilation of past works



Write-ups

Share more about yourself



Testimonials

Track records and insights

Portfolio

Each school will have their own specific criterias that applying students should meet to have a better chance of being shortlisted.

Pei Hwa Secondary School's criteria

Criteria

Applicants should have:

- Talent/experience in:
 - Mindstorms EV3, SPIKE Prime
 - Robocup CoSpace Programming
 - FIRST Tech Challenge
 - Vex Robotics System
 - Arduino System
 - micro:bit microcontroller system
 - C/C++/Java/Python Programming
 - Python Programming
 - Any other programming languages
- Participated in CCA, national or/and international robotics competitions, showcasing and projects.
- An e-portfolio to showcase their work. Shortlisted applicants will be informed about the method of submission.

Note:

1. Applicants who do not have prior experience may also apply. The school will assess applicants based on the selection criteria, which may include assessing the potential of the applicants.
2. Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the applicant will be shortlisted/given an offer.

Ngee Ann Secondary School's criteria

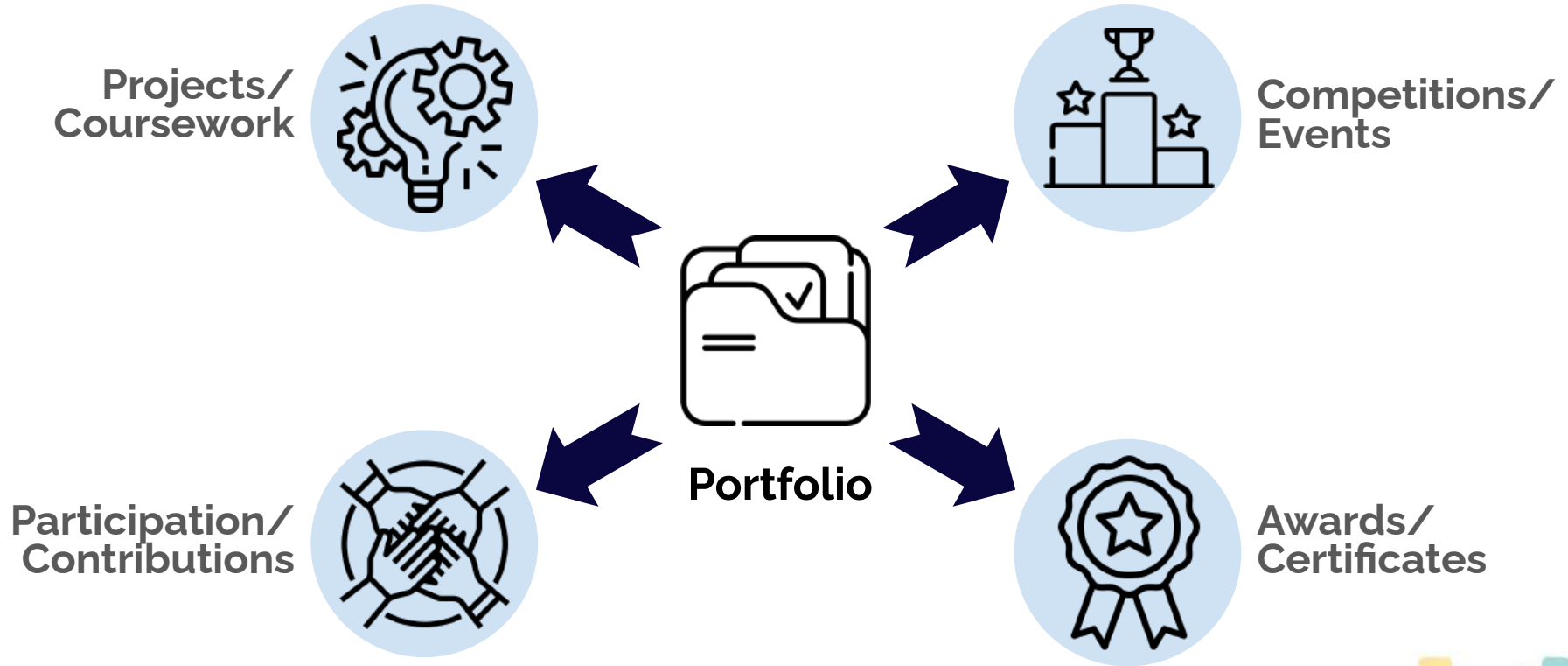
In general, all potential students must:

- Demonstrate strong passion for, as well as motivation in the respective talent areas;
- Demonstrate commitment, perseverance and resilience in their talent area endeavour;
- Consistently displays exemplary character traits with minimum conduct grade of "Very Good".

