

# ROAD MAP TO UNIVERSITY

HANDBOOK





*“education for life”*

Dalat International School seeks to provide an education that goes beyond pure academics: education for life trains the next generation to be people of character, integrity and compassion; we prepare them to make a positive impact on the world whatever their career choice, and wherever they live.

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# NOTES



# INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been written and created for the following purposes:

- To enable students to begin an organized and comprehensive search of universities in the United States and elsewhere.
- To enhance the understanding of students and parents about the search and decision-making process with regard to college and university selection and application.
- To inform students and parents about the multitude of options and opportunities that result from a complete and thorough university search and selection process.
- To provide useful, effective guidelines with regard to the practices, procedures, and current trends in university admission.
- To provide Dalat families with a written handbook that can be used as a simple reference guide in conjunction with other guidance materials provided by the high school counseling office.
- To provide Dalat students with a hard-copy guidebook that simplifies the how, where, what, when, and why of the university admission and application process.
- To help Dalat students and their parents in making sound and reasonable choices that complement the skills of each graduating senior and meet their scholastic and social needs.
- To increase the likelihood that each Dalat student will take personal responsibility and grow from the university admission process.
- To promote the need for students to seek out the advice and continually ask good questions of their university counselor.

Since the common term in Asia for a 4-year, post-secondary institution is “university,” we have tried to maintain uniformity with the use of this term throughout the handbook. However, it should be noted that the common term for these institutions in the United States is “college.”

Dalat is an American-curriculum, university-preparatory secondary school. Our main focus is assisting students as they pursue a further degree at a post-secondary university in the United States. We are more than willing to help in the research process if a student wishes to study at a university outside of the United States as well.



# A NOTE ...

## ... to parents

The period during which your child is considering university options and making future decisions is one of tremendous excitement. However, it is equally often characterized as stressful and overwhelming. Like all the major milestones in your child's life, it is a time for parental involvement and support. You can ensure that your child allows time to plan and complete the many application tasks. You can ensure that your child allows time to plan and complete the many application tasks. You can, and should, encourage your child to talk about their decisions and help them analyze the vast amount of information they will research and collect. Most of all, you can ease the stress for your child by keeping them on track and helping them learn to manage their time efficiently. Never forget that you are probably the most influential factor in your child's life. As such, there are some specific things that you can do for them

- Keep a file of all honors, awards, articles, leadership accolades, volunteer work certificates, etc. relating to your child. This saves a lot of time when preparing applications.
- Discuss university choices with your child. Help them articulate what is important to them and why. Encourage them to talk about majors and careers. Talk openly, but tactfully, about their strengths and weaknesses.
- Emphasize the value of a university education as opposed to the prestige associated with certain school names.
- Be sure to remember that this is your child's future and not yours. Students who take ownership of this process and make their own decisions will have a greater stake in their own success.
- Parents should be sure to guide, not steer. Guiding implies support, whereas steering implies control. Constantly ask yourself if you are guiding or steering. Remember, this is not about you. Guard against over-involvement.
- Realize that the American school philosophy is that the high school counselor does not receive financial compensation from universities he or she recommends. As a result, the high school counselor is ethically bound to give unbiased guidance towards a "best fit" choice

for the student that factors in the student's interests, aptitudes, financial realities, parent's perspectives, spiritual guidance, and market trends to match up with courses and degrees available at specific universities in various countries. It is a philosophy in contrast to the "university agent" tradition with which you may be familiar. As agents receive commissions of varying amounts from different universities, we feel their guidance is biased and we do not allow them to solicit students on campus. Once the student has made their university choice we recommend they work with agents regarding details of visas and documentation.

- Participate when and where appropriate. Attend university visits with your child. Read this entire handbook, help your child with research, and keep their focused and organized.
- Talk openly and honestly with your child about finances although be sure they don't eliminate schools on that basis initially. Financial aid is available at a surprising level for more families than you might think. Still, your child should have some idea of what the family can afford to contribute.
- Reassure your child throughout the process that you are proud of them and encourage him when things seem overwhelming. Let them know that you will be pleased no matter where they ultimately decides to go. Then, be true to that statement!

## ... to students

### **You and the University Admissions Process**

"You" stands for the person who happens to be planning to attend university. "You" is an important pronoun in this process because "you" is not your parents, teachers, or friends. "You" is the person who does the research, completes the applications, seeks out the advice, asks for the recommendations, and writes the personal statement or university essay. "You" is a high school student who shows the maturity and the responsibility to make a series of very important decisions. In effect, "you" now has earned the right and claimed a significant voice in beginning to find your place in the world. By accepting responsibility in the university process, you start to take ownership of your own future.

# CURRICULUM PLANNING

Generally, universities like to see a consistent progression in English, Math, Lab Sciences, and Social Studies plus a non-English language.

## Courses to Take in High School

When you look at a university website, you will usually be able to find its specific requirements of what courses you need for admission. So if you have some schools in mind, it pays to do research up front.

As a general example, you will often see requirements by subject, such as:

- English – 4 years required
- Math – 3 years required, 4 preferred
- Laboratory Sciences – 2 years required, 3 preferred
- History/Social Science – 2 years required, 3 preferred
- Language (other than English) – 2 years required, 3 recommended (of the same language)
- Visual and Applied Arts – 1 year required

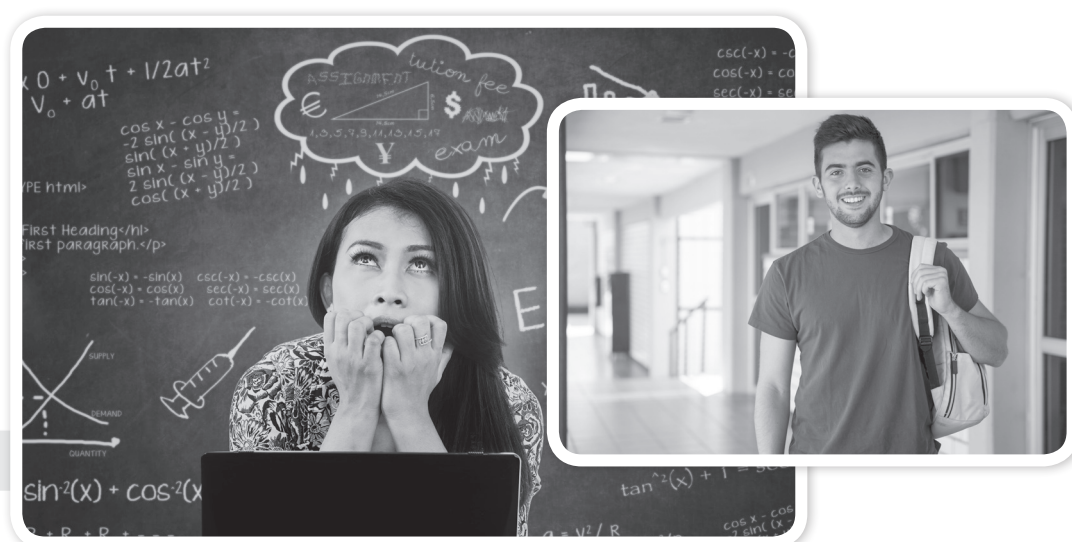
(Note: the above curriculum is a sample only. Each high school may offer different guidelines.)

## What Years Count Most

You will hear many myths about which high school years count and which do not. The truth is simple – they ALL count. The sophomore and junior years are the most significant, but your freshman year obviously affects your overall GPA. The senior year is important as well. There have been “tragedies” where a student qualified for acceptance to university but was turned down after the school looked at their first semester senior grades. Seniors should not take easy schedules, nor can they afford to drop their grades. You cannot afford to catch “Senioritis!”

## Class and School Ranking

Many universities ask for your class rank or at least what percent of your class you fall in (top 10%, 20%). This is particularly frustrating for students who have pushed themselves with harder classes, gotten B’s, and then found they were ranked below their friends who took the easiest classes the school offered. But rest assured, the universities see through this and will always prefer a more challenging schedule.



# CREDIT CHECK

1. Review your transcript thoroughly; make sure every course you have taken in grades 9-12 is accounted for. As of Class of 2020, Visual & Applied Arts will increase to 1.0 credit.
2. University-bound students need the following graduation requirements:

SUBJECT	REQUIREMENTS	HS DIPLOMA	RECOMMENDED FOR UNIV. PREP.
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12	4.0	4.0
Math/Science	(a combination of 3 math/2 science		
	OR 2 math/3 science)	5.0	6.0
Social Studies	History, Media Literacy, Psychology (all U.S. citizens must take U.S. History & Gov.)	2.5	3.0
Bible	(required each semester in attendance at Dalat)	0.5-4.0	
Visual & Applied Arts	Band, Choir, or Art	0.5	1.0
Fitness I and II		1.0	1.0
Modern Language (or proficiency)			2.0
Electives		7.0+	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	

*All university-bound students should go beyond the minimum requirements of the regular diploma and are recommended to take 2 years of foreign language, 4 years math, and at least 3 years science.*

3. Refer to your 4-year plan and this year's schedule to make sure you are enrolled in the classes you need in order to graduate.
4. Ask yourself what career you are interested in and check to see if you have the classes necessary for university admissions, e.g.:
 

General:	3 cr. math,	3 cr. social studies,	3 cr. science,	2 cr. language
Engineering:	4 cr. math,	4 cr. science		
Medicine:	3 cr. math,	4 cr. science		

***Come to the guidance office and check admissions requirements if you are not sure.***

# WHAT I WANT FROM A UNIVERSITY

## FIELDS OF STUDY

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## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- |   |                                    |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal Arts     | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Business  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military         |

## TERM OF STUDY

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-year | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-year |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT BODY

- |                                |                                  |                                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ed | <input type="checkbox"/> All men | <input type="checkbox"/> All women |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA

(in the U.S.)

- |                                      |                                  |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New England | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwest | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Atlantic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West        | <input type="checkbox"/> South   | <input type="checkbox"/> West Coast   |

(outside the U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

## LOCALE

- |                                |                                   |                                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS MY UNIVERSITY MUST HAVE

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## ENROLLMENT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very small (under 1,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium (5-10,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small (1-5,000)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Large (10,000+)   |

## AFFILIATION

- |                                       |                                  |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State/Public | <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

## ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

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## FINANCES

Estimate your financial resources available per year for university: \_\_\_\_\_

# RECOMMENDED HS PREPARATION

When applying to colleges and universities, it is important to know what they expect of a student's high school education. The following represents recommendations beyond graduation requirements that will best prepare you for your specific area of interest.

## ARCHITECTURE

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus recommended  
**Science:** 2-3 years of Lab Science preferred, especially Physics  
**Other:** Both AP Studio Art 2D and 3D recommended

## BUSINESS

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended; 4 years of Math preferred  
**Science:** 2-3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** at least 2 years of Foreign Language recommended, Introduction to Business, Economics, Technology Applications, Computer Science, AP Psychology, Speech and Forensics

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

**General:** All college prep courses  
**Bible:** All required courses  
**Other:** Psychology, History, Spiritual Ministry Opportunities, Mentoring, Impact Trips

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Math:** 3 years of university-preparatory Math recommended (depending upon specific area)  
**Science:** 3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** Computer Science, Robotics, AP Computer Science (online)

## EDUCATION

**Math:** 3 years of university-preparatory Math recommended (depending upon specific area of education)  
**Science:** 2-3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** Technology Applications, AP Psychology

## ENGINEERING

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus recommended  
**Science:** 3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** Industrial Arts, Computer Science, Robotics

## ENGLISH

**Math:** 3 years of university-preparatory Math recommended (depending upon specific area)  
**Science:** 3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** Honors English grades 9 & 10, Journalism 1 and 2 as electives, at least 1 AP English course grade 11, and grade 12 Capstone and Advanced Composition. Note this indicates two English classes grades 11 and 12 because of Journalism.

