



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on DSA-JC (Year 5 IBDP)**

*Dear Students*

*We thank you very much for your interest in the ACS (Independent) Direct School Admission (DSA)-JC Exercise. We hope that this FAQ will help to answer the questions you may have. You may also wish to access the school website: <https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/admissions/dsa-year-5/> for more information.*

*You may be anxious about the outcome of your application but **there is no need to call to enquire about the status of your application**. We assure you that **all applicants** will be duly notified about the DSA-JC outcome: successful students will receive a phone call from the school and unsuccessful applicants will be informed via email by 12 August. Please be informed that the school will not accept any appeals.*

*ACS (Independent) DSA-JC Committee*

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### **A. Questions relating to DSA-JC application**

**A1. Is the DSA-JC exercise open to students who are not pursuing the Singapore Cambridge GCE O-Level Programme (for example returning Singapore Citizens, Singapore PRs or international (foreign) students studying in an international school)?**

DSA-JC exercise is open to Secondary 4 students (only students in non-Integrated Programme are eligible to apply) in Ministry of Education (MOE) mainstream schools and international schools. Hence, returning Singapore Citizens, Singapore PRs or foreigners are also eligible to participate in DSA-JC exercise if they meet the MOE age criteria for admission into Junior College. Participation in DSA-JC is optional. Secondary 4 students who do not want to participate in the DSA-JC will continue to seek admission based on their Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examination results through the MOE Joint Admission Exercise (JAE).

**A2. I am presently an Integrated Programme (IP) student in another school; am I eligible to take part in DSA-JC (Year 5) exercise?**

IP students who were admitted through the DSA-Sec exercise will not be eligible to take part in the DSA-JC exercise. DSA-Sec students are expected to honour their DSA commitment and are required to complete their junior college education in their current IP School.

IP students who were posted to the IP school via PSLE results will only be eligible to take part in the DSA-JC exercise if there are extenuating circumstances for their application as they are strongly encouraged to complete and benefit from the customized 6-year IP of their current school. Please seek advice and guidance from your current school before making such an application. Your application forms will not be accepted unless you enclose written documents from your current School Principal and MOE that there is no objection from them.

**A3. What is the application procedure for DSA-JC in ACS (Independent)? Do DSA applicants need to sit for any tests?**

There are no tests administered for the DSA-JC exercise in the school.

**The ACS(I) online DSA-JC Portal will open from 7 May 2025, 9 am to 20 June 2025, 5pm.** Applicants are required to complete an application form which is available online at <https://site1.acsindep.edu.sg/Appls/Y5DSA/ApplicationForm.aspx> and print out a hardcopy for submission to the school. **Please note that application is considered valid only upon school receipt of hardcopy of completed application form with photocopies of required supporting documents by the closing date of 20 June 2025, 5pm.**

#### **A4. How many DSA-JC vacancies are there?**

The number of DSA-JC vacancies varies year by year at about 20 to 25.

#### **A5. What is the basis of selection for the DSA?**

Students are selected based on talent areas that meet the school's requirements. There is no fixed quota for each talent. Students may apply through DSA-JC to ACS (Independent) for the listed specific talent areas. The final selection is dependent on various factors, such as the number and quality of applications received, the school's talent requirements, the availability of suitable candidates, and vacancies. There is no guarantee that at least one offer will be granted for every listed talent area as selection is dependent on these factors.

**MALE applicants** with the following talent domains will be considered: Badminton, Basketball, Bowling, Canoeing, Cricket, Golf (a Golf handicap of not more than 9), Leadership, Mathematics, Music Elective Programme (required to offer Music Higher Level as 6<sup>th</sup> subject in Year 5 and Year 6; and take up a Performing Arts CCA), Robotics, Rugby, Sailing, Science, Shooting, Softball, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field and Water Polo.

**FEMALE applicants** with the following talent domains will be considered: Bowling, Leadership, Music Elective Programme (required to offer Music Higher Level as 6<sup>th</sup> subject in Year 5 and Year 6; and take up a Performing Arts CCA), Netball, Robotics, Softball, Squash, Swimming and Tennis.

### **B. Questions on JAE (Joint Admission Exercise)**

#### **B1. What is L1R5 cut-off point to enter ACS (Independent) Year 5 (IBDP) via MOE JAE?**

The nett L1R5 aggregate score was 5 for the 2025 MOE JAE (Joint Admission Exercise). The nett aggregate score is computed after deduction of bonus points for CCA and/or both first languages (i.e., English and a Higher Mother Tongue). **There is no bonus point for affiliation.** However, not all 5 nett pointers were posted into ACS (Independent) as JAE posting is based on available vacancies in the school.