In addition, each talent areas will have their own shortlisting criteria:

#	DSA-Sec Talents	Shortlisting Criteria
---	-----------------	-----------------------

- | | | |
|---|--------|--|
| 1 | Coding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Displays strong computational-thinking skills and passion in coding/robotics but no specific requirement to be trained in any coding language.• Has participated in local or international coding-related competitions (e.g. National Junior Robotics Competition, First LEGO League, National Robopreneur Carnival).• Good to support with, if any, (a) portfolio of coding-related projects and or (b) relevant certificates and achievements. |
|---|--------|--|



**Highly recommended to
start building as soon as possible!**



External Events



National Robotics Competition
Preschool Category



Coding
Olympics for
Lower Primary



National Robotics Competition –
CoderZ Coding Challenge for Primary
and Secondary



Coding
Olympics for
Higher Primary



Canadian
Computing
Competition



CodeQuest by
IMDA

Core Programs

Kinder Foundation and Kinder

- Kinder Foundation
Term 1 – 2 Projects /
Presentations
- Kinder Term 1 – 4
Projects /
Presentations

Junior Foundation and Junior

- Junior Foundation Term
1 – 2 Projects /
Presentations
- Junior Term 1 – 4
Projects /
Presentations

Coder Foundation and Coder

- Basic Lvl 1 Project
- Basic Lvl 2 Project
- Intermediate Lvl Project
- Advanced Project – Tic
Tac Toe Game
- Advanced Project –
Map

The Lab X Unity

- Platformer Game
- Skill Arcade Game
- Racing Game
- Predator Arcade Game
- Shooting Game
- First Person Shooter
Game
- Strategy Game

Holiday
Programs



Holiday Camps
<Each workshop is a project/portfolio itself.>

Internal
Events



Monthly Best
Project Award



Monthly Best
Project Award



Monthly Fastest
Coder and Best
Project Awards



The Lab Thinkers Competition for Kinder, Junior and Coders.
Winners will move on to the Singapore Science Buskers

Others



The Lab Volunteer Program for Character
Development



The Lab Instructor Assistant
Program

Legend:



External
Competitions



Internal
Competitions



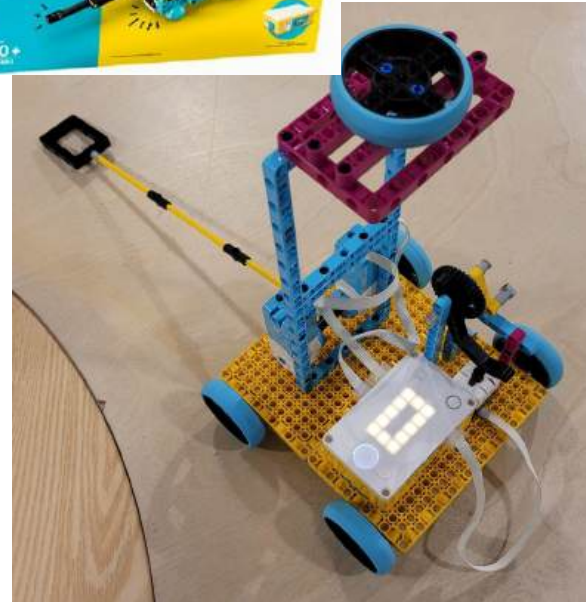
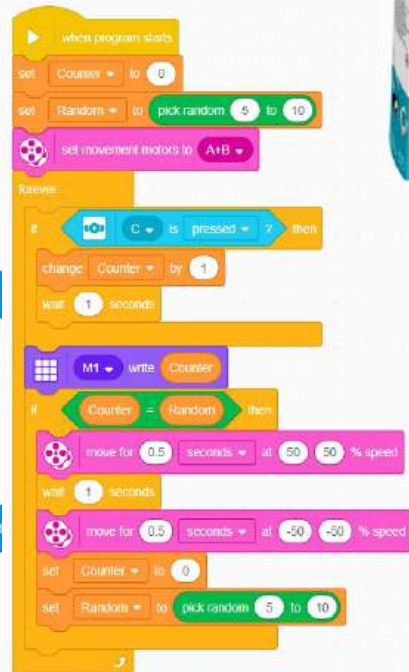
Other Programs



Build Your DSA Portfolio now!



