DSA Information Session

01 What is DSA

02 Timeline of events

03 Portfolio & Resume

04 Shortlisting

05 Selection Outcomes

06 DSA Conditions

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What is DSA?

Direct School Admission (DSA)

Early placement

Secure a place before the main exercise

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

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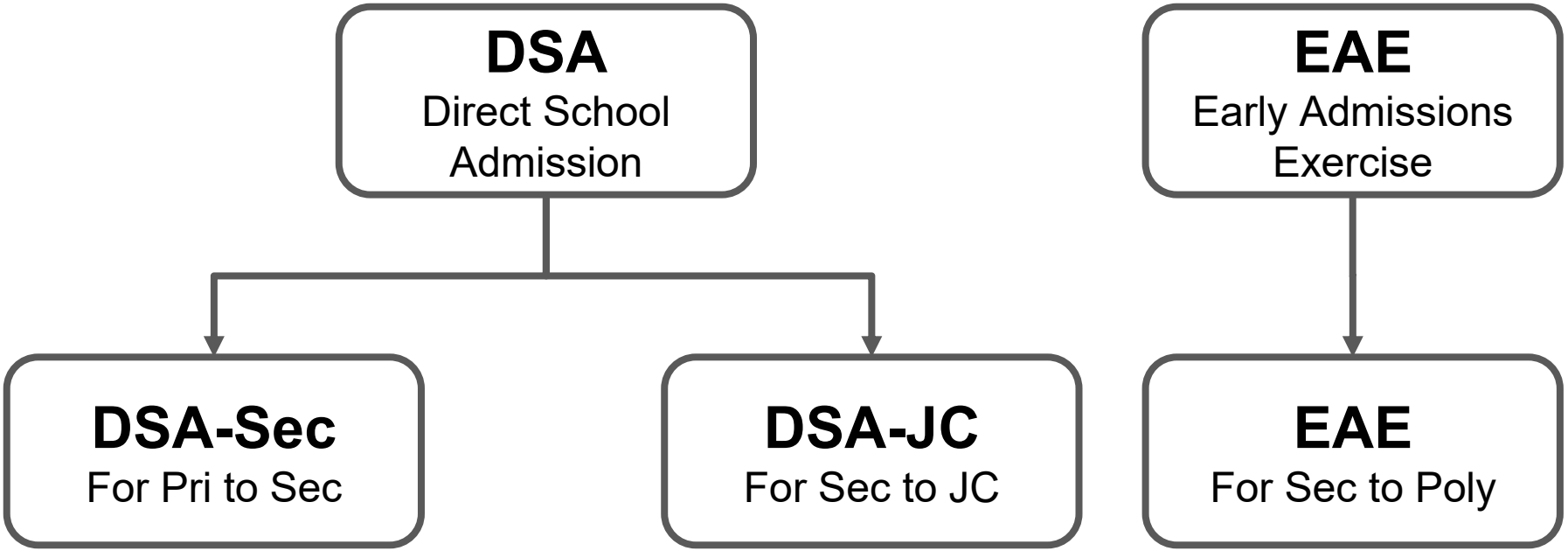
What is DSA?



Each pathway has its own eligibility criteria and application process. Refer to MOE for details.

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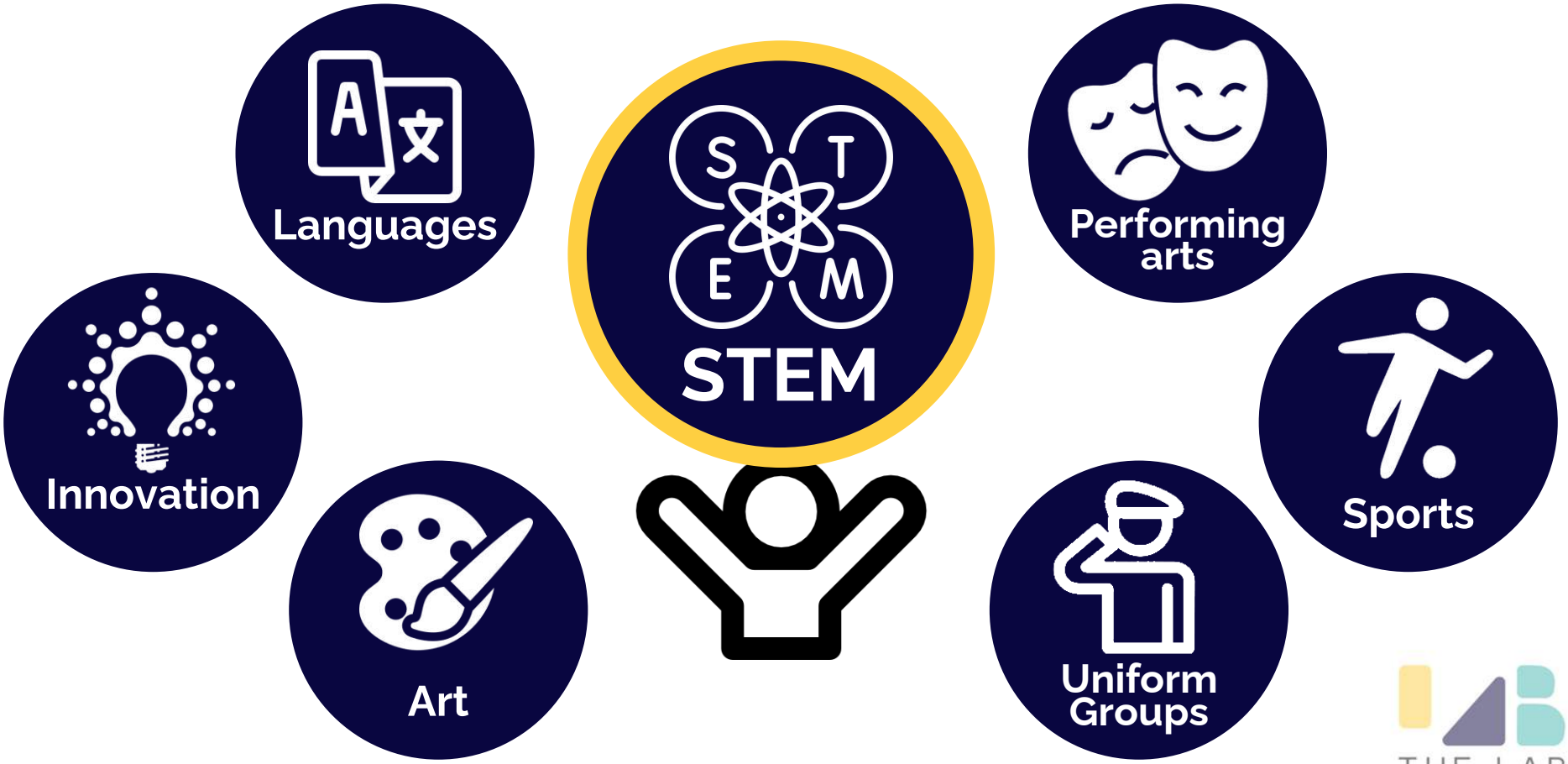

