



Global universities' admission requirements

Review and analysis of trends in university
admissions

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1. Executive summary

This review of global university admissions requirements has been conducted as part of the current consultancy project for Education Index Management Asia Pacific (EIM). To undertake this review, we have consulted the websites and public information available of 20 universities including 4 in the UK, 3 in Australia, 4 in the US, 2 in Canada, 4 in Europe, 2 in Singapore and 1 in Hong Kong - all of them ranked among the top #50 according to the [QS World University Rankings 2026](#) and among the top #60 according to [THE World University Rankings 2025](#).

THE WUR 2025	QS WUR 2025	Country	University
#1	#4	UK	University of Oxford
#2	#1	US	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
#3	#5	US	Harvard University
#5	#6	UK	University of Cambridge
#6	#3	US	Stanford University
#9	#2	UK	Imperial College London
#11	#7	Switzerland	ETH Zurich
#17	#8	Singapore	National University of Singapore (NUS)
#18	#46	US	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
#21	#29	Canada	University of Toronto
#26	#22	Germany	Technical University of Munich
#30	#12	Singapore	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
#32	#22	Switzerland	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
#35	#11	Hong Kong	The University of Hong Kong
#36	#31	UK	King's College London
#39	#19	Australia	University of Melbourne
#41	#40	Canada	The University of British Columbia
#56	#47	Netherlands	Delft University of Technology

#58	#36	Australia	Monash University
#61	#25	Australia	The University of Sydney

2. Overall findings

The review of the admissions information available on the websites of the 20 universities analysed shows a clear difference between US requirements (geared towards the overall profile of the candidate including extra curricular activities and other talents and interests) and the UK and European ones (more focused on the academic grades). There is a lot of information and advice available for candidates on the US universities websites to help them prepare for their interview and personal statement, with suggestions of activities and questions to reflect on. Oxford and Cambridge also provide relevant information and suggestions for supercurriculum activities that can add depth of knowledge on the specific subjects.

Asian universities place a lot of importance on academic grades but at least one university (NUS) seems to be evolving towards a more holistic approach. The two Canadian universities analysed seem more focused on the academic grades, and on the contrary Australian universities seem more similar to the US system, although in both cases the admissions information found has been very limited.

A-levels and IB Diploma are listed as recognised international qualifications by most of the universities analysed. Having said that, specific entry grades and subjects for each degree programme have mainly been found for UK, Asian and European universities. 3 A-levels are listed as the requisite for most universities, and Oxford and Cambridge specifically advise against taking a fourth A-level as it can compromise the grades and depth of knowledge of the main three. The two expectations found are Imperial College in the UK and National University of Singapore, which indicate on their website that 4 A-levels are required or frequently submitted by their candidates.

Entry exams are used in the European universities analysed, most US universities (SATs and ACTs) and some programmes in the three Asian universities reviewed. Interviews, portfolios and samples of written work are also part of the process in many cases. Entry exams and interviews play different roles at each university. For example, in the European universities analysed, entry exams are sometimes used when there are limited places for specific degree programmes, whilst interviews take place to determine the ability of a candidate and to determine whether it is best to suggest an alternative programme. UK universities used additional tests for specific subjects to complement A-level or IB scores.

Finally, it is important to note that the three Asian universities analysed have specific deadlines

to submit the final results: **early July for NUS and 31 July for NTU** (except from Medicine and Renaissance Engineering programmes that require the secondary school results to be available by 31 March). The [University of Hong Kong](#) advises candidates to submit their predicted and/or actual grades by 1 December and releases most offers by 31 March although they can accept additional results in support of each application until 22 August.

3. Findings by country

3.1. UK universities

University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Imperial College and King's College London

UK universities admissions processes are heavily geared towards academic grades, with some universities adding an interview, additional tests, samples of written work and portfolio assessments for certain programmes. Entry requirements are based on the British education system, that is A-levels, with the IB and other international qualifications often listed on the admission websites.