Portfolio (Junior)





Portfolio (Advance)

```
main.py | Console | Shell
main.py
1 - def printList(lists):
2 -     for r in range(len(lists)):
3 -         print(*lists[r],sep=" ")
4 - def change(lists,symbol):
5 -     for row in range(a-1,a+2,1):
6 -         for col in range(b-1,b+2,1):
7 -             if row >= 0 and row <= 5:
8 -                 if col >= 0 and col <= 5:
9 -                     if lists[row][col] != "x":
10 -                         lists[row][col] += 1
11 -             lists[a][b] = symbol
12 -     return lists
13 - mylist = []
14 - pat = "*"
15 - for row in range(6):
16 -     innerlist = []
17 -     for col in range(6):
```

```
main.py
1 word = []
2 number = []
3 Alllogic = ['what is','is a number','is a word']
4 while True:
5     Input = list(input('Input: ').split())
6     Input = [s.replace(' ','') for s in Input]
7     Input = ' '.join(Input).split()
8     if Input[0] == 'end':
9         break
10    elif Input[0] + ' ' + Input[1] == Alllogic[0]:
11        if Input[2] in number:
12            print('number')
13        elif Input[2] in word:
14            print('word')
15    else:
16        substring = any(Input[2] in string for string in word)
17        substringALT = any(string in Input[2] for string in
18        word)
19        subno = any(Input[2] in string for string in number)
```

```
main.py | Console | Shell
main.py
255 print("Invalid")
256
257 pen.penup()
258 x,y = keypoint[position]
259 pen.goto(x,y)
260 pen.color("black")
261 pen.pensize(2)
262 pen.pendown()
263 draw()
264 keypoint.pop(position)
265 position.append(position)
266 count += 1
267 if count == 4:
268     win = check(position,ALT)
269     if win == "win":
270         winner = "P"
271         break
272 if winner == "P":
273     print("Player 1 Wins!")
274 elif winner == "O":
275     print("Player 2 Wins!")
276 else:
277     print("It's a Tie!")
278
279 @staticmethod
280 board()
281 game()
```

```
main.py | Console | Shell
main.py
71 if index != -1:
72     g_XPosList.pop(index)
73
74 @staticmethod
75 def Main():
76     #Setting up the few
77     grid = Field()
78     roamer = Roamer(g_roamerStartPos[0],
79     g_roamerStartPos[1], g_RoamerSymbol)
80     hunter = Hunter(g_hunterStartPos[0],
81     g_hunterStartPos[1], g_HunterSymbol)
82     grid.CreateField(g_gridX, g_gridY)
83     grid.InitialiseFieldX()
84     roamer.InsertCharacter(grid)
85     hunter.InsertCharacter(grid)
86     grid.Display()
```

Certificates and Awards





Events, Workshops and Competitions

DSA Supplement Programs



<https://www.thelab.sg/the-lab-program/dsaprogram/>

Competitions





Competition schedule

Competition Dates	Competition Title	Remarks
Feb	The Canadian Computing Competition	
Mar	Code Quest - Lockheed Martin	
Apr	National Code & Robotics Competition 2025	
May	Hwa Chong Infocomm Challenge	Primary 6 only
Aug	Coding Olympics	
Aug	NRC Preschool	
Aug	NRC CoSpaces Coding Challenge	

* Dates are based on **2024**. Subject to changes



Non-academic contributions



Sunshine Friday at Teck Ghee



Christmas with Econ Healthcare



GlyphCommunity holiday camp

Portfolio tips

It is important to show the school that you are skilled and passionate in your talent!