*Not all fields are listed

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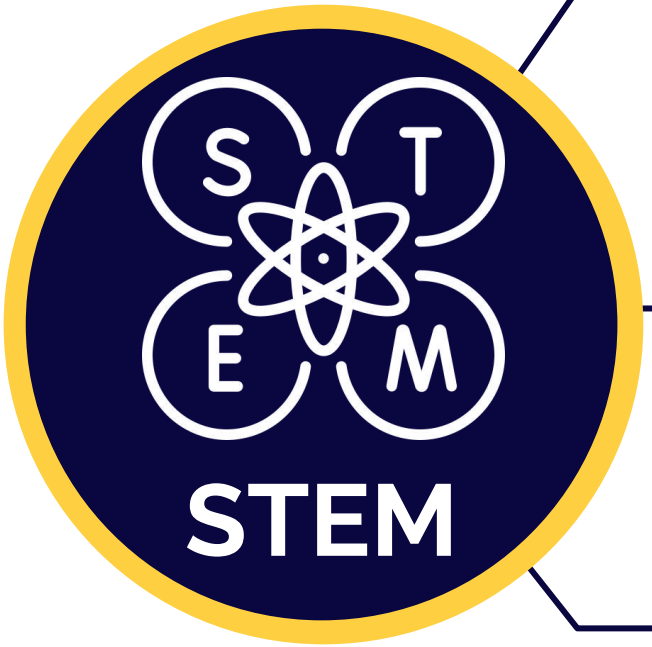

Robotics

Lego Mindstorms EV3, Spike, Raspberry Pi, Arduino System...

Coding

Blockly Programming, Scratch, Python, Javascript, HTML, C Languages...

Science & Technology

Applied technologies, computer sciences...

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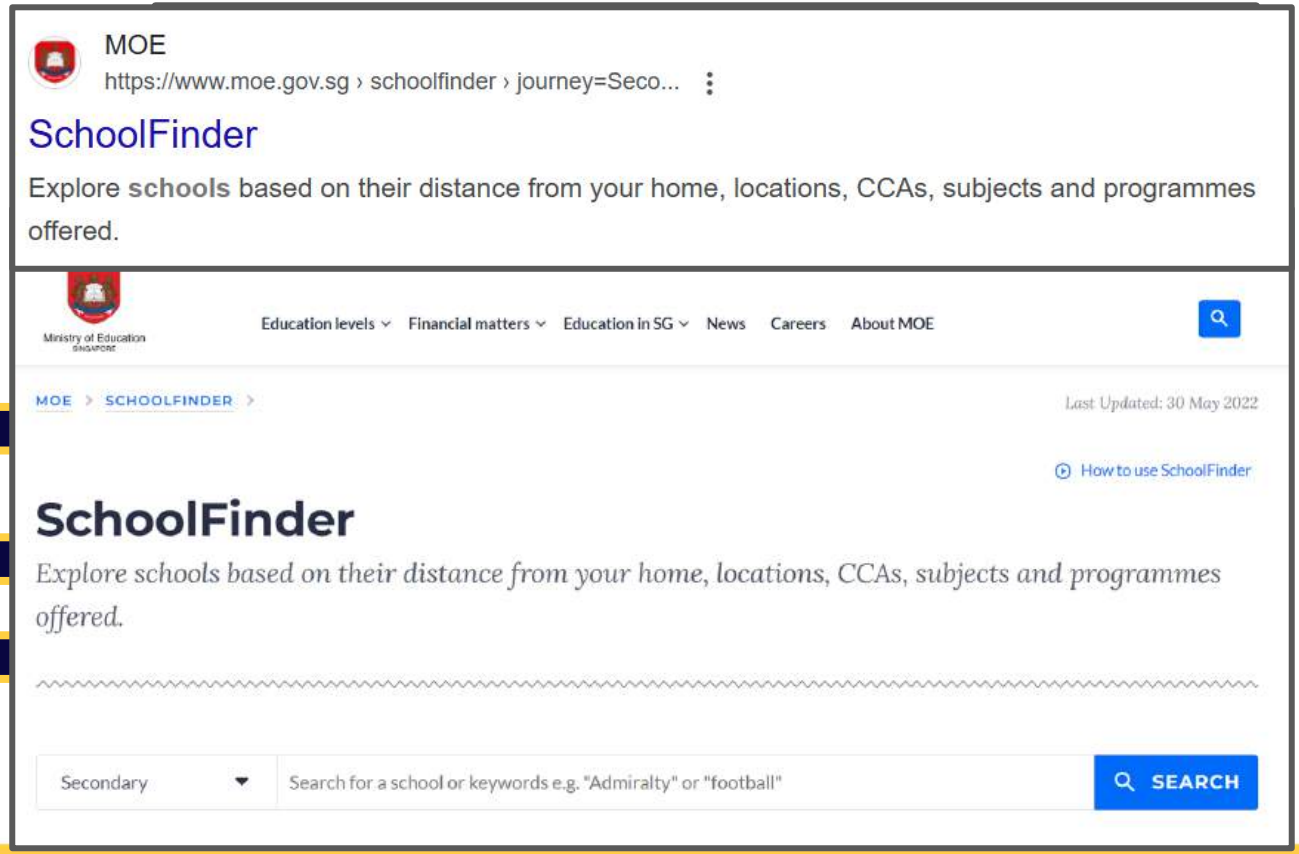
*Not all fields are listed

MOE School Finder



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STEM / STEAM / Coding / Infocom School choices

Pei Hwa Sec

Admiralty Sec

Broadrick Sec

Ngee Ann Sec

Commonwealth Sec

Beatty Sec

Dunman High

Dunman Sec

Gan Eng Seng Sec

Presbyterian High

Hwa Chong

Yusof Ishak Sec

*Data is based on 2025

*Not all schools from the MOE database are listed

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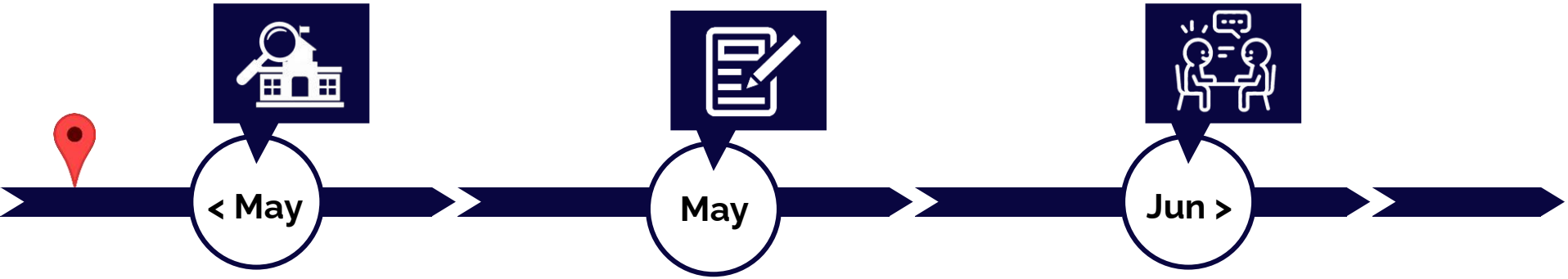
DSA Timeline



< May

Explore / Research school choices

Look out for updates on the school's websites

Consolidate your portfolio/resume

May

07 May (Tue), DSA online applications opens*

Application closes at 3pm on Tuesday, 3 June 2025.