The standard entry requirements are 3 A Levels and in fact universities like **Oxford and Cambridge explain that completing an additional fourth A level does not necessarily improve an applicant's chances of being admitted.**

"Does Oxford prefer students to take four A-levels?"

Not necessarily; three A-levels is absolutely sufficient to make a competitive application and will allow applicants to meet the entrance requirements for their chosen course. A candidate who has had time to read around their chosen subject(s) may be more appealing than a candidate who may have taken more subjects, but who is not able to discuss their interests with any enthusiasm or in any depth."

– [Guidance for teachers, University of Oxford website](#)

"Will my application be stronger if I study more than 3 A-levels?"

Any additional -levels that you choose to take will be considered, and can help to demonstrate your ability to handle a large workload. However, we recommend that you think carefully before taking on any additional A-levels as this may reduce the time you have to read around your chosen subject beyond your school or college work (...)

We advise candidates not to spread themselves too thinly across too many subjects, where they may risk dropping a grade or two in their results."

– [University of Oxford website](#)

To stand out among other equally-academically outstanding candidates, applicants are advised to undertake **super-curricular activities related to the specific subjects**. The University of Cambridge suggests reading books about the subject, browsing related websites, visiting museums and exhibitions, watching films and documentaries, listening to podcasts, attending seminars and lectures, doing volunteering activities and taking part in academic competitions or projects. The University of Cambridge advises against including extra-curricular activities on the application personal statement that are not related to the specific subjects required for the chosen programme of study.

Likewise, **King's College London** requires 3 A-levels as well as the **Practical Endorsement** that shows practical skills within sciences; however their website states that *"high achievement in additional -level subjects may compensate for an applicant who narrowly fails to achieve the A-level offer"*.

Imperial College London shows a slightly different approach, listing 3 and 4 A-level entry requirements and indicating on their website that candidates should talk about their interest, passions and hobbies:

*"Imperial is not all work and no play. Our students have a huge range of interests -evidenced in our 350+ student-run clubs and societies. Tell us about your passions and your hobbies, particularly how they have helped you develop skills and qualities that make you a strong candidate. Made you a better leader, for example. Made you more resilient. Or **improved** your teamwork and communication **skill.s** Also tell us about something you do simply for the fun of it. You don't need to go into too much detail as you don't have the space, but it helps us to get to know you and may be something we ask you more about if you're invited for an interview at a later stage."*

– Personal statement: get the right balance

	Programme	A Levels	IB	Other
University of Oxford	BA Computer Science	A*AA including Maths, with the A* in Maths, Further Maths or Computer Science	39 (including core points) with 766 at HL (the 7 must be in HL Mathematics)	Mathematics Admissions Test
	BA Economics and Management	A*AA (with Maths at A or A*)	39 (including core points) with 766 at HL	Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)
	BFA Fine Art	AAA or AAB (for	38 (including core	Digital portfolio

	Programme	A Levels	IB	Other
		post-A-level applicants on an Art Foundation course)	points) with 666 at HL	(but not written work submission required)
	BA Maths	A*A*A with the A*s in Maths and Further Maths if taken	39 (including core points) with 766 at HL (the 7 must be in Higher Level Mathematics)	Mathematics Admissions Test
University of Cambridge	BA Computer Science	A*A*A You will need A levels/IB Higher Levels (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics, Further Mathematics to AS or A level	41-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level You will need A levels/IB Higher Levels (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics, Further Mathematics to AS or A level Also, Analysis and Approaches	Test for Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA) and some colleges also required the Computer Sciences Aptitude Test (CSAT)
	BA Economics	A*A*A you will need an A level/IB Higher Level (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics	41-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level You will need an A level/IB Higher Level (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics	Test for Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA)
	BA Maths	A*A*A You will need A levels/IB Higher Levels (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics Further Mathematics (A level only)	41-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level You will need A levels/IB Higher Levels (or the equivalent) in: Mathematics, Further Mathematics (A level only)	STEP Mathematics papers