Certifications

Mastery and Achievements

**Proof that you are good and have
what it takes**



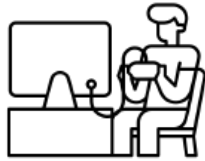
Relevancy

Show the important stuff first

**Prioritise and show what the
school is looking for**

Portfolio tips

Schools also look at the student's growth and development in the subject over time. This shows the student's potential in being able to grow further and become an asset to the school.



Passion & Interests

Complimentary hobbies and projects

Showcases personal skill in
research and development



Journaling

The learning journey and progress

Highlights their passions and helps
build personality



Examples



miniLiew

A geeky dad blog about his gadgets, his sons and family, his opinions, and lots of fun stuffs.

Home About



Malaysian (Singapore PR) Renew Passport in UTC Johor



Golf – My Eagle Attempt



Jay Can Cook – Sous Vide The Beef Rump & The Tobiko Angel Hair



Search ...

Blog Stats

• 384,755 hits

My Recent MiniLiew Posts

- [Malaysian \(Singapore PR\) Renew Passport in UTC Johor](#) February 27, 2023

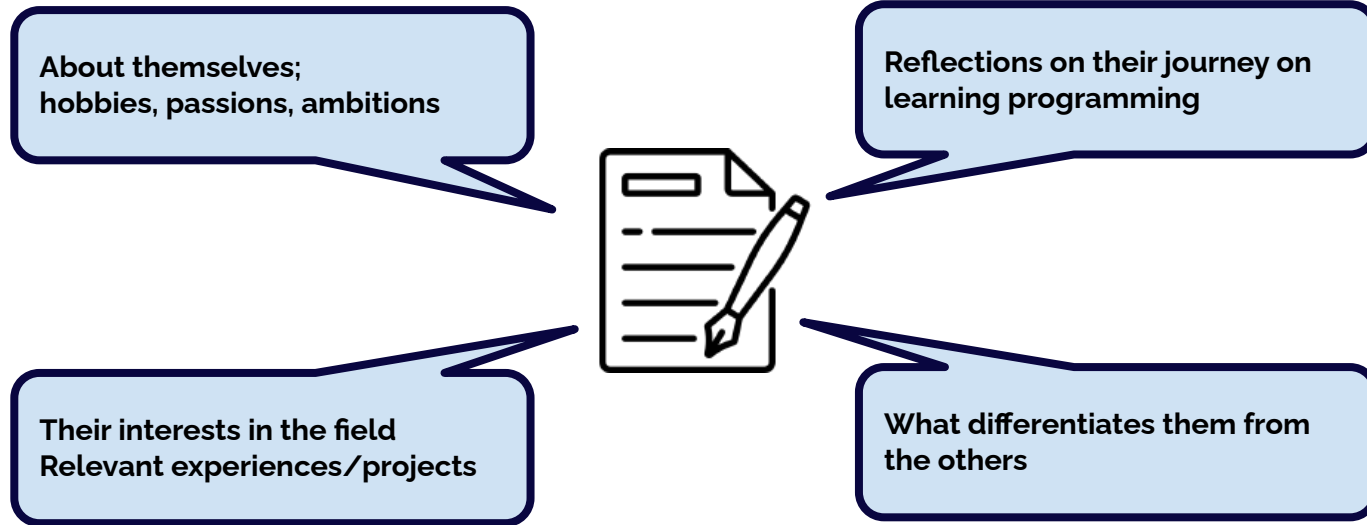


SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Gadget – 52Pi New Ice Tower Cooler for Raspberry Pi 4

Write-ups

Some schools will require the students to submit a brief essay together with their applications and/or portfolios.





Write-up tips

01

Stay within the word limit and to the point.
Some schools might specify what to write.

02

Some schools may want students to write their essay.
Legibility and penmanship will be important.

03

The write-up should be in present tense because
it should be something the student is still interested in.

04

Research the school's history, motto, strengths and
achievements.

05

Start writing it early so that there is time to edit and refine it.

Testimonials

This helps provide the schools more insight about the applying student. Do note that not all schools entertain testimonials.