Jun >

Shortlisted students have to attend interviews /auditions/trials

This will be conducted from Jun to Sep*

* As **dates may vary each year**, Refer to MOE DSA-Sec website for the latest official timeline

** Current timeline is based on **MOE's timeline for 2025's DSA exercise**

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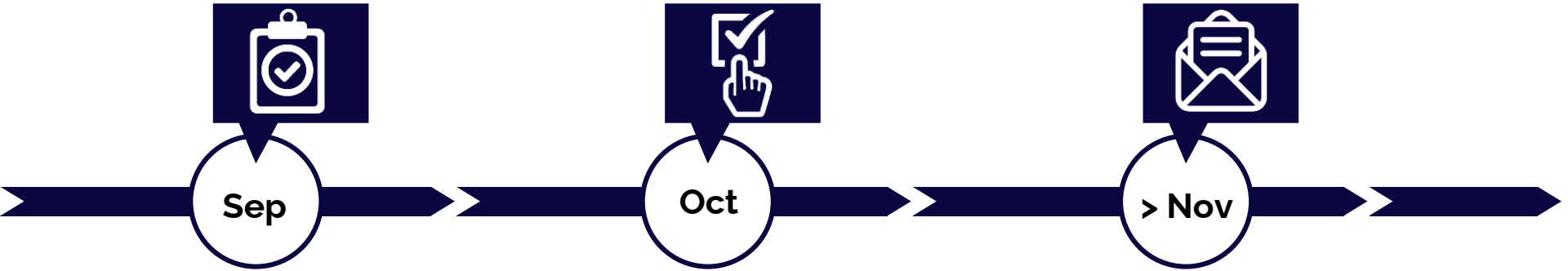
DSA Timeline



Selected students will receive their DSA application offers by Early September

(DSA 2023 - 11 Sept)
(DSA 2024 - 9 Sept)
(DSA 2025 - 4 Sept)

Submit your school choices on the DSA portal. Any withdrawals from DSA must be done here.

(DSA 2023 - 23 to 27 Oct)
(DSA 2024 - 21 to 25 Oct)
(DSA 2025 - 27 to 31 Oct)

Receive DSA school allocation along with results

(PSLE for Primary)
(January for O-Level)

* As **dates may vary each year**, Refer to MOE DSA-Sec website for the latest official timeline

** Current timeline is based on **MOE's timeline for 2025's DSA exercise**

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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

Requirements may differ across schools

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Portfolio

Each school will have their own specific criteria that applying students should meet to have a <u>better chance</u> of being shortlisted.

St Joseph Institute's criteria

Main Category	Talent Area	Criteria	Commitment if admitted to SJI via DSA
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)	i) Coding ii) Programming and 3D Modelling iii) Robotics	▪ Documentary evidence in relevant field(s) within and/or outside of school. ▪ Examples: photos and write-ups of works produced by the applicant or certificate of achievement in competitions. **AND** ▪ Strong academic results in Primary 5 and 6 examinations.	Commitment to the programme from Year 1 to Year 4. Commitment to the Design and Innovation Club as a first CCA from Year 1 to Year 4. No transfer to another school upon admission via DSA for the duration of the course.

Portfolio / Trial / Interview

13. DSA STEM and Visual Arts – shortlisted applicants will be required to submit a portfolio. Please refer to the email for submission instructions.

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	• 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.

Projects/
Coursework

Competitions/
Events

Portfolio

Participation/
Contributions

Awards/
Certificates

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External Events

Core Programs

Holiday Programs

Internal Events

Others

National Robotics Competition Preschool Category

Coding Olympics for Lower Primary

Coding Olympics for Higher Primary

National Robotics Competition – CoderZ Coding Challenge for Primary and Secondary

Canadian Computing Competition

CodeQuest by IMDA

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

The Lab X Competitive Programming

See External Events

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

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

The Lab Volunteer Program for Character Development

The Lab Instructor Assistant Program

Legend:

External Competitions

Internal Competitions

Other Programs

Build Your DSA Portfolio now!

STEM ACCREDITED

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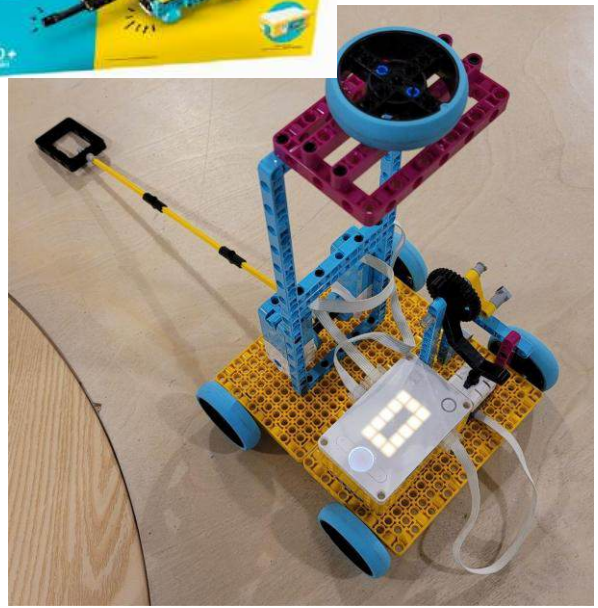
Portfolio (Junior)