#### **B2. How many places are available for JAE?**

The number of JAE vacancies is in the range of 110 – 130 places.

#### **B3. Where can I get more information on the JAE?**

All Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level students can visit MOE website - <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae> for information on JAE.

### **C. Questions on IB Diploma Programme (Years 5 and 6)**

#### **C1. What are the subjects offered in IB Diploma Programme?**

IB Diploma Programme students are required to offer 6 examination subjects (3 Higher Level subjects and 3 Standard Level subjects) as well as complete the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, write an Extended Essay (EE) in one of the chosen subjects and participate in the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS).

Please refer to the document 2025 IBDP Write-up & Subjects Offered for more details and [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) for more information.

#### **C2. What is the difference between Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level and IB Diploma Programme?**

Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level is structured on three levels of study, namely Higher 1 (H1), Higher 2 (H2) and Higher 3 (H3) and is examination-based like the GCE O-Level.

IB Diploma Programme is structured on Higher and Standard Levels and students are required to offer 3 subjects at Higher Level (HL) and 3 subjects at Standard Level (SL) as well as 3 core requirements: CAS, EE and TOK. The IB diploma subjects are examined by a combination of continuous coursework (Internal Assessments) and written examinations (External Assessments) at the end of the two-year programme. Internally assessed work usually accounts for a minimum 20% of the final grade in a subject.

**C3. Does a student who has been exempted from offering Mother Tongue Language be required to offer the Group 2 Language Acquisition in the IB Diploma Programme?**

Students who are exempted from Mother Tongue Language will be required to offer a Group 2 Language Acquisition subject: Language B or Language ab initio (beginner's level). The beginner's level language available in the school is Spanish ab initio.

**C4. How many CCAs must I participate in the school?**

All Year 5 and Year 6 students are expected to participate in at least one CCA.

**C5. Will a student be allowed to retake an IB subject if he/she has not done well in the IB exam?**

Provisions are in place for students to retake the IB subject. However, students must note that subjects' syllabi may change from year to year, and it is solely the students' responsibility to prepare themselves for the retaking of the subject. In addition, as a November examination centre, students can only retake the IB subject in November.

**D. Questions on School Fees and Financial Matters**

**D1. What are your school fees per month?**

Fees charges for 2025 are as follows:

Level	Citizenship	School Fee (per month)	Miscellaneous Fee (per month)	Total Fee (per month)
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) Year 5 to Year 6	Singaporean	\$450	\$50	\$500
	Singapore PR	\$1,450	\$50	\$1,500
	Foreigner (ASEAN)	\$2,950	\$50	\$3,000
	Foreigner (non-ASEAN)	\$3,250	\$50	\$3,300

*Please note that school fees and miscellaneous fees are subject to change during the year.*

Students who will pay Foreigner (ASEAN) school fees are citizens of the following countries:

Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia
Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Vietnam	

**D2. Does your school offer scholarships? How do I apply?**

Students who are Singapore Citizens and have obtained outstanding results in their Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level examinations may be awarded the ESIS (Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools) by MOE. There is no need to apply for ESIS. All awardees will have a clause stated in their Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) Form A saying that they have qualified for the ESIS. The clause is as follows: *You are eligible for the Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools (ESIS). The Scholarship is tenable at any independent school (IS) offering the Integrated Programme (IP). You will obtain the ESIS only if you are admitted to an IS offering the IP through the JAE.*

**ESIS Award amount**

If your child is not receiving the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB), they will be awarded the lesser of the following amounts:

- \$2,400 a year.
- The total annual school fee is minus the amount of school and standard miscellaneous fees that they would pay to attend a government or government-aided school.

If your child is receiving the MOE ISB, they will be awarded the lesser of the following amounts:

- \$2,400 a year.
- The total annual school fee minus the school fee subsidy provided under the MOE ISB.

### D3. Do you have financial assistance schemes? How do I apply?

The Ministry of Education (MOE) provides financial assistance to students who are **Singapore Citizens** in Government, Government-Aided schools and Independent Schools. The two schemes are 1) MOE FAS for Government and Government-Aided JCs and MI; and 2) MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) for Independent Schools.