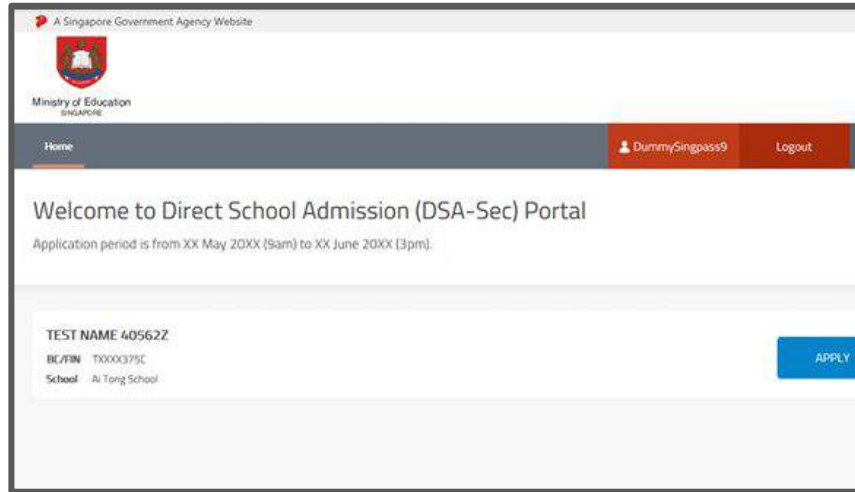
These testimonials can come from the student's school and/or from us.

If you require a testimonial from us, do email a request to contact@thelab.sg at least 2 weeks ahead of time.



Application

As the date nears the DSA application period, updated information and the application portal will be published on the MOE and school sites.



The screenshot shows the DSA-Sec Portal interface. At the top, it says "A Singapore Government Agency Website" and features the Ministry of Education Singapore logo. Below the logo is a navigation bar with "Home" and a user profile section showing "DummySingpass9" and a "Logout" button. The main content area displays "Welcome to Direct School Admission (DSA-Sec) Portal" and the application period: "Application period is from XX May 20XX (9am) to XX June 20XX (3pm)". Below this, there is a form with the following details: "TEST NAME 40562Z", "IC/FIN: TXXXX375C", and "School: Ai Tong School". A blue "APPLY" button is located to the right of the form.

Login into the DSA Portal and submit your application before the deadline. You can update, withdraw and resubmit during this period.

Application

Use the provided application template to consolidate all necessary materials before starting the actual online application.

2022 DSA-Sec Template for Applicants studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use English language only.

You will need to fill in the following information for the DSA-Sec application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Non-school based Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section III	Contact Details

Name of Child	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)†

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school, for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

Talent	School	Select Programme (If applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference

Section II: Non-school-based Awards/Activities (Optional)

Application

Select up to 3 choices and 3 talent areas. You may indicate up to 2 talent areas for the same school.

TEST NAME 40562Z

BC/FIN TXXX375C

School Ai Tong School

Talent(s) and School(s)

Non-school based Awards/Activities

Contact Details

Review and Submit

View Application

Talent(s) and School(s)

TALENT(S)	SCHOOL(S)	SELECTED PROGRAMME (If applicable)
Basketball	Assumption English School	-
Basketball	Catholic High School	No Preference
Bilingual	Catholic High School	Integrated Programme

Non-school based Awards/Activities

PERIOD(S)	AWARD/ACTIVITY NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
05/2018 - 06/2018	Speak Mandarin Campaign Talent Competition 2018	4th prize for Category C Family with eldest child between Primary 3 and 6.
06/2017 - Present	ABC Junior Basketball Club	Trained as a junior member since 2017.

Application

For students in non-mainstream schools applying for DSA:

1. Additional steps need to be completed before applying.
(Registration number, etc)
2. Application template requires more details
(Mainstream schools will automatically share information between schools)

For more details, <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/application> has the step-by-step application process for both Mainstream and Non-mainstream schools.

2022 DSA-Sec
Template for Applicants studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use **English language** only.

You will need to fill in the following information for the DSA-Sec application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Non-school based Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section III	Contact Details

Name of Child	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school, for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

Talent	School	Select Programme (if applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference

Section II: Non-school-based Awards/Activities (Optional)

2022 DSA-Sec
Template for Applicants Not Studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use **English language** only.