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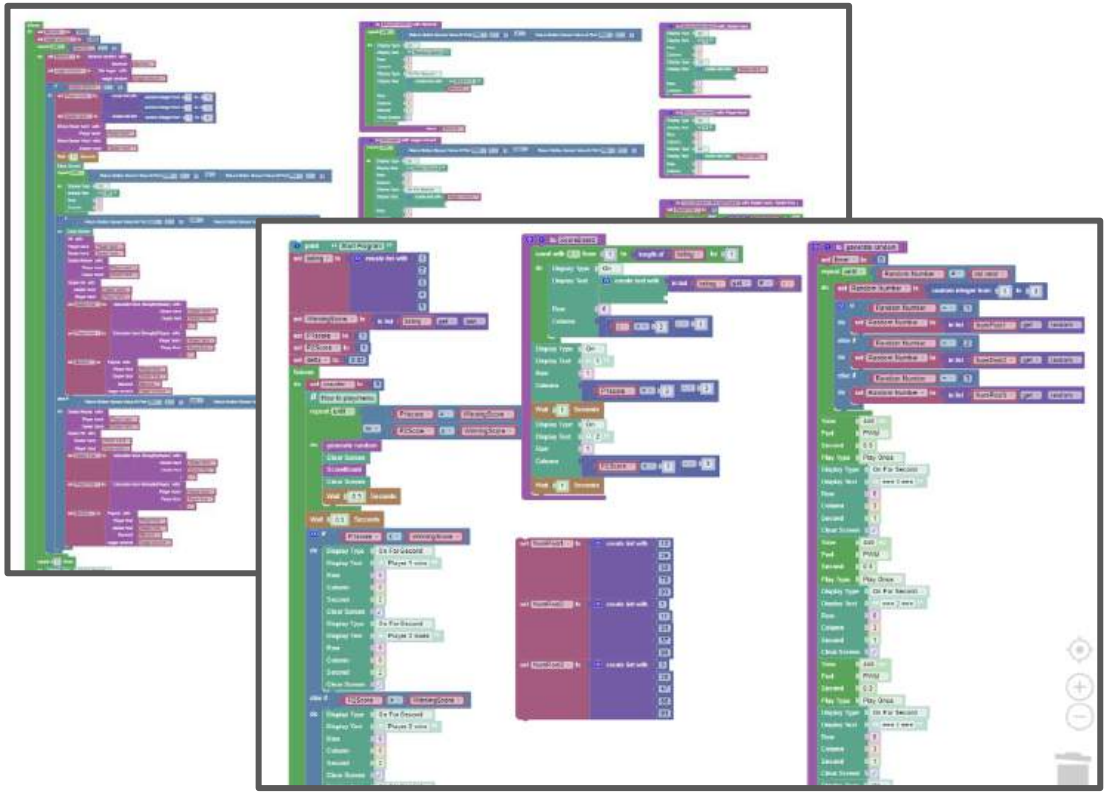
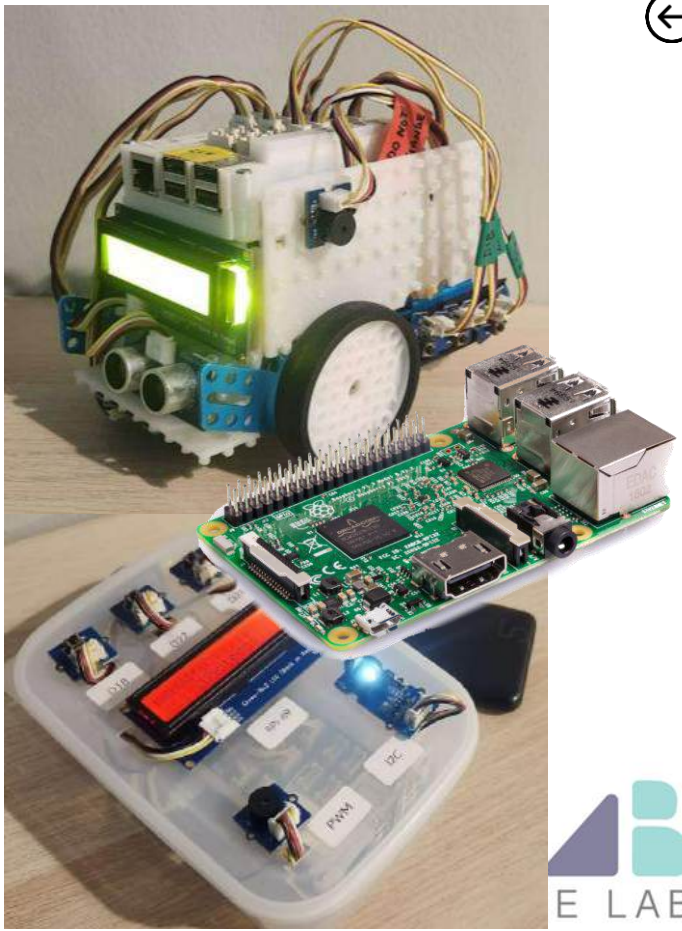
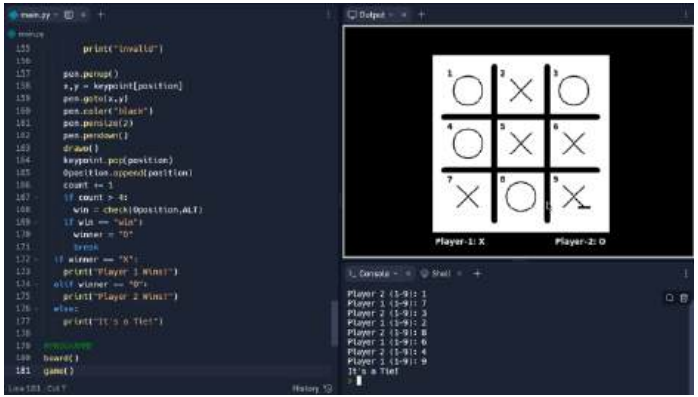
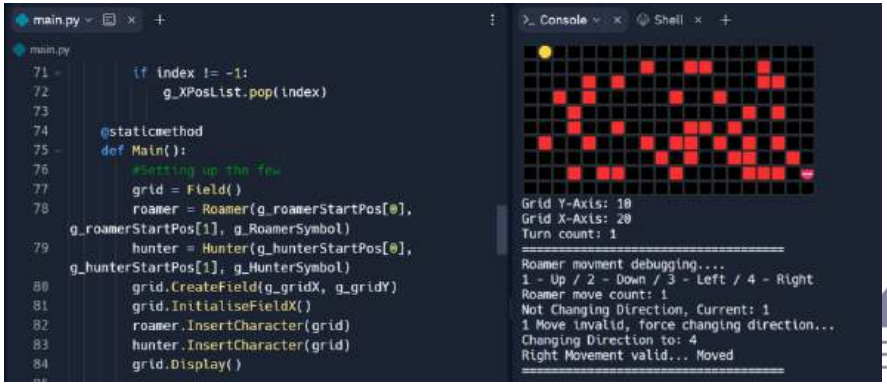
Portfolio (Coder)





Portfolio (Advance)

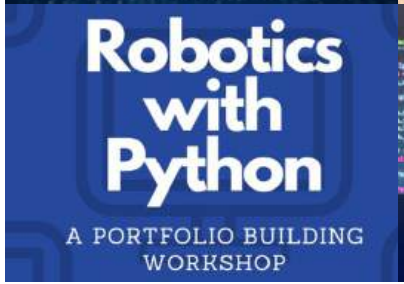


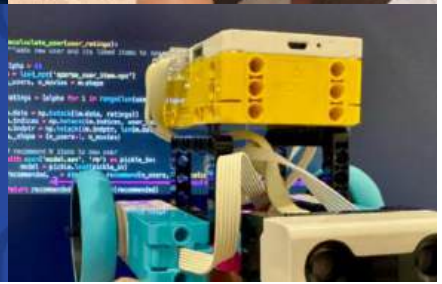


Certificates and Awards

Events, Workshops and Competitions

DSA Supplement Programs





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

Competitions

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Competition schedule

* Dates are based on **2025.** Subject to changes every year.