## HEALTH SERVICES

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended; 4 years of Math preferred  
**Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics recommended; 4 years of Lab Science preferred  
**Other:** Exploring Technology Applications

## MUSIC

**Math:** 3 years of university-preparatory Math recommended  
**Science:** 3 years lab science preferred, especially Physics  
**Other:** 4 years of primary performing ensemble, 1-2 years of secondary performing ensemble recommended, Music Theory, AP Music Theory recommended, private instruction recommended, 1-2 years foreign language recommended

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended; 4 years of Math preferred  
**Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics recommended; 4 years of Lab Science preferred

## PRE-LAW

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended  
**Science:** 2-3 years of Lab Science preferred  
**Other:** at least 2 years of Foreign Language, AP English, AP American History and Government (as prep for college-level USA Constitutional Law) recommended, Introduction to Business, Technology Applications, Economics, AP Psychology, Speech and Forensics

## PRE-MEDICINE

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended; 4 years of Math preferred  
**Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics recommended; 4 years of Lab Science preferred  
**Other:** at least 2 years of Foreign Language recommended, Exploring Technology Applications, AP Psychology

## SCIENCES

**Math:** Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus recommended; 4 years of Math preferred  
**Science:** 4 years of Lab Science preferred  
**Other:** Computer Science

## SOCIAL WORK

**Math:** 3 years of university-preparatory Math recommended  
**Science:** 2-3 years of Lab Science recommended  
**Other:** Technology Applications, AP Psychology

***For specific university admission recommendations, check the website of the university you are interested in and look under "Freshman Admissions".***

# INVESTIGATING

# Know Yourself and What You Want To Do

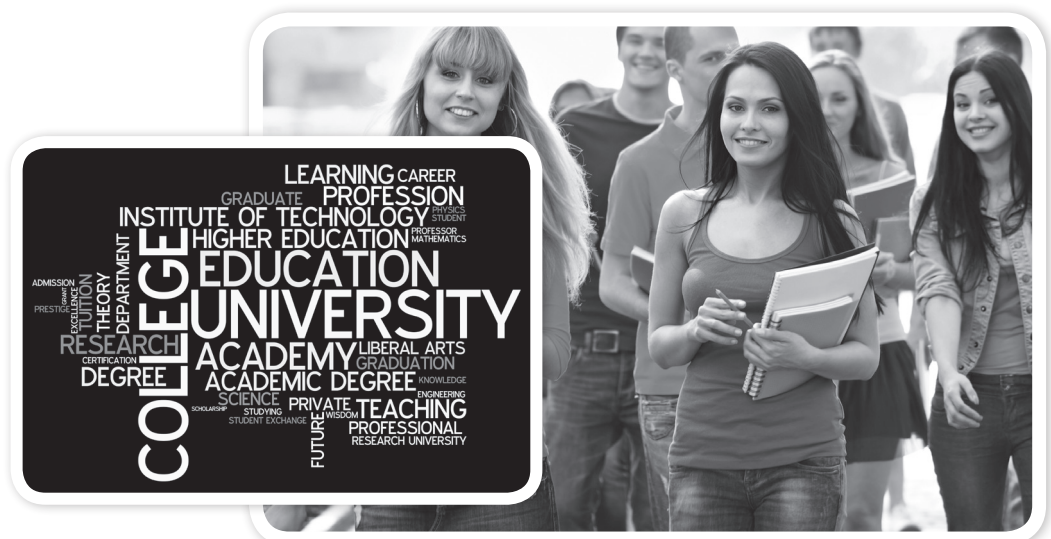
This step can be accomplished by taking both an aptitude/personality test and a career inventory. Both of these assessments are given to juniors in their Bible class, but if at all possible, the sooner you take these, the better.

## Familiarize Yourself with What the Options Are

There are several types of universities. Choosing one will depend on how your goals, interests, strengths, and background fit with the university's philosophy, atmosphere and expectations.

A few different types of schools are:

- **College (USA)** – an institution that offers educational instruction beyond the high school level in two-year or four-year programs.
- **University** – an academic organization which grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields. It is composed of a number of schools or colleges, each of which encompasses a particular field of study.
- **Liberal Arts School** – a four-year institution which emphasizes programs of broad undergraduate education. Professional or pre-professional training may be available, but it is not stressed.
- **Nursing School** – there are two kinds of nursing schools. At schools affiliated with hospitals, students receive R.N. degrees upon completion of their training. At schools affiliated with four-year universities, students receive both a B.S. and R.N. degree and have possibilities of entering the field of nursing administration.
- **Business School** – business schools fall into two categories. At some universities, it is possible to specialize in business administration or in a two-year secretarial course in conjunction with supplementary liberal arts courses. Other



institutions offer predominantly business or secretarial courses and may or may not be regionally accredited.

- **Military School** – federal military academic institutions prepare officers for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. These institutions (West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force Academy) require recommendation and appointment by members of Congress. Private and state-supported military institutes, however, operate on a university application basis. They all offer degree programs in engineering and technology with concentrations in various aspects of military science.
- **Vocational / Trade School** – a school in which students are taught the skills needed to perform a particular job. Traditionally, vocational schools have not existed to further education in the sense of liberal arts, but rather to teach only job-specific skills, and as such have been better considered to be institutions devoted to training, not education.

Perhaps you are planning on taking a **gap year** between high school and university? A gap year (also known as year abroad, year out, year off, deferred year, bridging year, time off, and time out) is a term that refers to a prolonged period (often, but not always, a year) between a life stage. The most popular gap years are taken pre- or during matriculation in a university.

## Determine What Characteristics in a School are Important to You

You may be asking yourself, how do I start making a decision about which university to attend? Research, research, research! There are two things to consider. First, there will not be one magic choice – one perfect school at which you will be happy. You will likely be happy at several different places. Second, the only bad university choice is an uninformed one. So, begin by looking at some of these factors.

### Some general questions to consider are:

- **Geographic location** – Where in the world do you want to be? Near family and friends? Near a beach? Hot or cold climate? Where do you want to spend the next four years of your life? Do you have residency in a particular state?
- **Setting** – Do you find cities exciting or scary? Do you find rural areas as opportunities for outdoor fun or do you consider them boring? What sort of things do you want access to (e.g. movie theaters, shopping centers, coffee shops)? Will you have transportation? Is an attractive campus important to you?
- **Size** – Ranging from 500 to 50,000, what size appeals to you? Do you want a large university or a smaller liberal arts college? How important is class size to you? How well do you want to know your professors? Are you the kind of person who can succeed in competition with lots of other good students in a larger school or would you do your best work in the more relaxed, informal environment found in most smaller universities?



- **Reputation** – Rankings are not the end all and be all of university placement, but some families consider reputation to be critical. There are many types of ranking and many ways to consider the prestige of a particular university. However, let this be only one of the criteria and not the most influential.
- **Academic programs** – For many students, the most important component of any education is what you are there to study. Does the college have the major you want? Double majors? Study abroad? Student-designed majors? What career are you pursuing? Are you looking for a broad education in the liberal arts?
- **Activities** – Are you interested in varsity sports? Intramurals? Music? Art? Drama? Want to join a fraternity or sorority? Interested in community service?
- **Admissions requirements** – Do you have the same profile as other applicants that have been accepted? Are your grades and SAT scores up to their standard?
- **Cost** – Is cost a factor? Do you have specific plans for financing your university education? Can your parents afford to send you to university? How much can they contribute? Are you willing to work?
- **Religious affiliation** – Do you want to attend a university which is administered by a particular denomination?
- **Housing facilities** – Do you want to live in a dormitory, or would you rather live with a limited number of people, with relatives, or by yourself?

## Make a List of Universities You Want to Investigate and Research Them

Once you have developed an idea of what characteristics are important, make a list of schools you would like to investigate. The Internet is an easy way to look at different schools. (see “Valuable Internet Sites” on page 53). After careful research, you should be able to reduce the list to 5-6 universities.

### Guidance Department

The Guidance Department has a wide range of resources available to you and your parents. Keep in mind that references often have biases and that it is recommended that you use more than one reference book to verify information. Remember that the most accurate source is an up-to-date catalog from each of the schools you are interested in. You may check out some of the resources to use at home; please return them promptly so that others may use them as well.

### University Representatives and Fairs

It is very important to talk with university representatives when they visit Penang, even if you are not planning to apply to their respective schools. These professionals can sometimes give you information about other universities in their region or with similar programs. They are also good resources on opportunities after graduation. They may answer general questions you have about university life. You may even discover that you have never heard about the university they represent, but it is the perfect fit for you!

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.princetonreview.com/majors.aspx>

<http://listofcollegemajors.com>

<http://www.a2zcolleges.com/Majors>

<http://www.college-student.net>

[www.bridge-u.com](http://www.bridge-u.com)

[myblueprintstory.com](http://myblueprintstory.com)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com)

[wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)

Prior to meeting with the university representatives, have some questions in mind that are important to you and that will help you determine which universities to target. Think about topics such as admissions criteria. Ask about location, total enrollment, cost, majors offered, if the school is public or private, the makeup and style of the student body, etc. More tips for talking to university reps or attending university fairs are listed on page 41.

### Internet-Based

Thousands of websites devoted to the university admission process are available. Every school has both official and unofficial sites. The problem is deciding which are useful and which can help you make better decisions. Here are just a few that are considered among the best. More sites are listed on page 53.

As a general rule, your final application group should include 5-6 universities which vary in terms of selectivity, but which have the most important characteristics you have determined as important.

### Narrowing it Down

As you begin refining your list, choose some schools you know you will get in to ("Safety Schools"), ones you are fairly confident will accept you ("Realistic Schools"), and ones that are more challenging to get in to ("Reach Schools"). After you have compiled this list, you can begin requesting additional information and applications from the schools you have selected.

To divide the schools into these categories, compare your exam/test scores and grades with those of

students recently admitted to each university being considered. These statistics are available in The College/University Handbook under "Freshman Class Profile" heading for each school. Use the following as guidelines:

- "Reach Schools" – your top 1-2 schools will fall into this category; your chances of admission may be less than 25%. The average class rank, grades and/or test scores or other admissions criteria of entering freshmen will be significantly higher than yours and you will need to "reach" to be admitted.
- "Realistic Schools" – you should have 2-3 schools where you are a truly viable candidate with a 50% chance of admission. Here the average class rank, grades and/or test scores will be similar to yours.
- "Safety Schools" – you need to have 1-2 schools where admission is a virtual certainty (75% or higher) and where you will be happy and productive. The average class rank, grades and/or test scores will be lower than yours.
- You are urged to give careful consideration to providing for diversity of admissions standards in your final list of universities. No student should apply exclusively to schools that have a reputation for being highly selective. These schools have more qualified candidates than they can accept. Just because you are qualified does not mean you will get in. Please be sure that you choose a safety school that you will be happy with if that's where you go.



**Many students spend hours deciding on their few "reach schools" and only a few minutes on selecting more probable choices. You are strongly advised to spend as much time and careful consideration in choosing your "safety schools" as you do in selecting your "reach schools."**

# 10 TIPS for SURFING University WEBSITES

Not all university websites are created equal. Some are better designed than others, some are easier to navigate, and some are better at keeping information current. Use the site map if you have any trouble finding any of the information described below.

## BROWSE THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ONLINE

Although it may take some digging to find them, they're well worth looking for. In everything from hard news to editorial cartoons, you'll get a feel for campus life, student concerns, and the caliber of student thinking and writing.

1

2

## LURK IN THE HALLS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

These legislative bodies can be key players on campus, controlling multimillion dollar budgets that support a wide range of student services. Online, you can get an idea of just how seriously they take their responsibilities. You may even be able to read the minutes of a recent meeting.

## GO CLUBBING

Are you an activist? A bird watcher? A pro at the chess board? A future marketing exec? A tree hugger? Often funded by student government, clubs come in all shapes and sizes. Look for links like Student Life to find out if there are campus clubs you'd want to join.

3

4

## PATRONIZE THE ARTS

The campus is often home to cultural events that draw locals, as well as students. Click on Events, Museums, Arts, or a similar link to learn about the school's film screenings, plays, lectures, art shows, poetry readings, concerts, and other cultural events.

## ENLIST ACADEMIC SUPPORT

You'll find that universities take great pains to keep you on campus once you get there. They offer a wide range of support services, which can include everything from drop-in writing assistance and peer tutoring in statistics to time management minicourses. You should find a description of these services in a selection called Student Services or simply Students, but you might have to refer to the site map.

5

# 6

## CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY

If the school offers online library resources, you'll probably find a Libraries link on the home page. Click to learn how large the book collection is, to try out their online catalog, and to find out to which electronic databases the library subscribes. You can also learn how the library teaches new students about its services.

## CHECK INTO HOUSING

You might be surprised at the many varieties of on-campus housing. Although your choices as a freshman might be more limited, you'll find language, Greek, and honors houses; dorm rooms that are more like apartments (with kitchens and bathrooms); and even lower-cost co-ops where students work together to prepare meals and perform other housework.

To find out what will be available to you during your first year, your best bet is to look for a Housing link under Admissions or Prospective Students. But to learn about the more distant future, try looking under Student Services or Current Students.

# 7

# 8

## CHECK UP ON STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

You'll be charged a student health fee when you register for classes, so why not find out what you are paying for? Look for a link on the home page that will take you to the student health services section. You'll learn which medical and counseling services are included and which are not.

## LOG ON TO COMPUTING SERVICES

Are dorms wired? Can you buy a discounted computer through the university? What technology support services does the university offer? Will you be able to register for classes online or will you have to stand in line? Do professors use the Internet to enhance classes? For answers, look for an Information Technology link on the home page.

# 9

# 10

## GRAB A TRAY

While some campuses offer only school-run cafeterias, others rent space to private businesses selling everything from pizza to garden burgers. Look for a link to Dining Services and get a taste of what's available. You might even find this week's menu online.

## ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM (THAT'S ELEVEN, BUT WHO'S COUNTING?)

Care for a set of tennis? Or maybe you're more at home cheering in the stands. Click on Athletics to look into intramural and recreational sports (in which any student can take part), fitness equipment and classes, and varsity season calendars.

# 11

# MY UNIVERSITY CHOICES

## My “Long List” to Research

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

## My “Short List”

### Safety Schools

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Realistic Schools

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Reach Schools

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# APPLYING

## Contacting Universities

Now it's time to contact the schools you find interesting. This is a simple matter of emailing them via the contact link on their website or emailing the specific university representative who visited Dalat. If we don't have a university representative's contact information from a school visit, then you will want to communicate with the Admissions Director (or an Admissions counselor). Be sure to make a note of his or her name. It is important that you state your full name, correct address, and phone number. If you are a U.S. citizen, you should also state that you are a U.S. citizen who is studying overseas. If you don't let them know this, they may send you information that relates only to international students.

**You should search for:**

- **Application information**
- **Application deadline**
- **Literature about school course offerings**
- **Financial Aid information** – this should include scholarships, grants, loan applications, and the name and telephone and fax numbers of someone you can contact in the financial aid office to help you. Be sure to check deadlines.
- **Housing information** – this should include choice of dormitory and characteristics of a roommate. Be sure to find out the location of the dorm in relation to your classes. If you do not have a vehicle, you'll want to live closer to the main buildings.