You will need to fill in the following information for this DSA application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Academic Information
Section III	Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section IV	Contact Details

Name of Child	
RG Number	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

Talent	School	Select Programme (if applicable) (please choose one only)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme

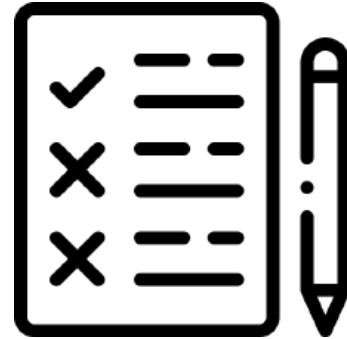
Shortlisting

Schools will shortlist students based on their own selection criterias.

If selected, students can expect to attend some of the following(s):

(Can be a combination of any)

- Aptitude tests/Trials
- Auditions
- Interviews



Shortlisting - Aptitude tests/Trials



Selection Process for DSA (STEM)

- Shortlisted applicants who meet the criteria will be invited for an interview and a hands-on trial (subject to prevailing SMM).
- After the interview, we will conduct a final round of selection before confirming our candidates.



Selection Process and Criteria

The selection process will involve **an interview and a selection test** which requires applicants to attempt a **programming task**.

Criteria	Weighting
Level of Experience & Exposure as a Programmer	20%
E-Portfolio (Evidence of Students' existing work from School-Based Activities)	20%
Interview	30%
Selection Test	30%

DSA-SEC Selection Process and Key Dates

Part One: Selection Process

All shortlisted students will be invited to the school for a selection test, an audition or trials. Students will be assessed on their ability to play the game or instrument, as well as their potential. Do note that you only need to attend ONE of these selection tests.

Students should come prepared with their instrument, equipment and/or sports attire or school uniform. They should report to the school's general office, and will be directed to the respective venues.

Selection tests, auditions and trials details (usually first two weeks of July; exact details to be confirmed):

Talent Area	Date (Day)	Time	Venue
Coding	30 Jun (Thu)	3.30 to 4.30pm	Computer Lab 1
	05 Jul (Tue)	3.30 to 4.30pm	SR7 Classroom

Coding

- (i) Applicants are expected to do a Multiple-Choice Question test which assesses aptitude in computational thinking skills. Programming language will not be assessed.

Part Two: Interview

Successful applicants from the selection process will be required to attend an interview session.

Dates: Last week of July and first week of August (To be confirmed)
Venue: Ngee Ann Secondary School Conference Room
Time: From 3 pm onwards

Interviews

Usually a face to face interview with the school's teacher(s).

(i.e, with the Head-of-department and/or teacher in-charge of the CCA/subject.)

These interviews are the student's chance to:

1. Share about themselves
2. Show their passion/interest in the subject
3. Share about their reasons in picking their school
4. Convince them they are the right choice
5. Demonstrate their eloquence and confidence



Commonly-asked questions



Questions about yourself

- Tell me more about yourself
- What are some hobbies that you pursue?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Questions about the school and programme

- Why are you applying to our school?
- Among the other schools with you applied to, at what choice did you rank our school?
- How will you contribute to our school?



* Questions will vary from school to school

Commonly-asked questions



Questions about the talent

- What are some of your proudest achievements?
- What are some troubles you faced learning programming?
- Have you attended any programming-related events?

Ad-hoc questions

- Current affairs and/or global issues
For example (about ChatGPT and AI)
- Programming knowledge questions



* Questions will vary from school to school

Interview Tips

01

As the application form should already list the student's achievements, focus on sharing the experience instead.

02

Be confident. The interview is about showcasing yourself to the teachers and leave a good lasting impression

03

Don't lie, schools can easily share data to verify your account.

04

Be smart about how you phrase your answers if you do not know how to reply to a question.

05

Role-playing with family and friends will help build confidence in speaking aloud.

Selection outcomes

After the interviews and/or tests, these are the possible outcomes.

Confirmed Offer	<p>Your child has a reserved place in the secondary school.</p> <p>To gain admission, your child will still need to opt for the school during the school preference submission period and <u>achieve a PSLE score that qualifies them for a course offered by the school.</u></p>
Wait List	<p>Your child will be given a reserved place in the school if other students turn down their confirmed offers.</p> <p>Your child will still need to opt for the school during the school preference submission period and <u>achieve a PSLE score that qualifies them for a course offered by the school.</u></p>
Unsuccessful	<p>Your child has not been given a place through the DSA-Sec, and must take part in the Secondary 1 posting process.</p>

Preference ranking

After receiving the offers, students should submit their preferred choice of schools via the DSA portal by the deadline.