	Programme	A Levels	IB	Other
Imperial College London	BEng Computing	A*A*A* or A*AAA Including: -A* in Maths -A*,A in two further subjects or AAA in three further subjects, with Further Maths preferred Pass in Science Practical Endorsement	41 points Including: -7 in Maths at higher level 7 in another relevant subject at higher level such as Mathematics Analysis and Approaches or the Applications and Interpretation	Test for Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA)
	BSc Economics, Finance and Data Science	A*AA Including: A* in Maths AA in two other subjects	39 points Including: 7 in Maths at higher level 6 in a second subject at higher level 6 in a third subject at higher level	Test for Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA) Post-application interview
	BSci Mathematics	A*A*A* or A*A*AA Including: A* in Maths A* in Further Maths A in another subject Pass in Science Practical Endorsement	39 points Including: 7 in Maths at higher level 6 in another subject at higher level	Test for Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA)
King's College London	BSc Computer Science	A*A*A* Including A in Maths or Further Maths Plus Practical Endorsement for UK applicants	39 points including 20 from 3 Higher Levels Must include 6 in Higher Level Maths or Further Maths	
	BSc Economics	A*AA including A in Maths	38 points overall or an aggregate	

	Programme	A Levels	IB	Other
		Plus Practical Endorsement for UK applicants	score of 19 from 3 Higher Levels Must include 6 in Higher Level Maths	
	LLB Law	A*AA	38 points overall or an aggregate score of 19 from three Higher Levels	
	BSc Maths	A-level (or equivalent) grade A*A in Mathematics and Further Mathematics (in any order).	38 points overall or an aggregate score of 19 from three Higher Levels Must include 7 in Higher Level Maths	

3.2. Australian universities

University of Melbourne, Monash University and The University of Sydney

The three universities list A-levels, IB Diploma and Australian qualifications as accepted qualifications to gain entry onto its undergraduate programmes. The University of Sydney also mentions SAT and ACT examinations.

Those are the A-level requirements found on the Melbourne website:

Bachelor of Science	BBB
Bachelor of Commerce	AAB
Bachelor of Arts	BBB

The [University of Sydney 2026 Admission Guide](#) lists the main international qualifications accepted (International ATAR, IB Diploma, A-levels, Canada British Columbia qualifications, China Gaokao, French Baccalaureat, German Abitur, Hong Kong HKDSE, India CBSE, Malaysia UEC and STPM3/4, Singapore A-levels, South Africa National Senior Certificate, South Korea CSAT, Sri Lanka CSAT, Sweden Slutbetyg, US ACT, SATs and other) and relevant entry requirements

for all its undergraduate programmes

3.3. Canadian universities

University of Toronto and The University of British Columbia

Both universities refer to their entry requirements according to the Canadian and US high school systems (including SAT, ACT and AP scores), IB and A-levels.

The **University of Toronto's** general application process consists of specific grade requirements and sometimes a personal profile or statement of interest. There are requirements that all applicants must meet regardless of their chosen programme of study, which in the case of the **IB Diploma includes English HL or SL; and Calculus and Advanced Functions for science and business programmes.** A Level equivalences haven't been found on their website.

According to the University's admission website, *"The emphasis of our final assessment will be placed on the results of your most recent two years of study, including your marks in prerequisite courses, and on the strength of your supplemental information (personal statement, profile, etc) where this is required. However, we may also consider other aspects of your complete academic record including, but not limited to: consistency; where and when courses were completed; and the number of times any courses have been attempted"*.