## Completing the Application

**Dalat students should complete and submit their applications to university by December 1st of their senior year.** The school counselor is happy to assist you in researching and applying to university, but it is your responsibility to follow up that all the necessary documents have been completed and submitted. Below is a list of the various components of a university application that you may need to submit:

- **Application Form** – use the application worksheet listed on page 19 to compile your basic information. Make sure it is completed and proofread before it is submitted. Keep a record of the date it was submitted and any confirmation numbers that the university gives you.
- **Application Fee** – most universities require a processing fee for applying. This is normally paid at the time the application is submitted.
- **Personal Essay** – essay questions on the application may be the deciding factor in the admissions committee's decision. Write honestly. Present new material that is not listed elsewhere in the application. Do not forget to edit!
- **Letters of Recommendation** – fill out a *Transcript and LOR Request* form and submit it to the guidance office. Once your requested teachers are approved, you will be contacted to communicate with each teacher directly. Provide them with your "Brag Sheet" and be sure to fill



out the top portion of all recommendation forms and sign them! The school reference form should be completed by the school counselor. Teacher recommendations are also required. Decide now and ask teachers at least four weeks ahead of time for recommendations.

- **Entrance Examinations (e.g. SAT, AP, TOEFL)** – most universities require that entrance exam results be forwarded to them directly from the testing company. Check the appropriate websites for procedures.

**Transcripts** – fill out a *Transcript and LOR Request* form and submit it to the guidance office. If there are additional forms (recommendations, financial certifications, etc.) that need to be submitted along with your transcript, you must notify the school counselor via the form at the time of the transcript request.

At Dalat, we require at least **one week notice** for transcripts and/or school records. Please keep this in mind as you are looking at school deadlines. Also,

remember that mail will take some time to reach its destination. You can receive an electronic copy of your transcript up until the final transcript at the end of the school year. After that point you will receive hard copies only, and can purchase additional ones via the school registrar. If you graduated more than a year before requesting your transcript, you will need to order the transcript via the Dalat website and it will be mailed to you from a transcript depository in the USA.

Depending on the university, they may require you to submit a Mid-Year Report form. It will be available at the start of the second semester to reflect your grades from the first semester.

- **Financial Statements / Certification** – international students will need to submit a declaration of finance form to each school to which that they are applying. Some universities have specific forms that they require; others require a letter from your sponsor and bank statements.



**Make sure that you take responsibility. It is your job to make sure your application is complete and that all the documents have reached the universities by the deadlines.**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service and volunteer work (without pay) is viewed very favorably by university admissions representatives. Students who give up a summer or part of a summer of fun and relaxation to devote to others are considered as more attractive candidates. Universities often recognize students as much for their real life experiences and their work ethic as they do for their success in the classroom. Institutions of higher learning want students who are less self-centered and more mature. It is that kind of student who brings a spirit of giving back to the campus and the university community.



# APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Information

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Father's occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Information

High Schools attended: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT dates and scores: Date taken: \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

Date taken: \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Subject scores: Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT score (Comp.) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Class rank \_\_\_\_\_ Cum. GPA \_\_\_\_\_

## Senior Courses

## Core Courses (9-12)

\_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Foreign Language \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Visual & Applied Art \_\_\_\_\_

Possible Major \_\_\_\_\_ Essay Topic \_\_\_\_\_

## School and Extra-Curricular Activities

In-School Activities	(9-12)	Hrs/Wk Position	Awards/Honors
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Out-of-School Activities	(9-12)	Hrs/Wk Position	Awards/Honors
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Writing the University Essay

Most universities require an essay or personal statement as part of their application. The essay represents the most time-consuming, difficult, yet important part of your application. This is your opportunity to speak for yourself and you should take full advantage of it. You will learn more about writing university essays in your junior Bible class, Design & Purpose, and will be given the chance to look at and answer different types of essay questions.

It is strongly recommended that you take the time during the summer between your junior and senior years to write your essays. The application essay is a very significant part of any application and it is best that you devote time, energy, and thought in creating, writing, and editing your university essay or personal statement. The essay is an extremely important component when applying to many selective universities in the U.S. You will find that your senior year is extremely busy. Dalat seniors are often overwhelmed in taking a number of advanced subjects, continuing your after-school activities or sports, and taking several sets of SATs. The reality is that there is very little time from August through December to devote to application essays. Using some hours of each week during the summer break dedicated to composing university essays or potential personal statements can be time well spent. This is especially important if you are considering an early application or an early decision plan.

To learn how to write university essays, practice writing sample essays. Good writing does not happen in one draft. Time and opportunity for input from counselors and teachers are needed to produce a quality essay. Here are some suggestions to help you as you begin to write your essays:

- Leave yourself ***plenty of time*** to write your essays.
- Ask a teacher whose judgment you trust to read through your essay and offer suggestions. Do not expect the teacher to correct your grammar, but make general ***suggestions for improvement***.
- Use ***real-life stories*** that make your essay come alive. You need to capture the reader's attention right away because he or she may be reading over 50 essays a day.
- ***Don't reiterate*** in your essay what you have already clearly spelled out in some other part of your application.
- Don't take anything for granted. ***Clearly explain*** programs in which you have been involved or volunteer work you have done.
- ***Be enthusiastic*** and positive about yourself. No need to be arrogant, but by all means "toot your own horn."
- Be specific and concrete. Have a clear conclusion to your essay. ***Answer the question that was asked***. Stay away from clichés!

The most common university essay is often called the ***Personal Statement*** since the purpose is to enable the admissions committee to discover a more personal glimpse of you and your motivation in applying to that particular school. In many cases, especially from abroad, a university interview is not possible. Therefore, the essay takes on more meaning for students applying from international schools and it becomes even more important in providing an image of the person behind the application.



In many cases, the Personal Statement is open-ended. You are permitted to pose your own question and comment on any relevant or prominent point related to your personal or academic history. The essay also provides competitive universities with a method to judge the maturity, uniqueness, and academic nature of the applicant. Moreover, the manner in which you address a university essay question can say volumes about your creative abilities and skills in verbal expression.

Most universities request essays that fall into four categories:

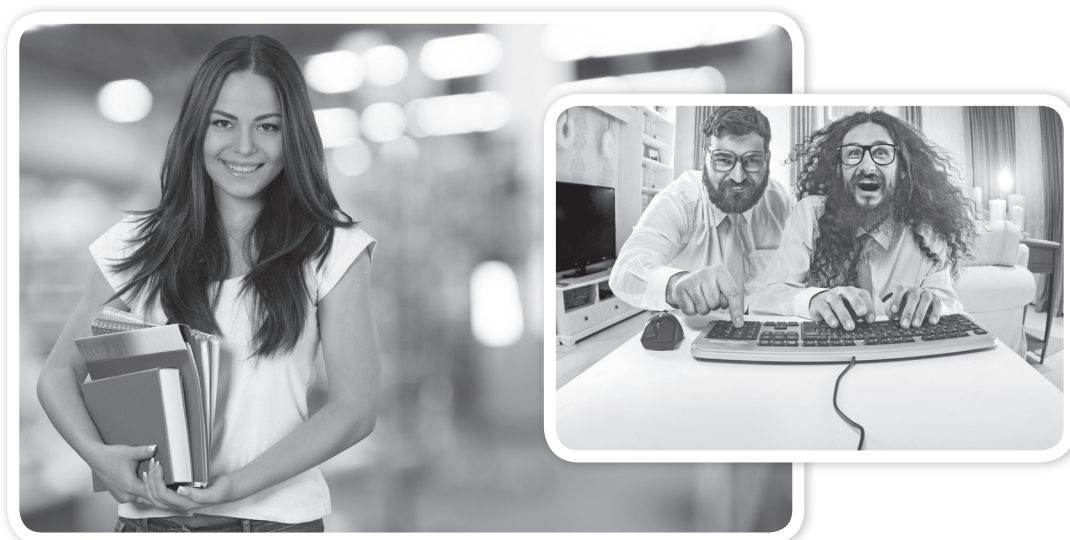
- 1. Tell us about yourself.** This is the most common essay required. Since it is so general, you may find it difficult to decide which part of your life to write about. You must first determine which accomplishments best illustrate who you are, what you want out of life, how you think, and how you intend to achieve your goals.
- 2. Tell us about an academic or extra-curricular activity of interest to you.** You might select an activity you contributed to, why it was important to you, how it changed your outlook, and how you feel about it now.
- 3. Tell us why you want to attend this university.** The admissions committee will look to see if your essay explains why you think their institution will provide the university experience you want and how you perceive that experience will contribute best to your overall intellectual growth and personal development.
- 4. Write about an imaginative side of yourself.** This can provide an opportunity to be clever, humorous, serious, or reflect a special aspect of

your personality. It provides an opportunity to present aspirations and goals that you have for your future.

Successful essays share two features; 1) fluent writing, and 2) an honest portrayal of yourself. Universities are concerned about your writing proficiency and you can strengthen your application by demonstrating good writing skills and technical control of language. In portraying yourself, you should reveal a thoughtful description of your values, accomplishments, and goals. You can highlight your strengths, uniqueness in your background or experiences, and contributions you can bring to university. This is your chance to show your versatility and depth of commitment.

It is reasonable to assume that admission committee members at selective schools spend considerable time reading and discussing student application essays. Consequently, you should devote considerable time in thinking, planning, writing, and rewriting your essays. Eventually, a well-constructed, well-written essay could be the difference between an acceptance or a denial at highly competitive universities. Your essay must be in your voice. Any suggestion or hint that it was written by others, or with considerable assistance, would doom your application to the dustbin of university denials.

Finally, keep in mind that the essay is only one piece of the puzzle in your application process. University admissions officers try to read four applications an hour. You need to find a way to stand out in the pile of paper. Do not try to “sound American”; celebrate your heritage. Universities want diversity, and chances are, they will want you.



# 10 EASY STEPS in WRITING the UNIVERSITY ESSAY

1

Plan your essays during the summer before your senior year, if you can. Allow yourself enough time for all the steps that follow.

2

Be sure you fully understand the university's topics, directions, and deadlines. Look on the website, in the on-line application, and ask your counselor for guidance.

3

Ask your English teacher for help in organizing and structuring your approach to the question(s). Create an outline. Some selective universities have more than one essay!

4

Before you even begin to write your essay, jot down your aspirations and how you think that university will help you meet them. Work off your resume if necessary, but try and address what 'you' emerges from that list of activities. Do not simply write down all that you accomplished or achieved.

5

Think about the style or the form you might use to convey your thoughts and ideas. Prose is not always the perfect way. Perhaps your theme lends itself to another genre or writing form.

6

Write the first draft and set it aside for a couple of days. Then revisit it, reread it, and rewrite it. Minimize clichés, triteness, vagueness, and grammatical errors. Ask yourself if your essay is focused and specific enough. Does the introduction grab the reader?

7

Now, rewrite your essay once again after having it reviewed by parents, friends, and your counselor.

8

Consult your English teacher and get his or her candid opinion. Ask pointed questions and ask for honest opinions. However, do not let anyone rewrite YOUR essay.

9

If necessary, go back to steps 3, 4, or 5. Check for awkward phrasing, poor word choice, or anything else that does not sound right or convey your thoughts properly. Read your essay aloud to hear the sound of it.

10

As a Word document, put your essay through the spell and grammar check. Reread it, fine-tune it, touch it up, and submit it with your paper or online application materials. RELAX!

Taken from "Get it Together for College", published by CollegeBoard

## Letters of Recommendation

At Dalat, recommendations are confidential. The reason for that is confidential letters carry more weight. The admissions committee knows the writer has written candidly about you. If your application form includes a Waiver of Access, we recommend you waive your right of access.

Your counselor writes a recommendation in support of your application and tries to draw attention to your most positive characteristics as a student and as an individual. That recommendation will also point out any issues that may have affected your high school record. Generally, this recommendation addresses your abilities, talents, and potential as a learner. It is often a glowing endorsement of your scholastic and personal achievement. Your counselor also must provide any information pertaining to poor performance or unacceptable behavior such as academic dishonesty. Your counselor is also the person who would fill out the **School Profile**, so it is recommended that you do not give the same profile to teachers.

Teacher recommendations provide more detail about your approach to learning in a particular subject area. It is your responsibility to ask your teachers for recommendations. It is recommended that you get one teacher recommendation from a humanities subject and one teacher recommendation from a math or science subject. Universities assume that all recommendations will provide positive evaluations of each student.

Here are some suggestions in securing personal letters of recommendation:

- **Choose these people carefully.** Ask people who know your academic and/or personal qualities.
- **Give them at least four weeks to do the job.** You do yourself an injustice if you do not allow them time to write a thoroughly thoughtful letter.
- To each person who is to write you a recommendation, give:
  1. The form from the university or a Request for Recommendation form available in the guidance office;
  2. The deadline date;
  3. The name of the university and any scholarships you are applying for;
  4. A brief description as to the type of information that is desired.
- **Follow-up** to make sure that the letter was written and given to the guidance office for mailing. A few days before the deadline, contact the persons and thank them for having written the letters or completed the recommendation forms for you. If by chance one of them has forgotten, this will act as a gentle reminder.
- Be sure your application has been sent so that it arrives before your recommendations.