	Competition Title	Remarks
Feb	Canadian Computing Competition	(LabX Competitive Prog.)
Mar	Code Quest - Lockheed Martin	(LabX Competitive Prog.)
Mar	BEBRAS Challenge	Age 7 - 10
Apr	RoboCup Singapore Open	Registration opens around late Dec / Early Jan
Apr	National Code & Robotics Competition	
May	Hwa Chong Infocomm Challenge	Primary 6 only. Reg opens from 1 - 31 March via pri schools
Jun	Elite Coder Certification	
Aug	Coding Olympics	
Sep	NRC CoSpaces	Registration opens around Jun
Dec	Elite Coder Certification	

Non-academic contributions

Sunshine Friday at Teck Ghee

Christmas with Econ Healthcare

GlyphCommunity holiday camp

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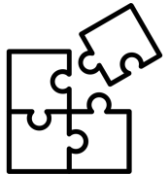
Portfolio tips

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

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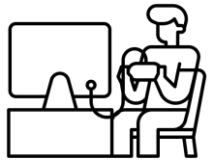
Portfolio tips

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

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Examples

miniLiew

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

Home About

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Malaysian (Singapore PR) Renew Passport in UTC Johor

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Golf – My Eagle Attempt

JANUARY 2, 2023

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

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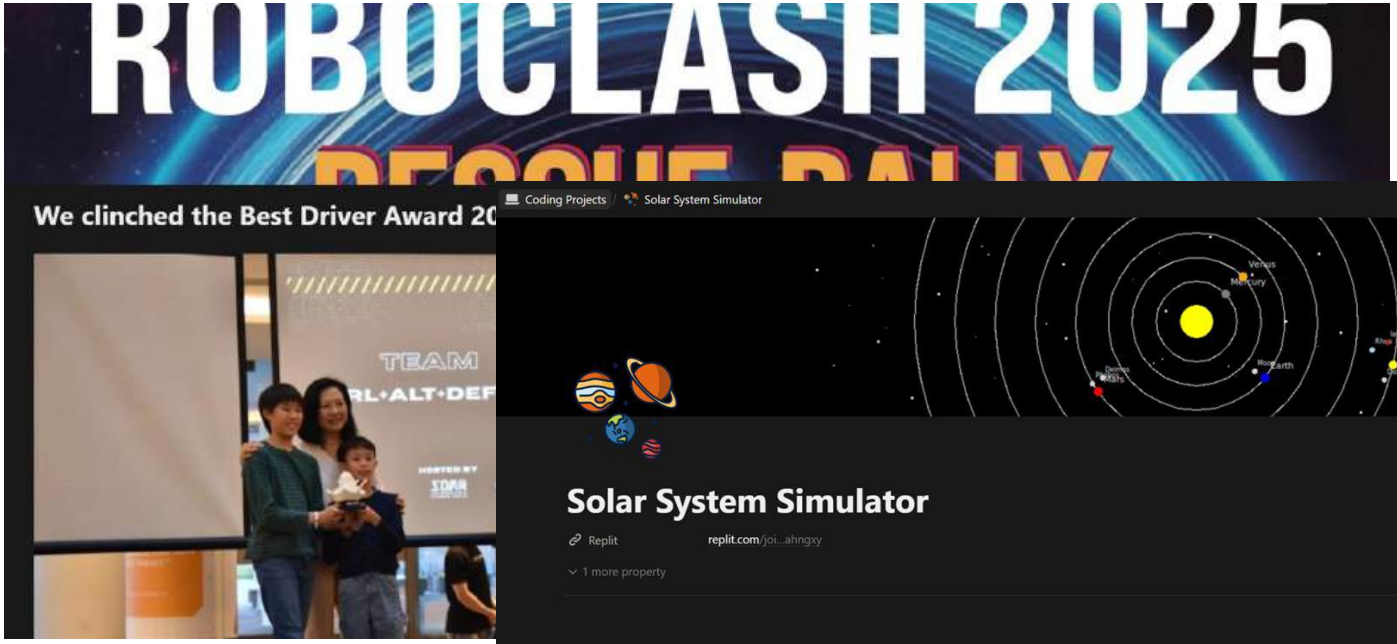
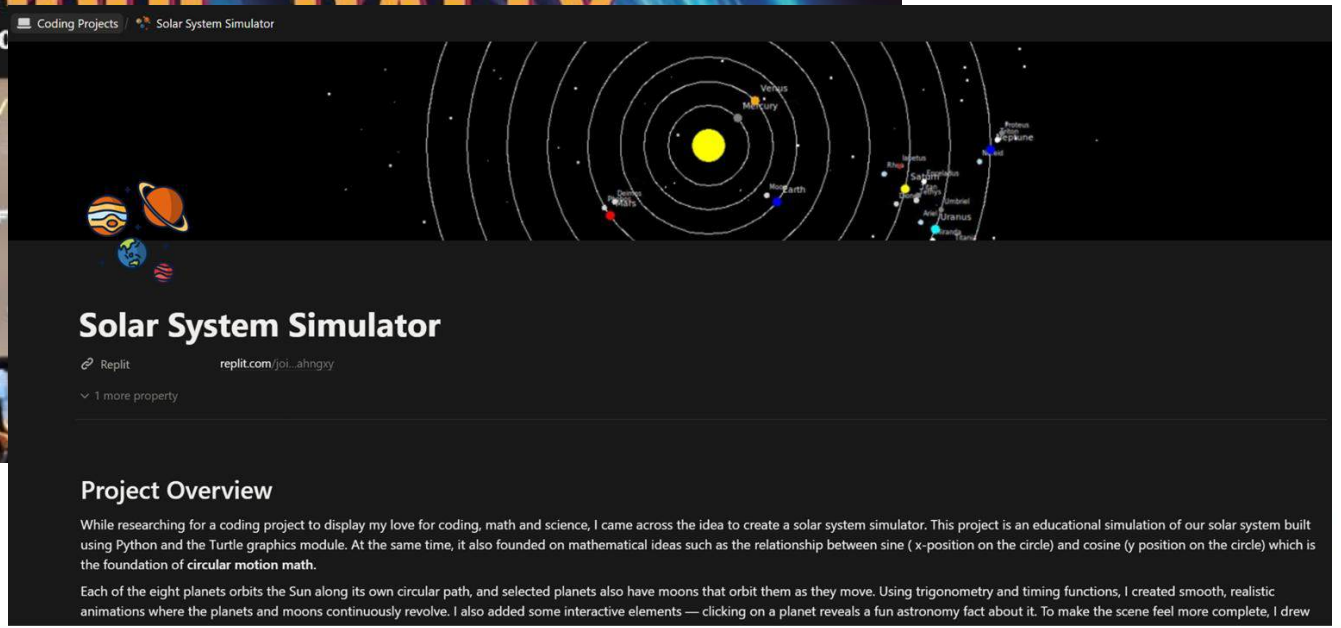
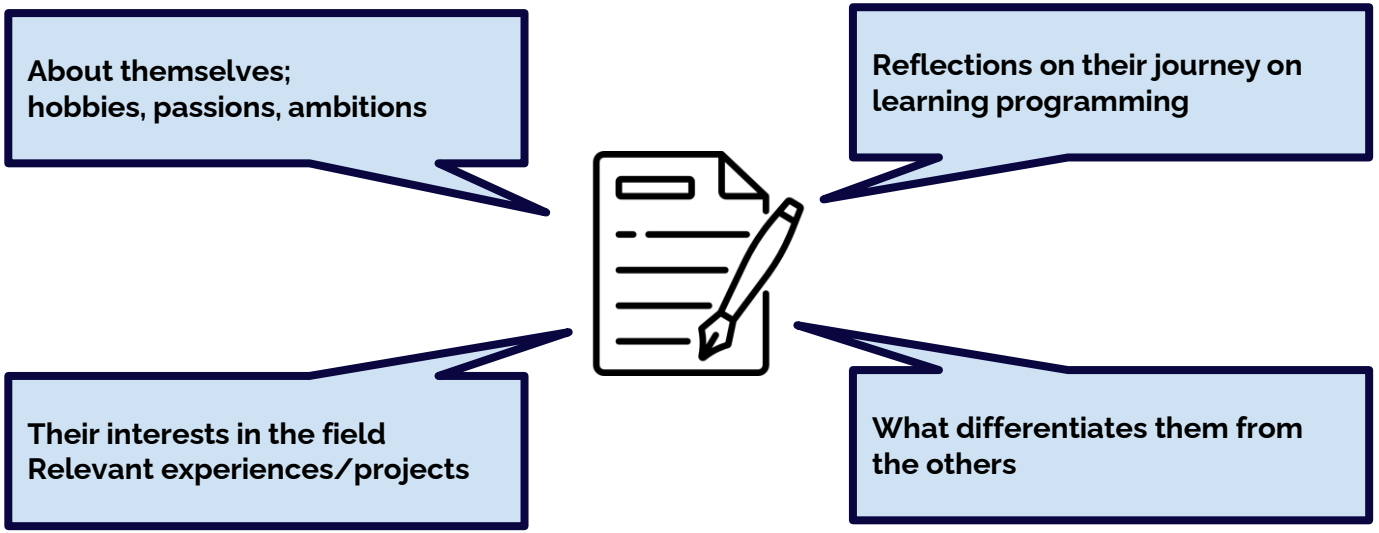
Examples