Review DSA-Sec School Preference

Please review to ensure the information is correct before submission.

School Preference

PREFERENCE ORDER	DSA-SEC OFFER	DSA SECONDARY SCHOOL
1	Wait List (WL)	METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (SECONDARY) - Integrated Programme
2	Confirmed Offer (CO)	SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, SINGAPORE
3	Confirmed Offer (CO)	SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL - O-Level Programme

DSA Conditions

Your child's exam results still matter. Students offered a placement still need a score that qualifies them for the course offered.

- DSA-SEC
 - Students offered placement in a DSA-Sec school still need a PSLE AL that qualifies them for the course offered.

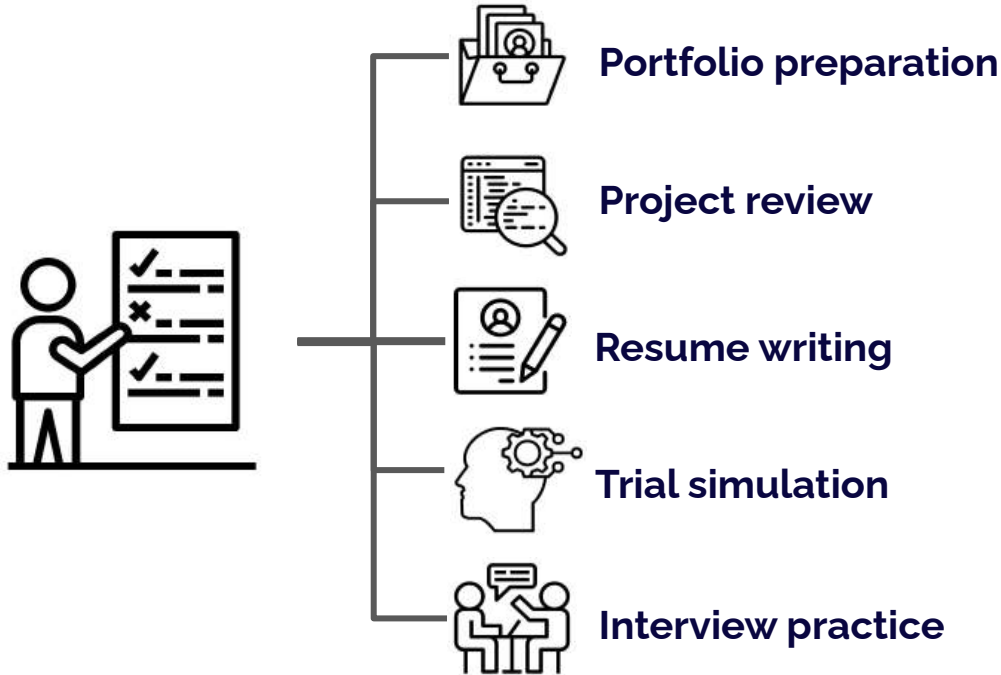
1. What is the minimum AL score for entry into MSHS via DSA?

Answer: We do not set a minimum AL score for DSA. Being a SAP school, we only offer Posting Group 3 course of study. Applicants who wish to enrol via DSA must meet MOE placement criteria for Posting Group 3 under the Achievement Level Scoring System. The AL score for Posting Group 3 is between 4 and 22.

DSA Conditions

- If your child is admitted through DSA, they are not allowed to submit school choices during the S1/JAE posting process.
- They are also not allowed to transfer to another school after the release of their results. They must commit to their chosen school for the duration of the programme.
- If the student does not meet the requirements, their DSA offer will be revoked.

Personalised DSA consultations



Hourly rates:

Members - \$80

Non-Members - \$100

For more information,
email us at contact@thelab.sg
or call 8916 0017

Terms and Conditions:

Sessions are billed on an hourly basis with a minimum duration of one hour, and subsequent sessions also consisting of one hour each.

Participants cannot divide the session into multiple smaller sessions.

QnA