**More is not better when it comes to recommendations. Universities want what they ask for, nothing more. A student who insists on sending more than the necessary number of recommendations may have his or her application reviewed with suspicion or distrust.**



## Entrance Examinations

Standardized tests are required by nearly all universities. Since tests are a specific requirement of the university admissions process, be sure that you take the appropriate one for the university of your choice.

The CEEB/SAT School Code for Dalat International School is **686360** and **867080** for the ACT. Please put this code on your registration form for all SAT's and ACT's. If you don't, we will not receive official reports of your scores and will not be able to help you if you have a "missing scores" problem.

**PSAT/NMSQT** Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/  
National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

The PSAT/NMSQT is taken in the first semester of your sophomore and junior years and consists of two parts: Math and Verbal. The PSAT/NMSQT gives you an opportunity to become aware of the types of questions asked on the SAT that you will be taking for university entrance. The scores are valuable in giving you and your counselor some indication as to the type of university to which you may want to apply.

Scores from this test are also used to determine the candidates for the National Merit Scholarships.

Dalat administers the PSAT/NMSQT to sophomores and juniors during the morning class periods on the specified test date in October. The test is mandatory, whether you are planning on taking the SAT or not. Dalat uses the test results for data tracking and making curriculum decisions. The fee for the test will be charged to your parents' account. Students will need to create an account with the College Board to receive results electronically in early December.

### SAT

SAT is short for Scholastic Aptitude Test. The purpose of the SAT is to predict how well you are likely to do in university. You should take this test in the second semester of your junior year and/or in the first semester of your senior year. Taking it more than once is strongly encouraged and gives you an opportunity to raise your scores if you didn't do as well as you would have liked the first time. However, scores will not change drastically enough to warrant a student taking it more than three times. Another thing to note is that the SAT's are probably more important than admissions people say they are, but

less important than you probably think they are.

The SAT consists of two main sections: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and it takes 180 minutes to complete or 230 minutes with the optional 50 minute essay. It measures your reading, problem-solving, critical-thinking, and writing ability. This test is accepted for admission at most universities. A perfect score on the SAT is 1600.

Dalat offers four administrations of the SAT (October, December, March, and May). Registration and payment should be completed online at **<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>**.

### **Important information about international registration:**

- Completed international registration materials must be received by the international deadlines.
- There is no late registration for international testing. Online and telephone registrations must be completed by the international deadline dates listed on the testing website.
- The Language Tests with Listening are offered only in November.

### SAT Subject Test

The purpose of the SAT Subject Tests is to measure your knowledge or skills in a particular subject. There are several different achievement tests. The subject tests are multiple choice and take one hour each. They are offered in 20 areas, including English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Languages. The university may require one of the math tests (Level 1 or 2) and another one usually of your choice.

Dalat offers four administrations of the SAT Subject Tests (October, November, December, and May). ***It is important to note that the "listening" portion of any language test is only offered in the November administration.*** Time does not permit you to take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests on the same day. Registration and payment should be completed online at **<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>**.

### ACT American University Test

You may take this test in your junior and senior years. It consists of four parts: English, Math, Reading, and Science and takes 2 hours and 40 minutes. There is an optional writing component as well, which takes an additional hour. The maximum composite score is 36.

Dalat administers the ACT on campus in September, October, December, and April. You can register and pay for the test online at **www.act.org**.

***Important information about international registration:***

All students testing outside the United States, U.S. territories, Puerto Rico, or Canada must register online. There are no international registration packets. You must establish a free student online account in order to register. After providing the information requested to create the account, click the “Register to Test” link and follow the instructions on the screens to complete your registration. Payment must be made by valid credit card.

**TOEFL Test of English as a Foreign Language**

This multiple-choice test is given with the major purpose of determining the English proficiency of students whose native language is not English. Scores are reported in three areas: Listening Comprehension, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. Many universities include TOEFL as an admissions requirement for international students who have not completed at least three years of high school in an English speaking country. At the time of printing the TOEFL was not available on the island of Penang.

Dalat does **NOT** administer the TOEFL on campus. To schedule your TOEFL exam, please register online at **www.ets.org/toefl**.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**

These exams are given in May for university-level courses taken in high school. University credit and grades may be earned for acceptable scores. Check with the schools to which you are considering applying and find out what their policy is on Advanced Placement exams.

Dalat offers exams in all AP subjects that students are enrolled in during the current year. These exams are administered on campus. They are spread out over two weeks and take about 3 hours each.

***Important information about the exams:***

- Early testing or testing at times other than those published by CollegeBoard are not permitted under any circumstances.
- If you wish to take exams that are scheduled for the same time slot, ask your AP Coordinator

for information about taking one of the exams during the late-testing period.

- You may not take both Calculus AB and Calculus BC in the same year.

**Reporting Scores**

It is advisable to list your first choice university codes on the registration form. Doing so saves time and money. The last time you register, be sure to include all universities to which you are applying. If you decide you want a university to receive your scores but have not listed them on your most recent score report request, you should send a request as quickly as possible.

It is important to recognize that each university must receive the official versions of these scores from the proper authority (testing agency) in a timely fashion.

To be sure that CollegeBoard, ACT, and your university keep all your records in order, be sure to give them your name exactly the same way each time. Make sure that you enter your Family name and Given name exactly the way the forms indicate. Using initials one time and not the next may cause confusion and your scores may not be reported. Also, using one name on the test registration form, and another on the application, and yet another on your school records (e.g. Tom, Tommy, Thomas) can result in a university or testing agency listing you under more than one name.



**Keep a record of your registration numbers from each test date. Having these numbers will be most helpful if you have to contact CollegeBoard or ACT at a later date.**

# SAT TEST DAY TIPS WHAT TO BRING

*No matter how many times you have been told to relax and not worry about it, on test day you'll likely be a bit nervous. Actually, a little tension is good – it will keep you sharp. But too much tension can hurt your performance. Here are some tips to help you arrive at the test center in good shape and ready to do your best:*

## Listen to Mom

- Get a good night's sleep before the exam.
- Set out your photo ID, admission ticket, pencils needed, and fresh erasers before bed, to avoid last-minute rushing in the morning.
- Eat breakfast. You'll be at the test center for several hours and you are likely to get hungry.

## Know how you'll get to the test location

If you've been assigned to a test site you are unfamiliar with (this can happen if you register late), make sure you print out and review directions, and leave enough time for unexpected delays.

## Leave early enough so you won't have to rush or be late

You do not need the extra anxiety. Plan to arrive at the test center by 7:45 a.m. Testing starts at about 8:00 a.m.

## If you didn't register in time

If you miss the late registration deadline, there's still a chance that you can take the SAT as a standby. Test centers accept standbys on a first-come, first-served basis only if they have enough space, testing materials, and staff – so there is no guarantee that you'll be admitted to the test.

## What you really need to bring:

- You **MUST** bring an acceptable Photo ID and your SAT Admission Ticket. You won't be allowed in otherwise. Acceptable ID means: current, government- or school-issued, recent, recognizable photo bearing your name in English (matching the name on your admission ticket).
- Be sure to bring two pencils and a good, soft eraser. It must be a 2HB (or No.2) pencil in order to be machine-readable. **Mechanical pencils and pens are not allowed**, even for the essay. And check that the eraser erases cleanly, without smudges.

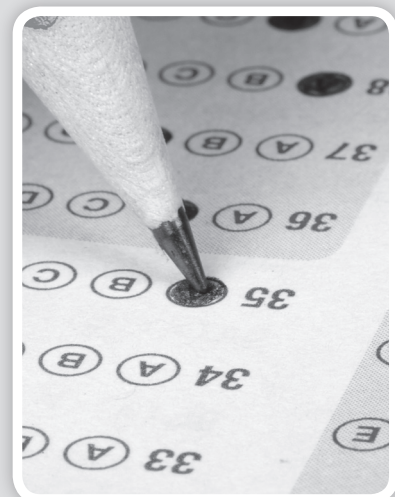
## It's also a good idea to bring:

- An acceptable calculator with fresh batteries. Acceptable means: graphing, scientific, or 4-function. No laptops or other portable/handheld computers, or machines with typewriter-like keypads.
- Snacks. You will get a short break at the end of each hour of testing, and you can eat or drink any snacks you have brought with you during these breaks. A healthy snack will go a long way toward keeping you alert during the entire test.
- A watch to pace yourself.
- A backpack or bag to keep your stuff under your seat.

## What not to bring:

- Cell phone or other digital/electronic equipment
- Scratch paper
- Notes, books, dictionary
- Compass, protractor, ruler, or any other aid
- Highlighter or colored pencils
- Portable listening or recording device (unless you are taking a Language Test with Listening)
- Camera or other photographic equipment
- Timer with audible alarm

*Taken from "Get it Together for College", published by CollegeBoard*



## Transcript of Grades and GPA

Your transcript is an indicator of your high school achievements and performance and is the **most important piece** in your application. Universities are looking for students with genuine effort, intellectual ability, and an interest in learning. The more selective a university is, the more interest they have in the courses you have taken in high school, expecting a heavy concentration of challenging courses.

Your transcript is a record of all grades achieved during each semester of high school (grades 9-12). Your counselor will also send a School Profile with each transcript. The profile provides information about the course selection, grading scale, previous university admissions, test results, and grade distributions.

### Class Selection

Class selection reveals the level of your study in high school. Did you take the most difficult and demanding classes offered or did you opt for less rigorous classes? The school profile provides the office of admissions with a means to measure the range of classes offered. Does the school offer honors and AP classes and did the applicant take many or some of these classes? The Secondary School Report (SSR), which is filled out by your counselor, asks a question and provides answers related to whether or not you took a demanding, less demanding, or most challenging course load. This information is weighed against your grade point average (GPA).

## Additional Information

### Extracurricular Activities

An extracurricular activity is one that you have chosen to participate in on your own accord. It may be school-sponsored or not, and it requires your time and a certain degree of involvement and commitment. Universities want to know more about you and what you do away from your desk and separate from your computer. Each of your activities and the level of your participation in things beyond the classroom says something about you that is enlightening to an admission officer reading your application file.

Universities are looking for students who are intelligent, personable, and active. You do not have to be a star athlete or a skilled musician or actor to receive credit for being active. You also do not have to be involved in everything imaginable. Universities want students who are motivated beyond the classroom and earnest enough to devote time and energy to clubs, sports, organizations, and work. Universities are impressed with students who help others and/or demonstrate initiative, leadership, volunteerism, activism, entrepreneurship, a desire to explore, a sense of responsibility, and/or a strong work ethic.

Students who demonstrate (in a resume or on the application) that they maintained their interest in a certain activity for a number of years and have played a leadership role in that activity will be considered more highly than students with a higher GPA or higher SAT scores who have done very little in high school but study.



## **The Resume**

Some students may opt to use the essay or personal statement to write about a special activity. Others choose to list the various honors, awards, leadership roles, and activities in some chronological fashion. A good resume can reveal as much about you as the personal essay. It speaks to your involvement and your social engagement. It can also reveal much about your interests and abilities outside of the classroom. A resume is not often required, but it can be useful as you complete applications.

## **Special Skills, Talents, and/or Extraordinary Experiences**

If most universities want generally active students, they are also seeking young people with special skills and talents. Leadership is important, but so are talents in competitive athletics although most high school sports stars find it difficult to transfer those skills to university teams. Schools are always looking for skilled musicians, actors, singers, and performers as well. They also seek those who had extraordinary experiences. If you can include a special and recognized talent as a part of your application, it can benefit your chances immensely. In those cases, a coach or a person who knows and appreciates your talent should offer to write additional recommendations.

## **The Art or Performance Portfolio**

Dalat's Fine Arts department is exceptional and produces a number of talented artists, musicians, and actors who wish to use their talents and study their genre on a collegiate level. AP Studio Art, especially, enables students to produce a portfolio that is part of the course requirement. Art and Design schools and the art or music departments at selective universities often require slides, a video, a CD, and audition, or some tangible evidence of your abilities. This kind of portfolio or audition is often the most important part of any such application.

Finally, universities want to know if you are fundamentally a good person – honest, responsible, thoughtful, with genuine concern for yourself and others. They want to know what special personal qualities you will bring to their campuses.

## **Application Timing (USA)**

Every university has its own deadline dates, and you are responsible for knowing those dates and completing all applications well ahead of those dates.

Regular admission applications are normally due by January 1st or later in February. It is your responsibility to know each specific deadline date and to submit your Transcript and LOR Request form to the guidance department with any other supplemental materials at least four weeks prior to those dates.

The "December Rush" occurs in those weeks between the American Thanksgiving holiday and the Christmas Break. Many Dalat students apply to schools with a January 1 or January 15 deadline.

## **Early Decision**

In this plan, you are definitely interested in one particular school. Therefore, you apply to the school earlier than the other students who are applying for general admissions. The specific deadline for "Early Decision" is determined by the school. Schools under this plan demand that you apply only to their school if you are asking for an "Early Decision". They expect you to attend their school if you are accepted.

## **Early Action**

With "Early Action", you will know the university's decision early. If you are accepted, you are not committed to attend that school.

## **Notification Date**

Some highly competitive universities notify most of their prospective students in April.

## **Rolling Admission**

It is always better to send applications destined to schools with a rolling admissions policy as early as possible. Do not wait for the later deadline! In this type of admission plan, you are notified as soon as your application file is competed and reviewed. Admissions decisions are made continuously throughout the year.

## **Mid-Year Reports**

In early to mid-January, Dalat sends an updated transcript to the universities to which you have applied. The mid-year report generally includes the senior grades from the first semester and information about any significant changes in your academic program, activities, behavior, or school performance. Sometimes an additional recommendation is submitted.