ROBOCLASH 2025
We clinched the Best Driver Award 20
TEAM


Coding Projects / Solar System Simulator
Solar System Simulator
Replit
replit.com/joi...ahngxy
1 more property
Project Overview
While researching for a coding project to display my love for coding, math and science, I came across the idea to create a solar system simulator. This project is an educational simulation of our solar system built using Python and the Turtle graphics module. At the same time, it also founded on mathematical ideas such as the relationship between sine (x-position on the circle) and cosine (y position on the circle) which is the foundation of circular motion math.
Each of the eight planets orbits the Sun along its own circular path, and selected planets also have moons that orbit them as they move. Using trigonometry and timing functions, I created smooth, realistic animations where the planets and moons continuously revolve. I also added some interactive elements — clicking on a planet reveals a fun astronomy fact about it. To make the scene feel more complete, I drew

Write-ups

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



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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.

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Testimonials

This helps provide the schools more insight about the applying student. 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.

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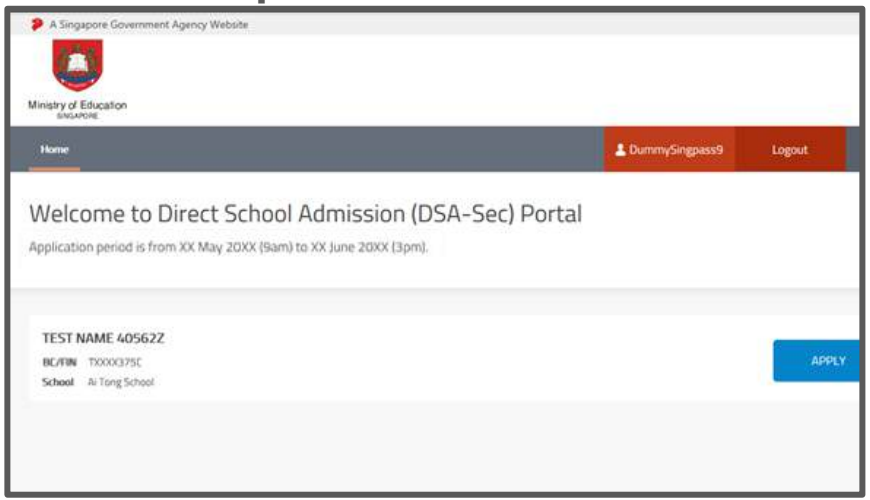
Application

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



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

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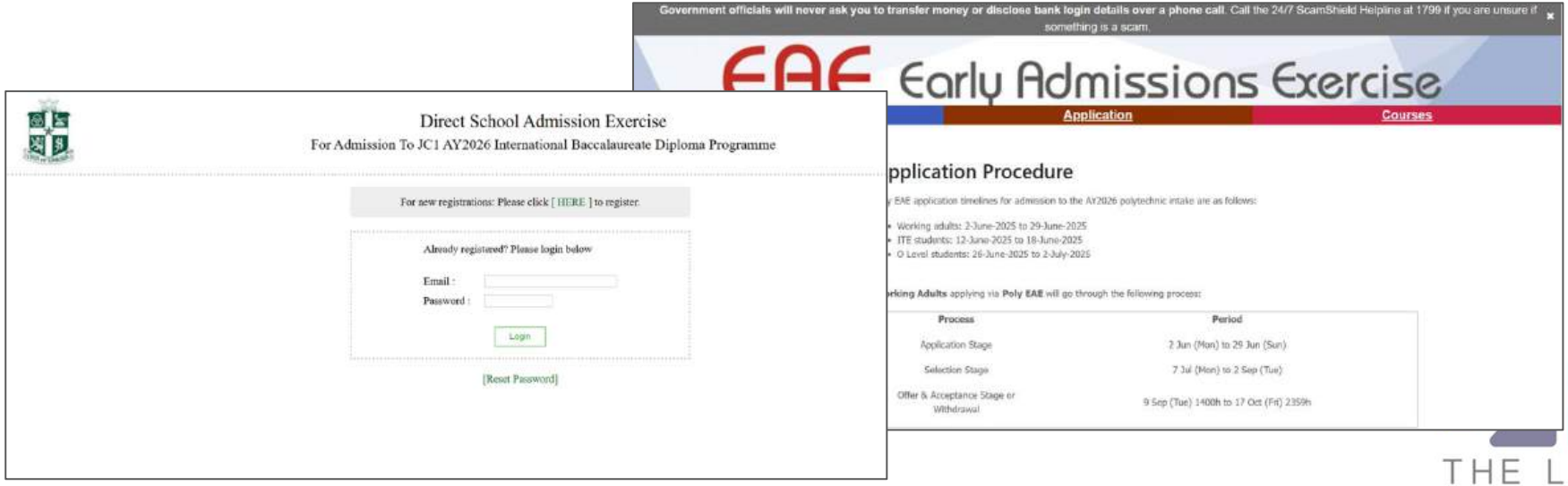
Application

DSA-JC (Junior Colleges) and Polytechnic EAE (Early Admissions Exercise) applications are separated from the MOE DSA-Sec portal used for Secondary School DSA admissions.