The **University of British Columbia** also places a great importance on the personal statement, advising applicants to demonstrate **engagement and accomplishments, leadership skills, depth ("substance") in their subject knowledge and communication skills.** 3 A-levels are listed as requirements on the University of British Columbia admissions website, including a **minimum of C in English Literature or English Language at GCSE, AS or A-level.**

"The personal profile is a crucial section in your UBC application. This is your chance to tell us about the things that are important to you, your significant achievements, what you've learned from your experiences, and the challenges you've overcome. It's our chance to determine whether you're a good fit for UBC and if you'll receive an entrance scholarship."

3.4. US universities

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, Stanford University and UCLA

The US university admissions process places significant importance on the additional skills, abilities and talents that candidates can demonstrate through their **interview and personal statement**. On their admission pages, the four universities reviewed explain the overall profile of candidates they are looking for, what they expect from their personal statement and interview, the importance of extracurricular activities and key communication and critical thinking skills, and in some cases they provide guidance on the overall subject requirements but not specific entry grades for each academic curriculum.

A-levels, IB Diploma and **SAT and ACT examinations** are recognised by all universities reviewed. However, there is no consistency about whether SAT and ACT examinations are required for all applicants (Stanford and MIT ask all candidates to take those tests, Harvard can accept the IB, A-levels and AP instead *“in exceptional cases when those tests are not accessible”* and UCLA does not require them.

MIT also highlights the relevance of **communication skills** although they do not require the ACT writing section or SAT optional essay.

“Your grades and test scores (especially your grades) are important. But as I have said in the past, what ultimately really matters to us is who you are, what qualities you bring to the table. We want people who are academically curious and passionate, people who will bring their various talents to MIT and share them with others, people who will be good roommates, good mentors, good friends. We do not admit test scores.”

What we look for, MIT

Harvard University requires candidates to answer the following **5 questions**, each of them with a 150 word limit:

1. Harvard has long recognized the importance of enrolling a diverse student body. How will the life experiences that shape who you are today enable you to contribute to Harvard?
2. Describe a time when you strongly disagreed with someone about an idea or issue. How did you communicate or engage with this person? What did you learn from this experience?
3. Briefly describe any of your extracurricular activities, employment experience, travel, or family responsibilities that have shaped who you are.
4. How do you hope to use your Harvard education in the future?
5. Top 3 things your roommates might like to know about you.

Harvard also advises candidates to **reflect on their future plans and career interests** as part of their application as well as all **additional activities** they may have undertaken alongside their academic qualifications:

"We are much more interested in the quality of students' activities than their quantity so do not feel you need to fill in the entire grid! Contributions students make to the well-being of their secondary schools, communities and families are of great interest to us. So indicate for us the time you spend and the nature of the contribution to extracurricular activities, the local community, work experiences and help provided to your family. Activities you undertake need not be exotic but rather might show a commitment to excellence regardless of the activity. Such a commitment can apply to any activity in your life and may reflect underlying character and personal qualities."

– How we use extracurricular activities and work experience in the admissions process

In its section of academic preparation, **Stanford University** says that they "do not have a preference for a specific curriculum (A-level, IB, AP, etc)" although it expects 3 A-levels for candidates from the British system, and advises students to "pursue a reasonably challenging curriculum by choosing courses from among the most demanding available at school".

UCLA also asks for 3 A-levels and lists admission requirements for candidates from the British system or the IB Diploma, as well as recognising other national curriculums such as the Canadian and Hong Kong curricula. On its Tips to Become UCLA Ready, it says:

"Our mission as a university can be described in three words: education, research and service. We value students who seek academic excellence, get hands-on to solve problems and strive to give back to their community."

- *Challenge yourself with classes beyond the minimum requirements.*
- *Stay focused on getting the best grades possible.*
- *Develop your leadership skills and style.*
- *Explore extracurriculars to determine your passions.*
- *Stay sharp with apps designed to test your math abilities.*
- *Spend time making your community a better place.*
- *Read! Reading increases your knowledge and improves writing ability."*

3.5. European universities

ETH Zurich, Technical University of Munich, EPFL and Delft University of Technology

Many European universities have their own **entry admissions test** and some include as well an interview in their application process. Their admission process, like in the case of UK universities, is heavily reliant on academic grades and they tend to provide detailed subject entry requirements for each of their programmes and various accepted international curriculums within their website. For programmes taught in languages other language than English, relevant language qualification (at least at grade B2) is required.