## **End-of-the-Year Reports and Transcripts**

Starting in February/March, students begin to receive the decisions from each school to which they

applied. In the first week of April, the more selective universities send out their decisions. On that basis, each student makes their decision and informs the guidance department of their final decision by May 1st. At the end of the school year (early June), the guidance department will send an electronic copy of your final transcript to the university you have chosen if it accepts that format (e.g. Common App).

*Note: Dalat issues each senior three hard copies of their final transcript during commencement practice for students to mail and that concludes the admission process.*

## General Admissions Policies

### Open Door

This type of school usually has certain requirements for admission that revolve around such things as diploma, age, tests taken.

### Moderately Selective

This type of school offers admission to all or most applicants who have successfully completed a university preparation program.

### Selective Admissions

With this type of admission the school usually has many specific expectations regarding a student's pre-university preparation.

### Highly Selective Admissions

This type of school has many highly qualified students applying, who meet their stringent admission requirements. The major factors of consideration are your GPA, test scores, and specific courses

you have taken. Other factors that are considered: interview, recommendations, special talents, special accomplishments, jobs, unusual experiences, and leadership qualities.

## University Decision-Making Process

The university can make one of four decisions:

### 1. Accept

### 2. Wait List

This means they want you, but it depends on how much room there is. Minimal chances of acceptance- essentially a denial.

### 3. Defer

If you have applied for Early Decision, they will review your file again with all the other regular decision candidates.

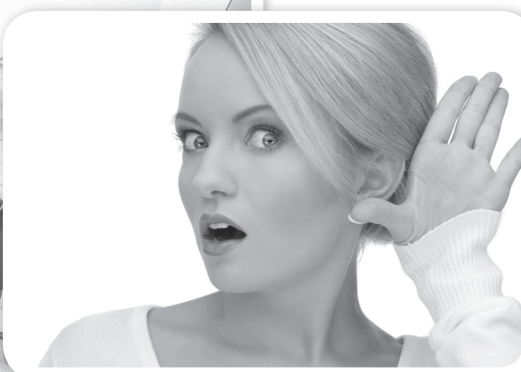
### 4. Deny

## Acceptance

Once accepted, schools need to be notified of your decision and will often require a deposit to hold a space for you.

In most cases, universities will request another transcript at the end of the first semester of your senior year. You are responsible for submitting the request for this transcript.

Normally, your final high school transcript will be sent. This will be used to verify that you have completed high school. ***Final senior courses and grades are significant.***



# CONFIRMATION

## You have been accepted!

As soon as universities send their letters of acceptance to you, be prompt in replying.

When you receive an acceptance from the school you wish to attend, follow their instructions regarding:

1. Payment of a deposit fee
2. Selecting courses for your freshman year
3. Housing reservations
4. Medical forms
5. Securing a student visa

If the university does not require anything immediately, acknowledge your acceptance with a letter/e-mail to the Director of Admissions thanking him or her for the attention given to you and saying that you are looking forward to attending their school.

At the same time, you should write/e-mail the other universities which accepted you. Thank them for their consideration and ask them to withdraw your name from the enrollment lists. In withdrawing your name promptly, you are giving an acceptance possibility to another applicant who may have been placed on the waiting list.

*\* The courtesy of notifying universities of your plans is the last important phase of the university application process and should be completed carefully and promptly.*

It is important to note that universities do not approve of a student depositing money at more than one university.

## Financial Aid (USA citizens)

Most university students today receive some form of financial aid. University costs have increased annually. Whether to apply for financial aid or not is a family decision. However, do not allow your financial situation itself to be the sole determinant to which universities you apply.

There are 4 major sources of financial aid:

1. Federal grants
2. State grants
3. University scholarships, grants, loans, work study

## 4. Private scholarships and loans

The money for your university education will come from 5 major sources:

1. Parents' income
2. Parents' assets (savings, investments, special accounts, etc.)
3. Student's earnings (summer job, part-time job during school)
4. Student's assets (savings, trust accounts, investments, etc.)
5. Financial aid

Although most financial aid is based on financial need, national figures show that over 55% of university students receive some type of financial assistance. Financial aid usually consists of:

- **Grants** and **scholarships** which are gift money you do not have to pay back
- **Loans** which are borrowed money that you must repay with interest
- **Work study** which lets you work on campus and earn money

Financial aid can help you attend school. **BE SURE TO APPLY! DON'T DISQUALIFY YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU ARE INELIGIBLE – LET SOMEONE ELSE MAKE THAT DECISION.**

Applying for financial aid is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**. Without making the effort, you will not be considered for any kind of assistance. You are urged to apply for several types of financial aid. However, to be eligible for federal aid, you must have the following:

- financial need
- U.S. citizenship
- social security number
- make satisfactory academic progress in university
- be registered with the selective service if required

In order to be considered for state and federal funds, it is necessary to complete the Free Application for **Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, the State Student Aid forms from your state, and possibly the **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE** put out by The CollegeBoard

or other school specific forms. The FAFSA can be found online and the CSS can be obtained from your school counselor, but *state forms must be requested from your university*.

Be sure to check with the university's financial aid officer who will help you determine whether you qualify for any of these funds or other sources of aid. The financial aid officer can analyze your specific family financial situation. Once your family contribution is determined, no matter what a university costs, your family contribution remains constant. The cost of university determines your financial need.

### Helpful Hits

1. Start early and check deadlines.
2. Be sure to complete all forms accurately.
3. Send a letter of explanation directly to the university regarding any special or unusual circumstances occurring within your family.
4. Check with the institution of your choice for payment plans to assist you in meeting any remaining costs after you have received your financial aid package. You will be required to pay a portion of your university costs, and you may wish to pay that in installments during the school year.

## Scholarship Search

What can you do to be a good candidate?

- Keep up the best grades possible.
- Make sure the courses you take are appropriate for your university choice.

- Excel in an activity (e.g. music, sports).
- Take the SAT and review weaknesses and develop strengths. Retake it your senior year to improve your scores.
- Establish a work or volunteer record (e.g. being a Teacher's Assistant).

### Investigate possible scholarships through:

- Church or mission organization
- Your parents' employer
- Your special talent areas
- Career goals
- Nationality or ministry group
- Armed Forces
- Organizations /clubs of your parents
- The university that you are applying to

Researching and pursuing scholarships is your responsibility. Try as many avenues as you are able to. You may be pleasantly surprised!

## Discuss your Family Financial Resources

Discuss with your parents what resources are available for your education and what they expect your contribution to be. Find out if they want you to work to help pay for the costs, if they plan to cover the expenses themselves, or if you can expect to rely on another source of help. It is wise to know in advance how much you will need to come up with. The process must be well understood in advance. Financial planning is a family affair.

**NOTE:** Some universities require the CSS/PROFILE for determining merit scholarships.



# WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (known as the FAFSA) is a form that can be filled out annually by current and anticipating university students (both undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for federal student financial aid (including Pell grants, Stafford loans, PLUS loans, and work-study programs). The Department of Education begins accepting the application beginning October 1 of each year (for enrollment the following August). Applicants who have filled out a FAFSA in previous years are able to fill out a renewal FAFSA, but information on taxes and savings, for example, must be updated annually. In addition, most states and schools use information from the FAFSA to award non-federal aid.

The FAFSA consists of numerous questions regarding the student's finances, as well as those of his or her family (in the case that a student is determined to be "dependent"); these are entered into a formula that determines the *Expected Family Contribution* (EFC). A number of factors are used in determining the EFC including the household size, income, number of students from household in university, and assets (not including retirement and 401(k) funds). This information is required because of the expectation that parents will contribute to their child's education, whether that is true or not.



The FAFSA does not have questions related to student or family race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

A *Student Aid Report* (SAR), which is a summary of the FAFSA responses, is forwarded to the student. The student should review the SAR carefully for errors and make any corrections. An electronic version of the SAR (called an ISIR) is made available for downloading by the universities the student selected on the FAFSA. The ISIR is also sent to state agencies that award state need-based aid. Schools may award aid on a first-come, first-served basis, and students are advised to fill out the FAFSA as early as possible for consideration for maximum financial assistance. (Information obtained from Wikipedia.)

## Eligibility

Nearly every student is eligible for some form of financial aid. Students that may not be eligible for need-based aid may still be eligible for an unsubsidized Stafford Loan regardless of income or circumstances. A student that can meet the following criteria may be eligible for aid:

- is a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or an eligible non-citizen;
- has a valid Social Security number;
- has a high school diploma or GED, or for adult students, can pass an Ability-to-Benefit test;
- is registered with the U.S. Selective Service (male students age 18-25);
- completes a FAFSA promising to use any federal aid for education purposes;
- does not owe refunds on any federal student grants;
- is not in default on any student loans; and
- has not been found guilty of the sale or possession of illegal drugs while federal aid was being received.

Website: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

# 10 QUESTIONS for the FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Each university has its own set of rules and policies governing financial aid- how outside scholarships are treated, whether aid awards can be appealed- information that may or may not appear in its brochures. As you check out the universities on your list, do not forget to email, call, or visit the financial aid office.

**Here are 10 questions to get you started:**

- 1 What's the average total cost of attendance (tuition & fees, books & supplies, room & board, travel, and other personal expenses) for the first year?
- 2 By how much should I expect the costs to increase each year? How much have tuition, fees, room & board increased over the last three to five years?
- 3 Does financial aid have an impact on admissions decisions? How is financial aid affected if I apply via an Early Decision or Early Action program?
- 4 Does the school offer need-based and merit-based financial aid? Are there other scholarships available that aren't based on financial need? Do I need to complete a separate application for merit-based scholarships?
- 5 What is the priority deadline to apply for financial aid?
- 6 When will I be notified about financial aid award decisions?
- 7 If the financial aid package isn't enough, can I appeal? Under what conditions, if any, will the aid office reconsider the offer?
- 8 How will the aid package change from year to year? What will happen if my family's financial situation changes? What will happen if my enrollment status changes?
- 9 What are the academic requirements or other conditions for the renewal of financial aid, including scholarships?
- 10 When can I expect to receive bills from the university? Is there an option to spread the yearly payment over equal monthly installments?

*Taken from "Get it Together for College", published by CollegeBoard*



# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

# INFORMATION FOR U.S. CITIZENS

## APPLYING TO UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S.

### Establishing U.S. Residency

The question of residency for missionary kids and other overseas American students is as important as tuition fees and other charges because tuition fees for state schools are usually much less for residents than out-of-state students. Also, most public universities have a more lenient admissions policy for residents.

Residency can usually be proven on one, or a combination of, the following factors\*:

1. Parental or personal voter registration in a state and /or local precinct.
2. A driver's license (held by student or parent) from the particular state.

3. Property ownership in a state; property or income taxes paid in a state.
4. Mailing address in a state.
5. Previous enrollment in a state school by parent or sibling as a resident.

The first three above are those bearing the greatest validity in the "case for residency". For further information, go online to <http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/stateresidency.phtml>.

*\*However, state residency policies vary from state to state, so be sure to find out what your state requires for proof of residency.*

## Step-by-Step GUIDE to the VISA Application Process

1

#### Gather Necessary Forms:

- I-20 from university (for F- or M-category visa) or DS-2019 (for J-category visa)
- Pay SEVIS fee and obtain I-901 receipt: SEVIS fee website: <http://www.fmjfee.com/>

2

Pay the Visa Application Fee at any Standard Chartered Bank branch

3

#### Schedule Your Interview Arrival Time

Each applicant needing an interview must schedule an appointment, regardless of age.

4

Complete Online Application Form: DS-160

5

Gather Supporting Documents and Current and Previous passports

6

Obtain Photo

7

Come to the U.S. Embassy for your interview.

Be sure to bring all required forms, fee payment receipts, supporting documents, current and previous passports.  
[www.ustraveldocs.com](http://www.ustraveldocs.com)

# INFORMATION FOR NON-U.S. STUDENTS

## STUDENTS APPLYING TO NON-U.S. COLLEGES

### Applying for a Visa

Although you have been admitted to a university, if you are coming directly from overseas, the U.S. Embassy/Consulate makes the final decision in granting you a Student Visa (does not apply to Canadians).

In most countries, first-time student visa applicants are required to appear for an in-person interview. However, each embassy and consulate sets its own interview policies and procedures regarding student visas. You should consult Embassy websites or call for specific application instructions.

Keep in mind that June, July, and August are the busiest months in most consular sections, and interview appointments are the most difficult to get during that period. You need to plan ahead to avoid having to make repeat visits to the Embassy.

It is important to remember that applying early and providing the requested documents **does not guarantee that you will receive a visa**. Also, because each student's personal and academic situation is different; two students applying for the same visa may be asked different questions and be required to submit different documents. For that reason, the guidelines that follow are general and can be abridged or expanded by consular officers overseas, depending on each student's situation.

### Where Should You Go?

The U.S. Embassy/Consulate closest to your home will process your visa application.

### When Should You Go?

Most Embassies/Consulates have specific hours to review non-immigrant visa applications. Most applicants will go to the Embassy/Consulate and have to wait in long lines, but there are a few that will process your application by mail. Please check with the one located closest to your home for their application procedures.

- Remember that the Embassy/Consulate will close for both U.S. and local holidays.
- Try to arrange an interview long before the day you plan to travel to the U.S. You are strongly encouraged to apply for your visas several weeks before you plan to travel.
- Most U.S. universities begin their academic year in August, so this is a very busy month at the Embassy/Consulate. Plan ahead so you can arrive in time for orientation and class.