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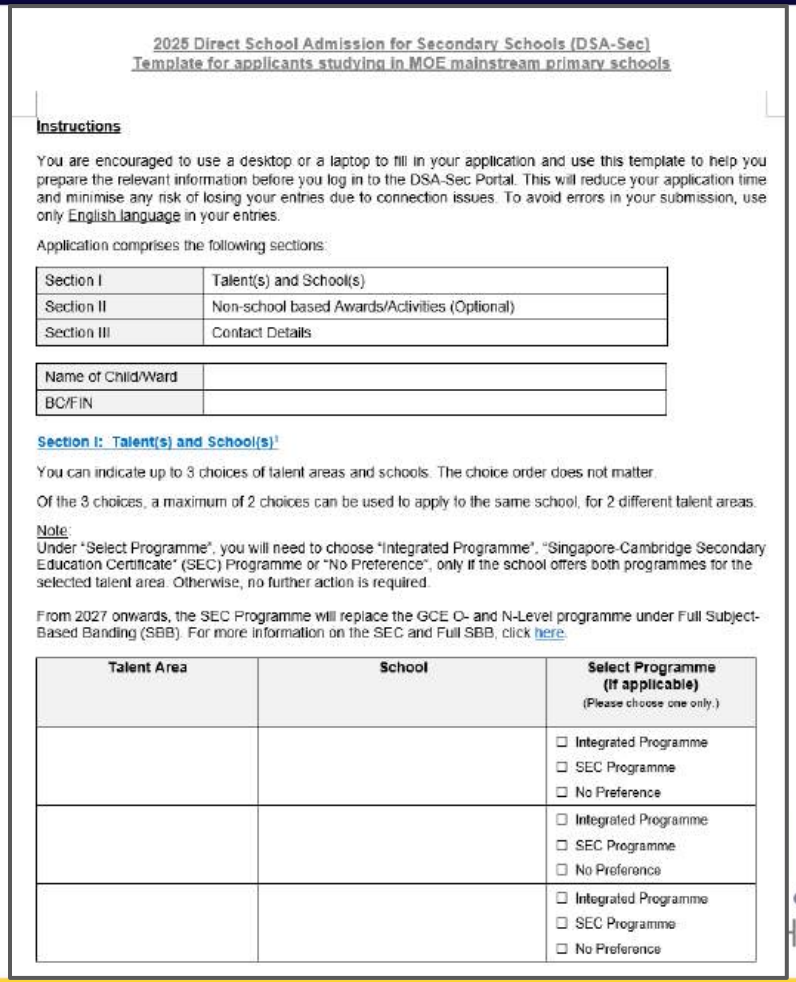
Application

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



2025 Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec)
Template for applicants studying in MOE mainstream primary 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 only English language in your entries.

Application comprises the following sections:

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

Name of Child/Ward	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)[1]

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:
Under "Select Programme", you will need to choose "Integrated Programme", "Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate" (SEC) Programme or "No Preference", only if the school offers both programmes for the selected talent area. Otherwise, no further action is required.

From 2027 onwards, the SEC Programme will replace the GCE O- and N-Level programme under Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB). For more information on the SEC and Full SBB, click here.

Talent Area	School	Select Programme (If applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference

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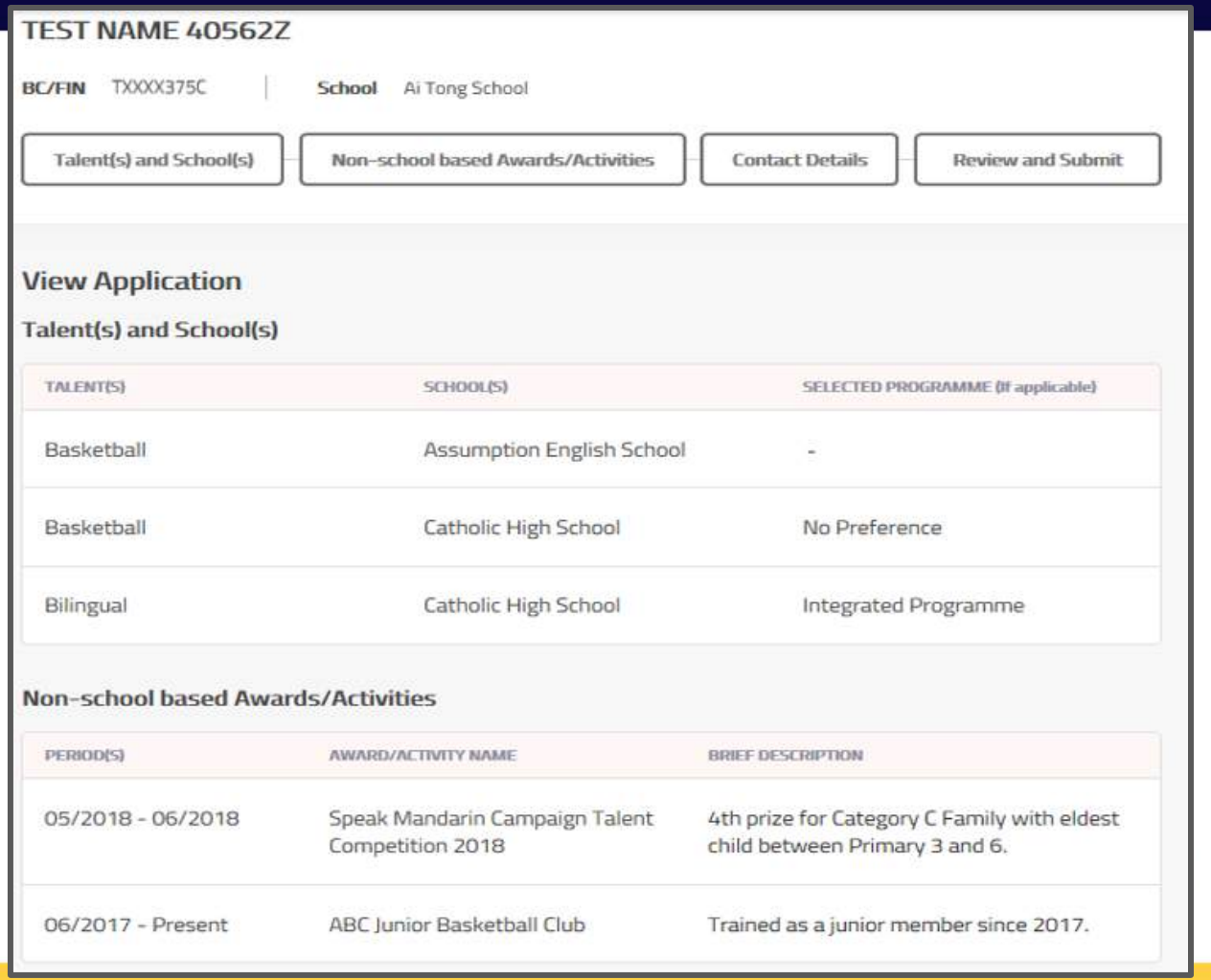
Application

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 TXXXX375C | 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.**

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2025 Direct School Admission for Secondary Schools (DSA-Sec)
Template for applicants studying in MOE mainstream primary 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 only English language in your entries.