ETH Zurich requires the **ETH entrance examination, which can be reduced or comprehensive**. IB students with certain grades are exempt from taking the examination, as well as those who have completed the European Baccalaureate:

IB Diploma	Admission without entrance examination if the following requirements are fulfilled: - 38 out of 42 points (without bonus points); - At Higher Level (HL): a) Mathematics: applications and interpretation or Mathematics: analysis and approaches, b) physics or chemistry or biology, c) 1 language A; - At Standard Level (SL): three additional subjects of the following: physics, chemistry, biology, geography, history, economics or business management, 1 further language only, computer science. Otherwise: Reduced Entrance Examination ETHZ.
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The ETH website provides a comprehensive [overview of admission requirements](#) by country, which includes the requirements for admission from the British system:

Great Britain	<p>(I)GCE with three Advanced Levels or Cambridge Pre-U Certificate (three Principal Subjects) in: 1. mathematics; 2. physics or chemistry or biology, 3. language of instruction or foreign language with minimum grade A in each A-Level, respectively D 3 in each Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject and at least four additional subjects</p> <p>(I)GCE AS, (I)GCSE or Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses out of the following: physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, another language, geography, history, economics.</p> <p>Otherwise: Reduced Entrance Examination ETH Zurich.</p> <p>GCE A–Levels or Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects taken after or in conjunction with other than the above mentioned secondary school credentials (e.g. ten years German Gymnasium + A-Levels): Comprehensive Entrance Examination ETH Zurich.</p> <p>Scotland:</p>
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	<p>Scottish Qualifications Certificate with three Advanced Higher in: 1. mathematics, 2. physics or chemistry or biology, 3. language of instruction or foreign language, with a grade A in each of these three subjects and at least four additional subjects (Higher or Standard) in the last three years of Scottish secondary education of the following: physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, another language, geography, history, economics. Otherwise: Reduced Entrance Examination ETH Zurich.</p> <p>Advanced Higher taken in conjunction with other than the above mentioned secondary school credentials (e.g. ten years German Gymnasium + Advanced Higher): Comprehensive Entrance Examination ETH Zurich.</p> <p>Upper secondary school-leaving certificates: - Cambridge AICE Diploma Advanced Level (AL) + Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) - Pre-U Principal Subject + Pre-U Short Course - International Advanced Level (IAL) + International GCSE (IGCSE) or International Advanced Subsidiary Level (IAS) England, Wales, Northern Ireland: - General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or General Certificate of Education – Advanced Subsidiary Level (GCE AS) + General Certificate of Education – Advanced Level (GCE AL) Scotland: - Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) – Standard Grade + Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) – Higher + Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) – Advanced Higher.</p>
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TU Delft has additional application steps for “[numerus clausus programmes](#)” (Aerospace Engineering; Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences; Clinical Technology; Computer Science and Engineering, and Nanobiology) which may [include an entry examination](#). Its website lists the [entry requirements](#) for candidates with secondary school qualifications from other national systems, such as:

<p>A-levels</p>	<p>At least three and sometimes four A-levels including in Mathematics (Mechanics and/or Statistics depending on the programme) and Physics for its engineering programmes.</p>
<p>IB</p>	<p>TU Delft only accepts the Mathematics course “Analysis and Approaches HL”, as well as Physics HL for its engineering programmes.</p>

EPFL introduced in 2025 a [limitation in the number of places available in the first year](#) of its Bachelor programmes (3,000):

“Students repeating the first year, holders of a Swiss maturité gymnasiale, and those who have

successfully completed the CMS or entrance exam are guaranteed to be accepted. Holders of an upper secondary school-leaving certificate from a country that is a member of EU, EFTA, or UK or of an International Baccalaureate (IB) will be accepted at the beginning of August within the places available. The general average (or total number of points scored) of the school-leaving certificate will be used to rank and select the applicants. Furthermore, registration for the entrance exam has been restricted”.