### What Should You Take To The U.S. Embassy/Consulate?

It is crucial that you take all the proper documents with you during your visa appointment. If you don't, you may be required to return for a second time, which may delay your visa for several weeks.



## What Is Needed To Apply For A Student Visa?

All applicants for a student visa must provide:

- An **I-20** form obtained from a U.S. college, school, or university. Please be sure to bring **all** the pages of the I-20 form. The form must also be signed by you and by a school official in the appropriate places.
- A completed nonimmigrant visa application form (**DS-156**), together with form **DS-158**. These forms are available at the Embassy or at <http://travel.state.gov/visaforms.html>
- A **passport** valid for at least six months after your proposed date of entry to the U.S.
- A **receipt** for the U.S. visa processing fee (US \$100).
- **Letter of admission** from the university.
- **Photographs** (2x2 size)
- **Financial evidence** that shows you, or your parents/sponsor, have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study. Also includes

proof of assistantship (scholarship, loan) if you have received any.

All applicants ***should be prepared*** to provide:

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous schools attended.
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution (i.e. TOEFL, SAT, etc.)
- You may be asked additional questions regarding whether or not you have lived in the U.S. previously; if your parent's business is located in the U.S. or sponsored by a U.S. organization; and whether or not you have siblings who are U.S. citizens. As an international student, you must establish that you have binding ties to your home country and intend to return there once you have completed your studies (i.e. parents in home country, ownership of property, etc.)

For additional information, see the U.S. State Department Visa Services website and [http://travel.state.gov/foreign\\_student\\_visas\\_handout.html](http://travel.state.gov/foreign_student_visas_handout.html).



# COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The following includes information about some of the countries that some Dalat students apply to regularly. The counselors attempt to update this as new information becomes available. If you have more or newer information about any system or country, please pass it on to your counselor.

## Australia

Australia applicants will need to begin work on applications as early as **September** (or earlier) for March entry dates. Often students find it helpful to start during the July holiday break by visiting the university admissions offices personally. The process takes determination and patience in providing additional documentation, explanation of course work and many phone calls and interviews.

With the current demand on spaces at universities in Australia, it is recommended that you take the strongest academic program possible, taking full advantage of AP courses. Australian universities are trying to attract international students, so a non-Australian student may have an easier time being admitted than an Australian citizen.

More and more Australian universities are using SAT or ACT and high school grades as a factor in university admittance. Contact both the Central Admissions organization of the state you are applying to and the individual university admissions office. Try to talk with the same person each time and get as much of the information in writing as possible.

Students who will complete the application process after graduation need to remember that it is more efficient to complete as much of the process as possible prior to departure from Malaysia. Collect recommendation letters and have them kept in your file at school. Distance – both in time and miles – complicates the process.

### **Universities Admission Centre (UAC) for New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory**

Locked Bag 500  
Lidcombe NSW 2141

### **Victoria Tertiary Admissions Centre**

40 Park Street  
South Melbourne, Victoria  
3205 Australia  
Tel: 613-690-7977

### **Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) QTAC Ltd.**

P.O. Box 1331  
Milton 4064  
Queensland, Australia

### **South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC)**

230 North Terrace  
Adelaide, South Australia 5000

### **Tertiary Institution Service Centre**

16 Stirling Highway  
Nedlands, Western Australia 6009

## Canada

Canadian applications are usually due between **January** and **April** prior to the September entry date. Application sites are usually open before the end of first semester so many students choose to complete the process early. Although the deadlines are later than U.S. schools, applications from overseas need to be received as early as possible.

The application process in Canada varies somewhat from province to province. A majority of the post-secondary institutions in Ontario use the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) as a central application agency. Other Canadian universities should be contacted individually.

One very important factor and a very confusing one for international students is the need for SAT and SAT Subject. Although a student may be a Canadian citizen, he or she must follow the application process as if applying from a U.S. high school. The same is true for a non-Canadian passport holder. Always check the university websites for the information pertaining to "American high school graduates".

Canadian Immigration requires that foreign students prove they have enough money to cover the cost of tuition and living expenses for a twelve-month period, plus return transportation. This proof must be shown at the Canadian Embassy (High Commission) or Consulate which issues your Student Authorization. Proof of your finances must also be shown before you are allowed to register in the following years.

[www.univcan.ca](http://www.univcan.ca)

## Germany

The “Abitur” is the German university entrance credential, the equivalent of which must be presented for admission by students whose secondary education was completed outside of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs assess the academic credential of such applicants, and classify these credentials as either Class I, II, or III. Class I credentials are considered the equivalent of the Abitur.

Although the AP is increasingly recognized in Germany, the **International Baccalaureate** (IB) diploma is more widely accepted and recommended. There are many other specific requirements even for IB students.

German requirements vary from one geographical area to another. Contact the regional educational office for the area in which you are interested.

### Sekretariat Der Standingen Konferenz

Der Lander in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Nassestrasse 1  
D-5300 Bonn 1

### Federal Republic of Germany

Non-German citizens should write to the DAAD in Bonn:  
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
Kennedy Allee 50  
D-5300 Bonn 2  
Federal Republic of Germany  
[www.daad.de/en](http://www.daad.de/en)  
<http://www.uni-assist.de>

## Japan

Japanese university applications tend to fall due from **October** until **January** for March/April entry. There are also some schools with **April** deadlines for a September starting date. The deadlines usually coincide with the entrance examination dates.

The admissions procedure to Japanese universities is a very structured process. There are two types of students:

- Students in Japanese schools (overseas or in Japan)
- Returning students (kikokushijo)

Most international students apply through the returning students (kikokushijo) procedures. This process involves several parts: testing, applications, recommendations, and certification of graduation.

The admissions process to most Japanese universities involves the following components:

<b>Application Form:</b>	filed by students
<b>Tests:</b>	SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL
<b>Recommendations:</b>	number varies; most of the time 2 or 3
<b>School Record:</b>	transcript, profile clarification if courses are Honors or AP, explanation of activities like NHS
<b>Essays:</b>	1 in Japanese, 1 in English (this counts twice as much as the Japanese essay)
<b>Examination:</b>	1 “in-house” examination; more in some cases
<b>Interview:</b>	at each university



Students applying to Japanese Universities are responsible for the following:

1. Filling out the applications.
2. Taking the examinations in Japan (usually October, November, and December)
  - a. Notifying your counselor of pending test dates in Japan.
  - b. Making up missed school work.
3. Taking the SAT and TOEFL at appropriate times.
4. Turning in Teacher Recommendation forms to the counselor as early as possible.

[www.jpss.jp/en/univ/english](http://www.jpss.jp/en/univ/english)

## New Zealand

There is basically a two-stage entry into universities in New Zealand. For most universities, the high school diploma will fulfill the basic entry requirement. To do this, you must apply for “ad eundem statum”. This means that you must gain an **entry credential** to be admitted to a university. Technically, a U.S. high school diploma is such a credential. This ad eundem statum states that your high school diploma is equivalent to the New Zealand school certificate. To apply for the ad eundem statum, you need to request it from the registrar of the university.

Applications may be made at any time, but to be certain of receiving notification of acceptance in time to complete the formalities, applicants must make sure that the necessary material to support an application is submitted by **September 15**. Once you are admitted to one university in New Zealand, that admissions status is transferrable to any other university in-country.

Applicants usually apply through the **Universities Entrance Board**:

### Universities Entrance Board

P.O. Box 12-348

Wellington North, New Zealand

It is recommended that you also communicate directly with the university after receiving application materials from the Universities Entrance Board.

For further information, contact:

### New Zealand Education Centre

21st Floor, Menara IMC

No. 8, Jalan Sultan Ismail

50250 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03-238-4612

## The United Kingdom

U.K. applications should be completed before **December 15** for all schools except medical/dental/veterinary schools and Oxford and Cambridge. These schools have an **October 15** deadline. Cambridge has an earlier deadline in September for students applying from Malaysia which involves an interview in Kuala Lumpur. With the exception of Oxford and Cambridge, all university applications in the U.K. are made through a central clearinghouse – UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Services). Students fill out one UCAS form for up to five schools, preference not indicated, and the clearinghouse forwards the application to the appropriate schools then tracks the application through the entire process. After students receive decisions from all schools, they indicate a first choice and an “optional insurance” second choice. As in the U.S., final acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of the senior year of high school. Students from American system schools generally need to reach a tariff point score, and can only receive points towards that score by AP exam results (e.g. 5 score = 28 points, 4 score = 24, 3 score = 20 points, etc.)

For further information, contact:

### British Council Education Counseling Service

Jalan Bukit Aman

50916 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: 03-298-7555

[study-uk.britishcouncil.org](http://study-uk.britishcouncil.org)



# A CAMPUS VISIT ALTERNATIVE

## UNIVERSITY FAIRS

For students who cannot visit campuses in person, these bustling fairs offer an invaluable opportunity to gain a unique perspective about the schools that interest them.

At university fairs and presentations, college representatives field many of the same questions from each prospective student. While it's true that there is no such thing as a "bad" question, the answer to "Are international students required to take the TOEFL?" probably won't compel you to attend.

At these presentations, you have a great opportunity to interact with professional members of the admission process. Why waste time chatting about things you could've found the answers to in any university brochure? Put the statistics aside and get to the heart of why you're interested in possibly attending.

### Preparing for the Visit

Nearly every college preparation guidebook recommends speaking with school representatives and attending education fairs or presentations. To make the most of the experience, do a brief assessment of where you are in the application process before you attend the presentation. With a large number of schools in attendance, prospective students can easily get overwhelmed. Review the list of universities at the fair or presentation. Narrow down the list of universities to those that meet your basic criteria. For example:

- **Academics:** Is your academic program of interest available at the university?
- **Region:** Consider the university's surroundings and location—is geography an important factor to you?
- **Size:** Do you feel comfortable with the university's size and student population?
- **Cost:** Is the cost of attendance within your budget? If not, are there sufficient financial options (scholarships, grants, loans) available to you for financing your study at the university?

Save yourself the hassle of talking about basic facts and statistics at the fair. You can easily find the answers online ahead of time. You will free up more time for interesting conversation! Focus on the universities that match your needs and make visiting their tables your priority.

If you do not have time to do significant research beforehand, you should at least identify the aspects in the college application process that are most stressful or unclear to you. Meeting with university representatives may be the easiest way to alleviate your concerns. They can give you direct answers regarding the admission process—after all, no one knows it better!

Some of the consultants representing schools at education fairs or presentations may work with the university through an outside organization. It is important to get a sense of the representative's relationship with the university to better understand how they can assist you. Knowing their role in the admission process will help you formulate more pointed questions.

### Now That I'm Here, What Should I Ask?

Once you have figured out which university fairs or presentations to attend, use these five suggestions to jumpstart an engaging conversation:

- Ask the presenter if they graduated from the university they are representing. If they did not, ask about their motivation for representing the school. Be personable and genuine. You might catch the university representative off guard, but prompting them to speak about their personal experience may open up the conversation in more ways than you anticipate.
- Be forthright about where you are in the application process, and ask the university representative for insight regarding the admission review process. Most admission offices base decisions on academic performance and test scores, but you may be surprised to hear what other things they consider to be a strong application.

- What are the representative's favorite (and least favorite) aspects of the school? What are the university's strengths and weaknesses?
- Ask the representatives what they wish more people knew about their university.
- If you want to continue the conversation, ask about any resources the university has online or in your region. They may have interactive online campaigns, such as student blogs or videos, or they may have local representatives to assist with the application process.
- If the representative was especially helpful, ask for his or her business card and be sure to follow-up with a "thank-you" e-mail, telephone call, or letter.

University representatives have a wealth of experience to share beyond SAT scores or GPA requirements. Identify what matters most to you in the college selection process, and use these conversations to guide further research. Speaking with a university representative is often the first step of many toward deciding whether or not you should apply or enroll at a school.

## The Informal College Interview

Whether a university representative visits your school or you attend a U.S. university fair in your city, learn to treat these encounters as informal college interviews. You never know what may come from these initial meetings. Here's what admission counselors want prospective students to know:

- By initiating meaningful conversation, you set yourself apart from other prospective candidates. Leaving the representative with a

memorable first impression might work to your advantage during the admission review.

- A good first impression may bring your name to the forefront during a file review, but at the admission roundtable, it will not guarantee your space in the incoming class. Be sure to keep your grades competitive, be professional, and be appropriate and formal in your correspondence.

Attending university fairs and presentations is a great option if you cannot physically visit a campus. Just remember, these events are a starting point in the search process. Ask representatives if they can put you in contact with current students, faculty, or staff. Talk to your high school counselor or teachers to see if they have toured any of the universities that interest you. Check if there are graduates from your high school attending the university who would be willing to share their student experiences. And be sure to use online resources!

Find out what other people are saying about the university via social media websites. A quick online search through Google, Facebook, or Twitter, for example, can be another way to learn more about a school. In the end, leveraging these personal relationships and seeking multiple points-of-view may be more helpful than a campus visit as you select the right university for you.

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# GAP YEAR

## THE BENEFITS OF TAKING A YEAR OFF

Many students head off to college right after high school because that's the customary path. But if you are thinking that you are not quite ready for college, then you may want to consider taking a year off to explore foreign countries, gain work experience, or improve upon your studying skills. Check out the following benefits of taking a gap year before you begin college.