Singapore Citizen students who wish to apply for the financial assistance scheme can obtain the application form from their schools. They should submit the application form together with the relevant documents to their schools. The schools will inform them of the outcome of their applications.

#### **MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) for Singapore Citizens only**

1. Student must be a Singapore Citizen enrolled as a full-time student in an Independent School *(include specialized independent schools, namely, NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, and School of Science and Technology. Does not include Singapore Sports School and School of the Arts which have their own schemes to provide financial assistance for their students. Please refer to the schools' websites for information on their financial assistance schemes)* and must not be enrolled in any other schools or institutes of higher learning.
2. The students must attend school regularly. As financial assistance is provided to assist students in paying expenses in connection with attending school, a student who fails to attend school regularly for any reason (including but not limited to Leave of Absence, medical leave, or hospitalization leave) shall have his eligibility for financial assistance reassessed. In such circumstances, the MOE is entitled to withdraw, reduce and/or withhold financial assistance without providing further reasons.
3. The student must not be receiving financial assistance provided by more than one MOE-funded school or institute of higher learning.
4. Please refer to the table below for the eligibility criteria at time of application and upon submission of complete documents, and benefits provided under MOE ISB.
5. The student's current school must be notified of any changes to any of the criteria in paragraphs 2 to 4 in writing.

The school does not offer any financial assistance schemes for Singapore Permanent Residents (SPRs) or International (Foreign) Students.

**Singapore Citizens** applying for the MOE ISB need to meet either the monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) or the Per Capita Income (PCI) criterion. Once approved, MOE ISB will provide the benefits shown on the table below:

<b>Income Limits (Meet one of the following criteria)</b>		<b>Financial Assistance to Students</b>
<b>Monthly Gross Household Income (GHI)</b>	<b>Per Capita Income (PCI)<sup>1</sup></b>	
Not exceeding \$3,000	Not exceeding \$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees.</li><li>• Free textbooks and school attire at Secondary level; Annual Bursary of \$1,200 at Pre-University level.</li><li>• Full subsidy of examination fees<sup>2</sup>.</li><li>• Transport Subsidy: \$17 per month from the month of approval, up to \$204 per annum (for students taking public transport). The public transport subsidy will only be provided from the effective month of the MOE ISB till December of the year.</li><li>• School meal subsidies that pay for 10 meals per school week for secondary level.</li></ul>
\$3,001 - \$4,400	\$751 - \$1,100	Subsidy such that student pays the same fee <sup>3</sup> as students studying in government and government-aided schools (GGAS).

\$4,401 - \$7,500	\$1,101 - \$1,875	Subsidy such that student pays 1.5x GGAS fee <sup>3</sup> .
\$7,501 - \$10,000	\$1,876 - \$2,500	33% subsidy of school and miscellaneous fees.

<sup>1</sup>PCI is monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) divided by number of members in the same household.

<sup>2</sup>Applicable only to Singapore Citizen students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) in Government-funded schools. Examination fees for GCE O-Level and GCE A-level have been waived for all Singapore Citizen students in Government-funded schools since 2015.

<sup>3</sup>GGAS fee comprises school fee and miscellaneous fee payable by Singapore Citizen students in GGAS.

Singapore Citizen students who wish to apply for the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) scheme can obtain application forms from the School Administration Office or download a copy from the school's website <https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/about-acsindependent/fee/financial-assistance/>.

Applications may be made throughout the year as exigencies of each family's financial situation demand. However, each MOE ISB award is effective from the month the application is approved and **may not** be backdated. Approved MOE ISBs are valid till December of the year. Fresh applications will have to be submitted for each academic year. Please ensure that the MOE ISB application is accompanied by all relevant documents required by MOE as stipulated on the MOE ISB application form. Omission may result in a delay in the processing of the application and in turn, a delay in the awarding of the MOE ISB. Students should pay the full amount of school and miscellaneous fees until their application for the MOE ISB has been processed and have received written advice from the school.

In April 2019, MOE introduced the **UPLIFT Scholarship** for Singapore Citizens to recognise the achievements of students from lower income families who have performed well academically or in specific talent areas admitted into Independent Schools/Specialised Independent Schools. The UPLIFT Scholarship consists of a cash award of \$1,000 per annum to help offset the out-of-pocket expenses for students from lower income households. The UPLIFT Scholarship is subject to students meeting the renewal criteria each year and is awarded to students who are:

- Singapore Citizens attending independent schools/specialised independent schools;
- Admitted to the independent school/specialised independent school through Direct School Admission (DSA) at Secondary 1 or Pre-University 1 and/or qualified for the Edusave Scholarships for Independent Schools (ESIS); and
- From families with monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) ≤\$4,400 or Per Capita Income (PCI) ≤\$1,100.

Apart from the MOE ISB and UPLIFT Scholarship for Singapore Citizen students, our school has various financial assistance programmes in place for Singapore Citizens. Should you require assistance with school fees, please approach our Deputy Principal, Mr Patrick Soo at [patrick@acsindep.edu.sg](mailto:patrick@acsindep.edu.sg) or School Secretary, Ms Eunice Seah at [eunice@acsindep.edu.sg](mailto:eunice@acsindep.edu.sg).

**D4. If my child already has an MOE Scholarship (ESIS/RSP/MEP/HSP/Pre-U/ETPS), can my child still apply for the financial assistance scheme?**

Yes, your child is eligible to apply for the MOE Independent School Bursary (ISB) if your child is a Singapore Citizen.

## **E. Questions on Other School-related Matters**

### **E1. What are your school hours?**

The school hours for 2025 are as tabulated below. The reporting time for all levels is **7:45 am**. To allow our students additional rest time, the school will start at **8:45 am every Wednesday**.

Levels	Day	School Hours
Year 1 to Year 4	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	7:45 am to 2:40 pm

Year 5 & Year 6 (JC 1 and JC 2)	Wednesday	8:45 am to 3:00 pm
	Friday	7:45 am to 1:00 pm
	Monday	7:45 am to 4:00 pm
	Tuesday & Thursday	7:45 am to ranges from 2:40 pm till 4:00 pm
	Wednesday	8:45 am to ranges from 3:00 pm till 4:00 pm
	Friday	7:45 am to 1:00 pm (Consultation slots 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm)

**Note**

- All students are reminded to arrive at school earlier to ensure there is sufficient time to report to the Chapel or Assembly venues.
- Year 1 to Year 4 students will be involved in various **Values in Action (VIA) programmes on selected Thursdays**. To ensure meaningful interaction and engagement with the community, VIA sessions are likely to end after 2:40 pm. The actual dismissal time and dates will be advised closer to the respective sessions.

**E2. Can students apply to stay in ACS (Independent) Boarding School? What are the fees?**

Yes, but this is subject to approval from the School Senior Admin. New applicants will be charged a non-refundable admin fee of \$80, along with a non-refundable application fee of \$200 which is deductible from the 1<sup>st</sup> payment.

The current Boarding School Fees (exclusive of GST) which are charged by semesters are as follows:

Type	Fees per semester (20 weeks)	Additional Fees for vacation stay during the school holidays
ACS(I) Pupil (Singapore citizen) *	\$5,000	\$250 per week
ACS(I) Pupil (Singapore PR) *	\$5,600	\$280 per week
ACS(I) Pupil (Foreigner) *	\$6,600	\$330 per week
Single Room	\$9,000	\$450 per week
Double Room (30 SQM)	\$8,000	\$400 per week

\*Refer to 4 or 6 Bedded Rooms only.

More information on the ACS (Independent) Boarding School are available at our school website -

<https://www.acsindp.moe.edu.sg/about-acs-independent/boarding-school/>.

**E3. When do the Year 5 (Junior College Year 1) students report to school?**

All MOE Joint Admission Exercise (JAE) posted students including ACS(I) Year 4 IP and MGS Year 4 IP students are required to report to the school/junior college on the next working day following the release of the JAE posing results. Any student who does not report to the school/junior college on this date will be deemed to have forfeited his/her place. His/Her place will be made available to other eligible students appealing for a place in the school/junior college.

**E4. Is there any process for appeal/transfer after Posting Results Release?**

Students who are unsuccessful in their JAE application may approach the school/junior college directly to appeal. To submit the appeals, students must meet the current L1R5 cut-off point. You may contact the school's main telephone line 6773 1633 on the day of release of JAE posting results to check the current L1R5 cut-off points. Appeals to be submitted via the school's website - <https://www.acsindp.moe.edu.sg/admissions/joint-admissions-exercise/appeals/> which will be open during the JAE appeal period. **Please note that students must report to the school/junior college they are posted to while waiting for the result of their appeal/transfer application.** Any student who fails to do so will be deemed to have forfeited his/her place in the posted school/junior college.