The specific requirements for candidates from the British system and IB Diploma:

<p>A-levels</p>	<p>The following subjects were studied and examined as Advanced Levels and/or Advanced Highers: 1) mathematics, 2) physics, and 3) chemistry, biology, or computer science.</p> <p>The following subjects were studied at the level of the GCSE and/or Standard Grades or at a higher level (Advanced Subsidiary Levels, Advanced Levels, Highers, and/or Advanced Highers): 1) English, 2) second modern language, and 3) history or geography.</p> <p>The grades in mathematics and physics, as well as in chemistry, biology, or computer science, are at least A and/or 1 Both ‘Mathematics’ and ‘Further Mathematics’ are accepted.</p>
<p>IB</p>	<p>The following subjects were studied and examined within the Diploma Programme (DP) at the higher level (HL): 1) mathematics, 2) physics, and 3) chemistry, biology, or computer science.</p> <p>The following subjects were studied and examined within the Diploma Programme (DP) at the standard or higher level (SL or HL): 1) first modern language, 2) second modern language, and 3) history, geography, economics, or philosophy.</p> <p>The total number of points scored is at least 38 out of 42 (excluding bonus points) and the grades in mathematics and physics are at least 6 out of 7 Both ‘Mathematics: Analysis and approaches’ and ‘Mathematics: Applications and interpretation’ are accepted.</p>

Technical University of Munich considers each applicant by reviewing the grade point average, specific subject grades and, for some programmes, an interview and entry examination. For almost all programmes, there is **no limitation on the number of places and no specific grade point average requirement**, and therefore **all applicants receive an offer of admission** and there is no waiting list. Each applicant’s specific grades are weighted and considered depending on the chosen degree programme. The university uses a **public formula** that determines the points

accumulated by each candidate, and if necessary candidates are invited for a 20min interview or to complete a test to determine if they will be able to complete the chosen programme and, if necessary, to recommend an alternative degree.

TUM's [application FAQs](#) provide the following advice regarding A-levels:

A-levels	<p>You must provide proof of three examination subjects, which must be independent of each other and have general educational, non-vocational content, and have been passed with at least a grade of C.</p> <p>The following subjects must be included among the examination subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 subjects from: a language, history, geography, social studies/politics, economics, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, computer science ● 1 other general education subject independent of the two subjects chosen above <p>1.2 Discipline-specific requirements for individual fields of study</p> <p>Humanities and Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 A Level in: Language, History, Geography, Social Studies/Politics, Economics. <p>Social sciences and Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 A Level in: History, Geography, Social Studies/Politics, Economics; ● 1 A Level in: Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science. <p>Natural Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 A Levels in: Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science <p>Mathematical and technical degree programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 A Level in Mathematics; ● 1 A Level in: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science <p>Medicine and Pharmacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 A Levels in: Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science
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TUM refers to DAAD's guidance regarding the [recognition of the IB Diploma in Germany](#):

IB	<p>a) The six examination subjects taken for the "International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International" (IB) must include the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● two languages at level A or B (of which at least one advanced foreign language as "Language A"1 or "Language B HL"2); ● one natural science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics);
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● mathematics (Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches³ or Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation³)⁴; ● one social science (History, Geography, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Business and Management, Global Politics). <p>The sixth compulsory subject may be one of the above or one of the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art/Design, Music, Theatre Arts; Film, Literature and Performance, an additional modern foreign language, Latin, Classical Greek, General Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, Environmental Systems, Computer Science, Design Technology, World Religions, Sports Exercise and Health Science, Digital Society. <p>b) At least one of the three subjects taken at HL must be either a language subject, Mathematics, or a natural science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) according to number 1a),</p> <p>c) All subjects must have been studied continuously as part of the “IB Diploma Programme”, i.e. in two ascending year groups.</p> <p>d) Pupils must have obtained at least IB grade 4 in the six compulsory subjects.¹⁰ If an IB grade of 3 has been obtained in only one subject, this can be compensated for if a minimum IB grade of 5 and a minimum total of 24 points have been obtained in another subject of at least the same level of difficulty.</p> <p>e) German qualification holders attending an IB school abroad that does not offer German as a subject must provide proof of competence in German before starting higher education in Germany; the further details are governed by federal state provisions.</p>
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3.6. Asian universities

NUS, NTU and The University of Hong Kong

The three universities reviewed indicate **specific deadlines by when candidates need to submit their final results: Early July for NUS and 31 July for NTU** (except **from** Medicine and

Renaissance Engineering programmes that require the secondary school results to be available by 31 March). The [University of Hong Kong](#) advises candidates to submit their predicted and/or actual grades by 1 December and releases most offers by 31 March although they can accept additional results in support of each application until 22 August.

[National University of Singapore \(NUS\)](#) explains on its [website](#) that the admissions process is based on a **holistic approach** that considers not just the **academic grades** but also other factors such as the **candidates' interests and achievements**. Examples of those include medals at the International Olympiads, arts or sport competitions, community and volunteering work, internship, leadership positions, entrepreneurship initiatives and creation or contribution to software development.

“Admission to the University is assessed based on a holistic approach. Prospective students are generally expected to have a good academic record in addition to satisfying the subject prerequisites for the programmes they are applying to. Besides academic grades, other factors such as the applicant’s interests, prior preparation, and aptitude for the chosen undergraduate degree programme can be used to admit the applicant. This approach reflects the university’s commitment to considering the broader qualities and experiences that applicants bring to the academic community.”

Applicants need to have achieved good academic grades and meet the specific subject requirements for each degree programme. Some programmes require an interview and / or test (Architecture, Dentistry, Industrial Design, Landscape Architecture, Law, Medicine, Music, Nursing and Philosophy, Politics and Economics). The [NUS admissions website](#) indicates the following:

A-levels	A good pass in at least three A-level subjects is required for candidates to submit an application. Many applicants submit good passes for four or more A-level subjects for our consideration. Expected to have a good pass in at least three A-level subjects by end July 2025 is required for candidates to submit an application
IB	NUS should receive IB Diploma Programme transcript from the IB by 7 July 2025

The following specific entry requirements are listed for each university:

	Programme	A Levels	IB	Additional requirements
NTU	Computer Science	Maths or Physics	Maths at HL or Physics/Computer	

			Science at HL	
	Art, Design and Media	English	Maths at SL and a good grade in English at SL	Portfolio, personal statement and writing samples, Creative project, Observational drawing
	Mathematical Sciences	Maths	Maths at HL	
NUS	Computer Engineering		MAA HL and either Physics /Chemistry/Computer Science HL	
	Business Administration		MAA HL or MAA SL or MAI HL	
	Law		At least 5 in English SL or HL OR SL Literature and Performance OR SAT Critical Reading / Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score of 700 accompanied by a minimum grading of 4 points from SL English or SL Literature and Performance	
The University of Hong Kong	BEng Computer Engineering	3As including A in Maths, Further Maths or Pure Maths and A in Physics	34 points including Grade 5 in Maths (HL) and Physics (HL)	
	Bachelor in Business Administration (Major in Finance)	3As including A in Maths, Further Maths or Pure Maths	36 points including Grade 5 in Maths (HL)	
	Bachelor of Laws	3As	39 points including at least 6 in each of the subjects	Interview
	Bachelor of Arts	3As	32 points	Interview