You will become more mature. Students who take a year off before they enter college mature earlier than their peers who come straight to college from high school. Taking a year off to travel foreign places or work full-time will give you real world experience. Think about how much you would mature if you got to travel to Ghana by yourself and teach English to school children or if you got to explore South East Asia by working in the rain forests. On so many levels, you develop a certain maturity when traveling on your own and experiencing new people and customs. That maturity will allow you to become excited about going to college and allow you to get through the social and intellectual stressors of the four or more intense years to come.

You will become more focused. When you take a year off to discover who you really are, you will be more focused on what you want to do with the rest of your life. Many students, who thought they knew what they wanted to major in, realized that they did not enjoy working in their presumed major after they delved into their gap year of full-time work. These students were able to take the rest of their gap year to explore different jobs in order to find out what they wanted to major in at college. If you are not exactly sure what you would like to major in, then consider taking a year off to explore different career fields.



You will be academically prepared for college. Students who lack basic study skills may run into difficulties at college. If you feel that your grades or your study skills are not up to par by the time you graduate from high school, then you may want to consider taking a gap year to improve yourself academically. Contemplate the option of enrolling in a postgraduate program to enhance your concentrated studying. There are many programs that offer refresher courses in algebra, geometry, English, etc. Some programs even offer introductory college-level classes. These postgraduate programs can help students master the art of college writing and studying and can possibly help students boost their grades before applying to college.

You will have an appreciation for college. If you are going to college because that's what your parents want you to do, then you may have a hard time appreciating what college has to offer you. A gap year may shed a new light on college. Consider the following situation: You take a year off from college to work full-time. You work long hours with very low pay. It won't take you very long to realize that in order to get ahead in life, you need a college degree. When your gap year is over, you will have a new appreciation for college and know that you really want to be there, instead of just going because that is what your parents want you to do.

Remember that taking a gap year isn't for everyone. If you already know exactly what you want to major in and you think that you are mature enough for the intense work that comes along with college, then you probably want to continue on to college right after high school. Weigh out your options and pick the best decision for you. If you do decide to take a year off, it is best to apply to college during your senior year of high school. After you receive an acceptance to the college, you can request to have the acceptance deferred for one year. Some colleges will allow you to defer; others will request that you reapply. Be sure to make a plan and set goals for your gap year. Decide on an activity that will be beneficial for you in the long run, such as volunteering in a foreign country, exploring different career paths, or improving your study skills. Whatever you decide to do, one thing is for certain: you will enroll in college a changed person.

# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY TERMS

**Academic Calendar:** The academic year varies for each university, but will normally run from early September to the end of May. It may be divided into two terms of 18 weeks each called a semester, or three terms of 12 weeks called quarters. Universities often provide summer courses, but these are optional and students attend if they wish to shorten their program or make up credits not taken during the academic year.

**Accreditation:** Approval given to an institution meeting minimum standards by its regional accrediting organization.

**Advanced Placement:** This may include placement in an advanced class, credit for a course not actually taken in university, or the waiving of a required course. Universities have various methods of handling this through the College Board or their own tests.

**Advisor:** A university professor or other staff member who advises students on majors, courses, and other academic concerns.

**Associate Degree:** The degree given for completing a two-year program of university work, usually at a community university.

**Bachelor's Degree:** The degree given for completing a university program of at least four years of academic work. Usually this degree is either a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) or a B.S. (Bachelor of Science).

**Bachelor of Arts:** The title of the degree which denotes a degree in Fine Arts areas.

**Bachelor of Science:** The title of the degree with majors such as Business, Engineering, Math and Science fields, or Education.

**Core Courses:** Also called General Education Requirements or Distribution Requirements. These provide the broad base from which the student will develop his/her degree. They usually require two or three courses in English, and the rest are typically spread between Humanities, Sciences, Mathematics, and Social Studies.

**Credit Hour:** The amount of credit given for a course meeting one hour a week for a semester or a quarter. A three-credit course would meet three times a week, etc.

**Credit System:** A college or university usually states their degree requirement in terms of credits, hours, or units. Each course taken earns a specified number of credits/hours/units. Typically, a course which earns three credits meets for three hours a week per semester, and so forth. Labs are usually an extra credit.

**Curriculum:** A planned sequence of activities which helps a student gain special skills or a certain body of knowledge. Most curricula also lead to a degree, diploma, or certificate in a particular field of study.



**Deferred Admission:** Many universities offer an opportunity for a student who has been admitted to delay or defer enrollment for a year or a semester. Students who defer an offer of admission may choose to work for a while to earn money for university, to travel, or to pursue special programs. A deposit is often required by the university to hold a place in the next entering class, and it is the university's right to expect the student to be able to account for the time spent between graduation from high school and actual matriculation at the university. The student who defers admission to a university cannot attend another university during the time off, unless the university is notified in advance and agrees to the plan.

**Degree:** A diploma given as official recognition for satisfactory completion of a course of study at the university level.

**Early Admission:** A procedure which enables a student to receive his/her acceptance after six semesters in high school. The student must have very good grades and in most cases promise to apply to no other university. Many universities have a program under which a student may apply for admission during the junior year. The Early Admission program at most universities is reserved for truly exceptional students whose academic preparation and achievement level are sufficient for early entrance to university. You should seek the advice of your school counselor if you are considering Early Admission.

**Elective courses:** These are courses which the student chooses. The degree may impose certain requirements on choices. For example, upper division courses may only be taken after the student has completed prerequisites.

**Endowment:** Funds a university has received as gifts, which are then invested, and from which income to run the university is obtained.

**Financial Aid:** Scholarships, loans, grants, and/or a part-time job given to a student with financial need.

**Financial Aid Form:** The basic application form to apply for financial aid including grants, loans, and work-study programs.

**4-1-4:** University year divided into two semesters with a one-month session between. Four courses are carried each semester. One course is carried in the interim session.

**Freshman:** A student in his/her first year of University. Can also be referred to as fresh, frosh, and greenie.

**Full-Time Student:** A university student who generally takes a minimum of either 12 units per quarter or 12 units per semester.

**General Education Requirements:** A specific group of courses from different academic areas required for any university degree. The general education requirements are described in a university's catalog.

**Grant-in-Aid:** Financial award based on financial need but without the prestige of a scholarship.

**Impacted Program or Major:** An overcrowded program or major in which there are many more applications than available spaces.

**Junior:** A student in his/her third year of university. Considered by some to be the most fun because you aren't worried about graduating yet, but know enough about university life to really enjoy it.



**Liberal Arts University:** A university in which the emphasis is on a program of philosophy, literature, history, languages, and basic science.

**Loans:** Funds loaned to university students by the government or university. For certain loans, no interest is charged until the student has graduated.

**Lower Division:** The courses usually taken during the first two years of a four-year university program. The courses are introductory courses or general education requirements.

**Major:** A student's main field of study in university.

**Major courses:** This is specialized study in the field in which the student is taking his/her degree. These classes become increasingly more difficult and complex each year.

**Master's Degree:** The degree given for completing a one- to two-year course of study beyond a Bachelor's Degree. Some Master's Degrees are M.A. (Master of Arts), M.S. (Master of Science), or M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration).

**Part-Time Student:** A university student who takes less than a full-time schedule of classes.

**Probation:** A notice usually given if a student has earned a grade point average below 2.0. It serves as a warning which gives time to improve academic achievement or the student will be dismissed from the university.

**Scholarship:** A gift of money (which does not need to be repaid) given to recognize student achievement. It may be based partly on financial need.

**Senior:** A student in his/her final year of university.

**Sophomore:** A student in one's second year of university. In Latin, Sophomore means "young fool".

**Transcript:** An official copy of your grades which is obtainable from the Registrar's Office.

**Transfer Major:** Students who intend to transfer to a four-year university will pursue a transfer major at a community university. This consists of the lower division requirements for a major at a particular university.

**3-2 Plan:** Type of plan where a student works for three years at one university and two years at a second university (e.g. 3 years at a liberal arts university and 2 years at an engineering university).

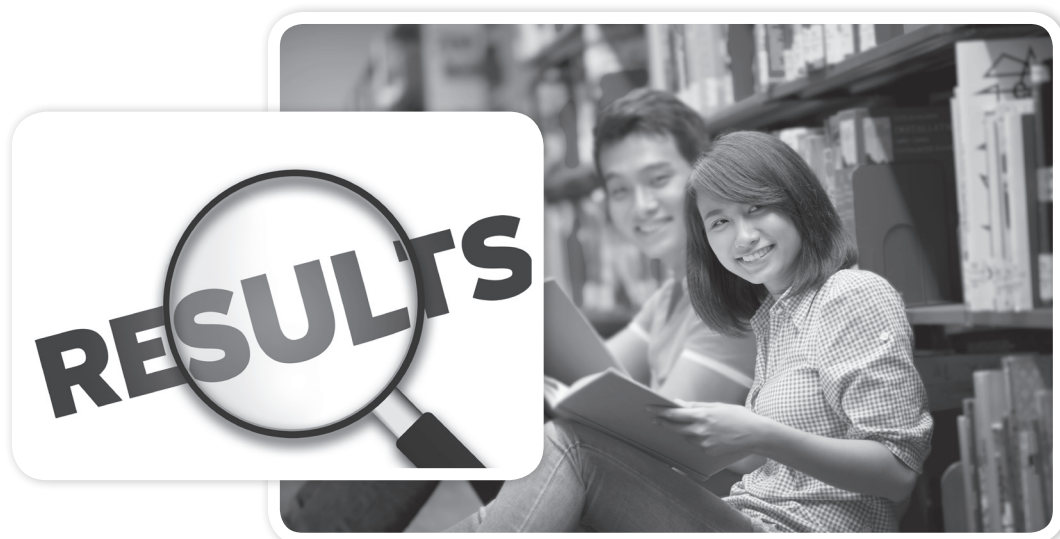
**Tuition:** The fee for receiving instruction at a university.

**Undergraduate:** The first four years of university before a degree has been given.

**Unit:** A fixed amount of scholastic study used as a basis for calculating academic credits. University units for a course often equal the number of hours per week the course meets. You must earn a specific number of units to receive a degree.

**Upper Division:** The courses usually taken during the last two years of a four-year university program. The courses typically are advanced courses in one's major.

**Work Study:** A government program where you work on-campus and receive a paycheck for the number of hours you work. Basically, work study means the government pays your wages.



# UNIVERSITY PREP CALENDAR

## JUNIOR YEAR

### OCTOBER

- ☐ Take the PSAT.

✎ When you take the PSAT, be sure to sign up for the CollegeBoard's free Student Search Service (SSS). This matches your background and interests with universities that are looking for students just like you. The universities will begin to send you information.

### FEBRUARY

- ☐ Begin thinking about careers that you may be interested in.
- ☐ Begin thinking about universities that you may be interested in attending.

✎ As your university plans develop, consult The College/University Handbook, the Index of Majors, and other standard reference books for information about admissions policies, procedures, and schedules of specific universities that interest you. Pay particular attention to application deadlines for early action or early decision.

### MARCH

- ☐ Register for the May SAT.
- ✎ Meet with one of the counselors about beginning your university search.
- ✎ Begin talking with your parents about university options, finances, etc.
- ☐ Contact colleges and universities for catalogs.
- ☐ Research scholarship and other financial aid sources.
- ☐ Review your senior year schedule to make sure you have met all the necessary graduation requirements.

### MAY

- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ Review and narrow your university options.
- ☐ Begin developing some ideas for your university essays and write them down.
- ✎ Consider taking a test preparation course during the summer.

### JUNE & JULY

- ✎ Discuss your after-high school plans with family and friends.
- ✎ Read as much as possible to develop your vocabulary.
- ☐ Begin your University Application Chart.

# SENIOR YEAR

## AUGUST

- ☐ Check to see if online applications are available. Email for information and application.
- ☐ Fill out your Credit Check Worksheet.
- ☐ The school counselor will give you a Senior Checkpoint. Complete it to the best of your ability, and use it as a guide as you make plans. You will be asked to revise it periodically so that the school has an accurate record of where you are going after high school.
- ☐ Register for the October SAT or SAT Subject.
- ☐ Register for the August or September TOEFL. ([www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org))
- ☐ Check your transcript for accuracy.


## SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Set an appointment with your counselor to meet individually to talk about post-high school plans.
- ☐ Universities and colleges begin accepting applications. Write for applications and check for application deadlines.
- ☐ Early Decision candidates complete applications
- ☐ Fill in your Application Worksheet.
- ☐ Register for the November SAT or SAT Subject.
- ☐ Register now for the October ACT if you are planning on taking it.
- ☐ Register for the October TOEFL.
- ☐ Look at possibilities for scholarships; many of them have fall application deadlines.

## OCTOBER

- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ Take the ACT.
- ☐ Register for the December SAT or SAT Subject.
- ☐ Finalize your top 3-5 university choices. Discuss these with your parents and the school counselor. Be realistic and note deadlines.
- ☐ Apply to schools.
- ☐ Request Teacher Recommendations if required.
- ☐ Apply for Early Decision (if interested). Some have November deadlines.
- ☐ Check on scholarships.

## NOVEMBER


- ☐ Make all letters of recommendation requests by November 1 to allow time for mail.  
 If you are applying to more than one university, you are encouraged to use the same form or letter for all universities. Therefore make all your requests at one time so those persons recommending you can duplicate their materials.
- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ Deadline for Early Decision applications at universities.
- ☐ If you have not applied for university, do so NOW!
- ☐ Fill out a Transcript Request Form if you need a transcript sent to a college.