Application comprises the following sections:

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

Name of Child/Ward	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)[1]

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:
Under "Select Programme", you will need to choose "Integrated Programme", "Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate" (SEC) Programme or "No Preference", only if the school offers both programmes for the selected talent area. Otherwise, no further action is required.

From 2027 onwards, the SEC Programme will replace the GCE O- and N-Level programme under Full Subject-Based Banding (SBB). For more information on the SEC and Full SBB, click here.

Talent Area	School	Select Programme (if applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference

2025 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. 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 only **English language** in your entries. Application comprises the following sections:

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)[1]

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 under 2 different talent areas.

Note:
Under "Select Programme", you will need to choose "Integrated Programme", "Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate" (SEC) Programme or "No Preference", only if the school offers both programmes for the selected talent area. Otherwise, no further action is required.

From 2027 onwards, the SEC Programme will replace the GCE O- and N-Level programme under Full Subject Based Banding. For more information on the SEC and Full SBB, click here.

Talent Area	School	Select Programme (if applicable) (please choose one only)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ SEC Programme ☐ No Preference

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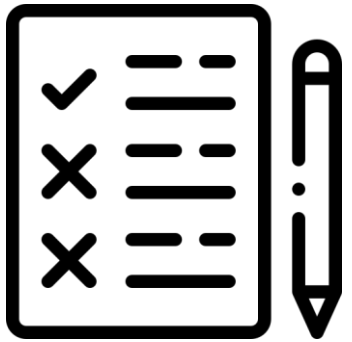
Shortlisting

Schools will shortlist students based on their own selection criteria.

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

(Can be a combination of any)

- Aptitude tests/Trials
- Auditions
- Interviews



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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

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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

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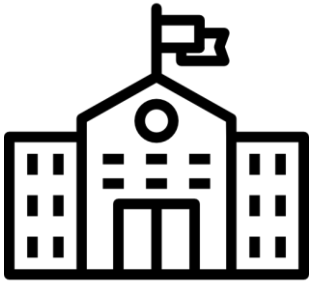
Commonly-asked questions

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

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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

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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.

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Selection outcomes

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

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

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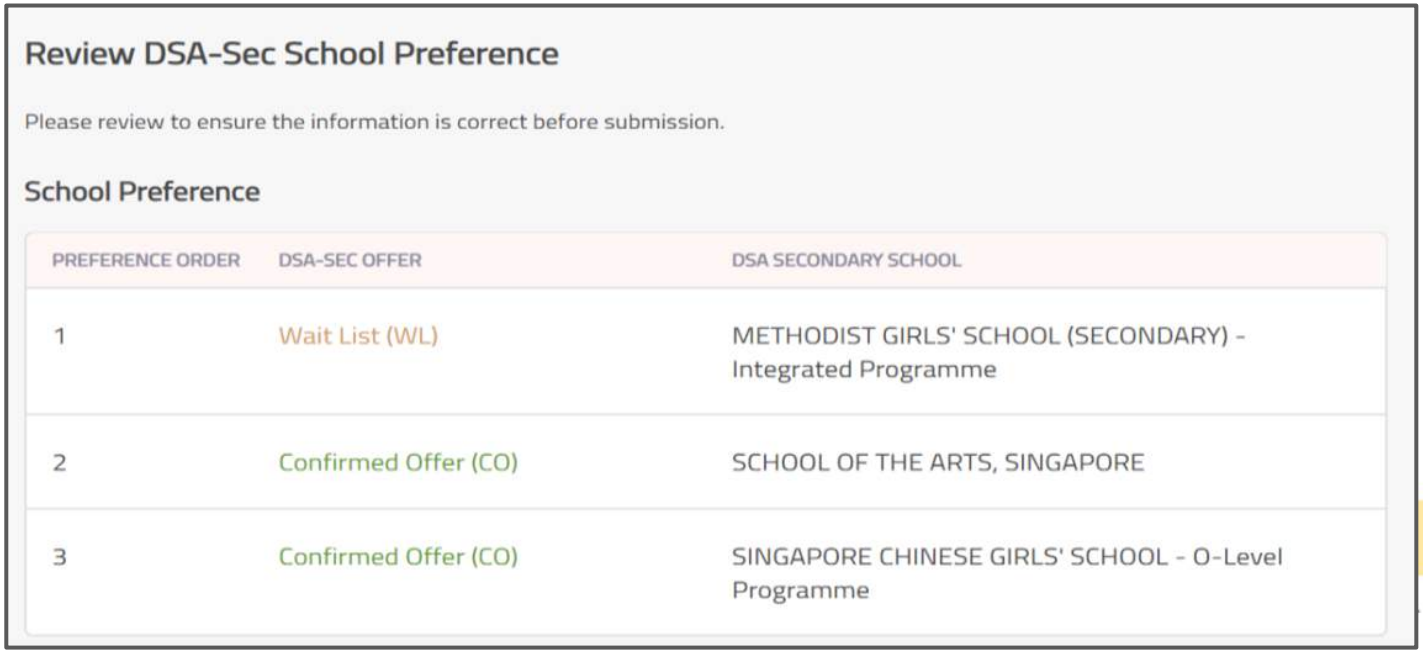
Preference ranking

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

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DSA Conditions

Your child's exam results still matter.

- **DSA-SEC**
  - **Students must meet the PSLE eligibility requirements for the Posting Group(s) offered by the school**

MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL
新加坡海星中学

HOME / OUR ADMISSIONS / DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA) / DSA PROCESS

DSA Process

5. Students given a *Confirmed Offer* are guaranteed a place in the school provided they qualify for the **Posting Group 3** of study.

* Maris Stella High School DSA 2025 Selection Process

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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.**

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Personalised DSA consultations

- Portfolio review
- Project review
- Resume writing
- Trial simulation
- Interview practice

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.

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DSA Interview & Communication Masterclass

In collaboration with Playacting Productions

Programme Details:

- 3 sessions (60 minutes each)
- Small group, interactive format
- Open to P4–P6 students

Key Focus Areas:

- Effective speaking (clarity, confidence, projection)
- Body language & self-presentation
- Interview skills & personal introduction
- Group exercises & teamwork
- Organising ideas quickly & expressing opinions clearly,

** Further details (dates and fees) will be shared once finalised.*

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QnA

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LEARNING WITHOUT BOUNDARIES