**DECEMBER**

- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ Register for the January SAT.
- ☐ Pick up the financial aid application (FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid) from the school counselor.
- ☐ Register for the February ACT.

Remember: universities have deadlines. Have you missed one?

**JANUARY**

- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ FAFSA can be filed after January 1.
  -  Most financial aid applications are available this month. As soon as possible, complete financial aid applications for the universities of your choice.
- ☐ Make sure grades and credit count are sufficient for graduation.
- ☐ Some universities have January deadlines.


**FEBRUARY**

- ☐ Take the ACT.
- ☐ Be sure you have applied for housing at the public university of your choice. (You cannot deal with housing at an independent university until you have been accepted.)
- ☐ If you are taking an AP course, register for the Advanced Placement Exam with your teacher.

**MARCH**

- ☐ Register for the May SAT or SAT Subject.

**APRIL**

-  Most selective universities begin announcing their decisions this month.
- ☐ Return Student Intent to Register forms to the one university whose offer of admissions you are accepting. Notify the other universities that you decline their offer of admission and include a letter of thanks.

**MAY**

- ☐ Take the SAT.
- ☐ Take the AP Exam(s).
- ☐ Request your final High School Transcripts to be sent to the university that you'll be attending in the fall.

**JUNE**

- ☐ If you have not already done so, request the sending of your Final Transcript to your selected university.
- ☐ Make sure the Guidance Office has your university address and a summer forwarding address.
- ☐ Fill out the Senior Exit Information worksheet.

## POST-GRADUATION

**SEPTEMBER**

- ☐ Write or send an e-mail to the Dalat counselor to let the school know how you are doing.
- ☐ Update your address for the Alumni Directory.

**FEBRUARY**

- ☐ Write the Dalat counselor again and pass along "Words of Wisdom" to the present senior class.

# FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES FOR USA

## General Financial Aid Information

- Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education)  
**[studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)**
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
**[fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)**
- FAFSA4caster  
**[fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm](http://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm)**
- CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE  
**[css.collegeboard.org](http://css.collegeboard.org)**
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)  
**[www.nasfaa.org/students\\_parents\\_counselors](http://www.nasfaa.org/students_parents_counselors)**

## Financial Aid For Military Students

- Today's Military  
**[todaysmilitary.com/living/paying-for-college](http://todaysmilitary.com/living/paying-for-college)**
- Veterans Affairs GI Bill  
**[www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)**
- Yellow Ribbon Program  
**[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\\_ribbon.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp)**
- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)  
**[todaysmilitary.com](http://todaysmilitary.com)**

## Financial Aid For International Students

- Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education)  
**[studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/international-students.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/international-students.pdf)**  
**[studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/non-us-citizens](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/non-us-citizens)**

## Institutional Aid

Visit each university's office of Financial Aid website for information on aid given at the college level and whether additional scholarships are available.

## Scholarships

- Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education)

**[studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships)**

- Department of Labor Scholarship Search  
**[www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp?searchtype=category&nodeid=22](http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp?searchtype=category&nodeid=22)**
- Scholar Snapp  
**[www.scholarsnapp.org](http://www.scholarsnapp.org)**
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation  
**[www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org)**
- Gates Millennium Scholar Program  
**[www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)**
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) Scholarship Resource Guide  
**[www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/2016-2017\\_MALDEF\\_Scholarship\\_List.pdf](http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/2016-2017_MALDEF_Scholarship_List.pdf)**
- QuestBridge National College Match  
**[www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org)**
- Ron Brown Scholar Program  
**[www.ronbrown.org](http://www.ronbrown.org)**

## Saving Money For College

- Mapping Your Future  
**[mappingyourfuture.org](http://mappingyourfuture.org)**

## Comparing College Costs

- College Affordability and Transparency Center (an office of the U.S. Department of Education)  
**[www.collegecost.ed.gov](http://www.collegecost.ed.gov)**
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Compare Financial Aid Offers  
**[www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost)**

## Financial Aid Glossary

- Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education)  
**[studentaid.ed.gov/sa/glossary](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/glossary)**

# FIRST-YEAR ADJUSTMENT ISSUES

Certain times in the academic year tend to be universally challenging to students. Those who understand the ups and downs of the first university year are better able to help students negotiate the challenges of transition to university. Below are some typical adjustment issues faced throughout the first year.

## August/September

- Excitement
- Testing new-found freedom
- Frequent calls and visits home
- Homesickness and loneliness
- Anxiety about roommates, professors, classes
- First exams

## October

- Roommate problems begin to arise
- Students question: "Do I fit in here?"
- First test grades returned
- Midterm exams
- Love relationships from home remain strong
- Consequences of decision-making experienced

## November

- Midterm grades returned
- Roommate challenges become more clear
- Many exams and papers due before Thanksgiving
- Excitement and/or anxiety regarding going home for Thanksgiving
- First series of campus-wide illness (cold, flu, strep, etc.)

## December

- Anxiety over preparations for finals
- Excitement and/or anxiety regarding going home for holidays
- Sadness about leaving new friendships and/or love relationships
- Roommate challenges continue

## January

- "Fresh Start" mentality sets in with new term
- Satisfaction and/or disappointment with fall term grades
- Homesickness
- Loneliness for love relationship back home
- Relief being away from home and back at school

## February

- Feelings of claustrophobia and depression set in with winter
- Potential increase in alcohol and other substance abuse
- Challenges with love relationship back home
- Valentine's Day brings out loneliness, isolation

## March

- Anxiety regarding finding roommate(s) for next year
- Excitement and/or disappointment regarding spring break plans
- Midterm exam stress
- Concern over summer employment
- Concern over winter weight gain

## April

- Excitement with arrival of spring
- Concern over declaring major
- End of semester pressure

## May

- Final exam anxiety
- Apprehension about returning home for summer
- Sadness over leaving new friendships and/or love relationships at school
- Realization of how university influences life decisions

In addition to the more predictable stressors, students may experience the following concerns throughout the academic year:

- Missing family birthday and holiday celebrations
- Missing participation in family traditions
- Wanting involvement with family maintained, but expecting their desire for complete freedom to be respected.

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# TCK TRANSITION RESOURCES

## Transition/Re-Entry

**Transition/Re-Entry Seminars & Camps** (courtesy of ICHED)

These seminars are usually for high school seniors returning from overseas to attend college for the first time. Some exceptions can be made to include high school juniors or TCKs who have finished their first year of college.

### 1. USA Seminars

- Interaction: <http://www.interactionintl.org>, Email: [Office@interactionintl.org](mailto:Office@interactionintl.org)
- Barnabas International: <http://www.barnabas.org> or <http://www.barnabas.org/reentry/who.php>, Email: online form

### 2. Canadian Seminars

- Canadian MK Network: <http://www.canadianmk.net/> (see Reboot)

### 3. European TCKs / Care / Seminars / Camps

- Steve & Gill Bryant (WEC): <http://www.eurotck.net>, Email: online contact form
- MK-Care Germany: <http://www.mk-care.org>
- MK-Focus Netherlands: <https://www.missionenederland.nl/mkfocus>
- Missionärsbarn Träff (Sweden): [ledning@mbt.se](mailto:ledning@mbt.se) for ages 10 and above from Scandanavia, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden; held annually in the summer)

### 4. Korean MKs / Seminars / Camps

- MKNest: <http://www.mknest.org>
- MKainos (Korean MKs in the US): <http://www.mkainos.org>
- World M'ry Koinonia (WMK): <https://www.facebook.com/wmkministry>

## USA TCK Host Homes

USA TCK Host Homes/Retreat Locations (Places for TCKs to live while attending college)

- Compass Ministries (local and regional retreats): Cindy Duff is the Executive Director. Email: [cindy@compass-ministries.org](mailto:cindy@compass-ministries.org) or call 727-458-8104, <http://compassministries.org>.
- Gatehouse Ministries: 2211 College View Drive, Redding, CA 96003, 1-530-229-0900 (home), \$500 a semester (\$100 refundable) and five-seven hours of work per week (two hours outside the house). Scott & Marianna Studebaker are the new host parents as of June 1, 2016. Email is an online form, <http://gatehouseministries.org>.
- Home Front Ministries: 6125 E. Farm Road #152, Springfield, MO 65809, 1-417-886-4444 (office), 1-417-887-5381. Email: Ron and Debi Canada—[ccanada@juno.com](mailto:ccanada@juno.com)
- MKM (M'ry Family Host Home): 2801 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440, 1-215-368-0485, Contact Margaret Rineer—Rick-Margaret. [Rineer@aimint.net](mailto:Rineer@aimint.net) or [MKM.Hatfield@aimint.net](mailto:MKM.Hatfield@aimint.net).
- MKM, Inc. (Retreat place for TCKs): PO Box 9286, Cedar Pines Park, CA 92322, 1-909-338-4838, \$5 a night for retreats. Email: Dale and Sharon Wisner—[missionarykidsministries@gmail.com](mailto:missionarykidsministries@gmail.com), <http://www.mkministries.net>
- Paradise Mountain Ministries (2 host homes): PO Box 635, Toccoa Falls, GA 30577, 1-706-297-7499. No charge for room & board/7 hrs. work/week. Carolyn Eckman (president emeritus), John and Susanna Gailer (host parents), Jim & Vicki Gardner, Jeannie Burkhart. Email: [paradisemtnministries@gmail.com](mailto:paradisemtnministries@gmail.com), <http://www.paradisemtn.org>

# VALUABLE INTERNET SITES

## **Bridge-U (Global)**

[www.bridge-u.com](http://www.bridge-u.com)

- Dalat's online university prep tool
- international in scope
- students have individual accounts

## **College Board Online (USA)**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com)

- great resource for college searching, SAT registration, Khan Academy SAT test prep, etc.

## **Federal Student Aid (USA)**

[studentaid.ed.gov/sa](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa)

- Government financial aid/FAFSA portal for U.S. citizens

## **College Express (USA)**

[www.collegexpress.com](http://www.collegexpress.com)

- search colleges by state, major, and a host of other factors
- offers virtual tours of some colleges
- ask experts questions about the college admission process

## **College View - Hobsons (USA)**

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

- database of 3,300 two- and four-year colleges
- multimedia tours
- gives students general overviews of colleges and has a Christian College site

## **Campus Tours (USA)**

[www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

- source for virtual campus tours

## **EduPass (USA)**

[www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org)

- contains lots of information for international students interested in studying in the U.S.

## **My College Guide (USA)**

[www.mycollegeguide.org](http://www.mycollegeguide.org)

- get information on online colleges via their college search page
- create a profile of yourself to send to colleges

## **College Quest - Peterson's (USA)**

[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)

## **Peterson's Education Center (USA)**

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

## **The Princeton Review (USA)**

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

- search the site by school name, region, state, size, and cost
- provides college ratings

## **USA Today College (USA)**

[www.college.usatoday.com](http://www.college.usatoday.com)

- current issues and trends with universities in the USA

## **Canadian Universities**

[www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)

- search 700 Canadian colleges and universities

## **UK Universities**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## **Australian Universities**

[www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)

## **South Korean Universities**

[www.adiga.kr](http://www.adiga.kr)

## **New Zealand Universities**

[www.universitiesnz.ac.nz](http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz)

## **Singaporean Universities**

[www.moe.gov.sg/education/post-secondary](http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/post-secondary)

### **Sites for Christian Colleges:**

[myblueprintstory.com](http://myblueprintstory.com)

[www.christiancollegeguide.net](http://www.christiancollegeguide.net)

[ag.org/Higher-Education](http://ag.org/Higher-Education)

# EVALUATING YOURSELF

## My Personal Goals and Values

1. Aspects of my high school years that I have enjoyed the most \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. My most important values are \_\_\_\_\_
3. I define success as \_\_\_\_\_
4. I envision myself becoming \_\_\_\_\_
5. My priorities and goals are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## My Education

6. My academic interests are \_\_\_\_\_
7. When given the choice, I choose to learn \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (topics)
8. I learn best by \_\_\_\_\_  
My learning style is \_\_\_\_\_
9. How my school environment has shaped me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Do my academic records and SAT scores accurately reflect the student I am? \_\_\_\_\_  
If "no", then why? \_\_\_\_\_
11. My school has prepared me for college.

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

These are the ways in which I feel adequately prepared \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

These are the ways in which I feel inadequately prepared \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. I've experienced circumstances that have affected my academic performance.

- ☐ No  
☐ Yes, and they are \_\_\_\_\_

### **My Activities and Interests**

13. The activities I most enjoy are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Do my activities show any pattern of commitment, competence, or contribution? (If so, how?)  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. How I would describe my role in school activities \_\_\_\_\_
16. For relaxation and fun, I \_\_\_\_\_
17. What sort of interest do I hope to pursue in college? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **My World Experience**

18. I would describe my upbringing as a TCK (Third Culture Kid) as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. Some of the expectations I've dealt with are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My parents expect me to \_\_\_\_\_
- My friends expect me to \_\_\_\_\_
20. World issues that concern me include \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. My multicultural experience has shaped me in that I am \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. Do my viewpoints challenge others? \_\_\_\_\_ In what ways? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **My Personality and My Relationships**

23. Other people describe me as \_\_\_\_\_
24. The most important relationships to me are \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_
25. What kind of groups do I identify with and feel comfortable with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
26. Am I influenced by others? \_\_\_\_\_ Do I influence others? \_\_\_\_\_
27. How I feel about choices and making decisions for myself \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES





