

FAQ for Non-JUPAS students

I. General

1. How is the quota split between JUPAS and non-JUPAS students?

A: There is no fixed quota between JUPAS and Non-JUPAS students. Offers are made based on the academic standing of applicants. As long as an applicant is good, we'll consider him.

2. When is your application deadline and when will I receive an offer?

Application Opens	11 Sep 2015
Early Round Application Closes	15 Nov 2015
Early Round Offer Announcements	By 31 Dec 2015 <i>* those do not receive our offer will be considered in the main round with other applicants</i>
Main Round Application Closes	03 Jan 2016
Main Round Offer Announcements	Feb 2016 onwards
Interviews (if needed)	Nov 2015 onwards
University registration	Jul 2016 onwards
University orientation	Aug 2016
2016-17 Fall Term Commencement	1 Sep 2016 (provisional)

3. Will the School of Engineering notify me of any application result?

A: All students will be notified by our University's Admissions Office. Please contact them at ugadmit@ust.hk on all matters related to your application.

4. Will you consider giving me a matching offer if I show you an offer letter from another University?

A: Whatever documents or information you feel can support your application are welcome. You can upload them onto our admission system after you start your application process. We consider all applicants and select the outstanding ones for award. Successful candidates will receive a notification from our online system.

5. If I pay a deposit to the University but I fail to meet the conditions of offer, will I get a refund?

A: The deposit paid will be refunded only upon presentation of result slips showing that the conditions of the offer are not met.

6. *I'm taking international curriculum (e.g. IB/GCE A-Level/IAL/SAT-AP), should I apply as a local student or international student?*

A: Classification is based on whether the student has the right of abode in HK or not, not on the qualification that he holds. That's the criterion set by the HKSAR Government, and is not at discretion of applicants or HKUST. If the student is holding a HKID card or dependent visa, s/he has the right to abode/land in Hong Kong, s/he will be regarded as local students.

7. *What is the credit transfer arrangement?*

A: The University has approved a credit transfer arrangement for students (depending on their basis of admission) admitted to 4-year curriculum. Students may be granted up to 30 transfer credits which will count towards the minimum graduation requirement of 120 credits.

There are 3 categories of credit transfer for new students:

- i. University Common Core credits – block transfer of 9 credits are only eligible for students having IB and GCEAL/IAL as basis of admission
- ii. University Common Core English Communication credits – students must reach the required level of proficiency in specified examinations. Details are available at <http://join.ust.hk/admissions> (go to “**Advanced Credit**”)
- iii. Course by course mapping – credit transfer are granted for specific subjects taken in specified exams on condition that students have obtained the required grade/mark.

While the actual numbers of transfer credits granted vary from students to students depending on the admission basis, the subjects that a student has taken, and his level of attainment, our experience shows that most students with GCEAL/IAL/IBDP/AP are granted more than 20 credits.

8. *Do you prefer IB to GCE A-Level or SAT?*

A: We don't have preference for any of these qualifications. Applicants have to declare which qualification they are using for seeking admission right at the beginning. Students holding 2 complete set of qualifications can choose either one of them as basis of admission, while the other will be treated as supplementary information to support their applications.

9. *Which subject should I take in order to be admitted to engineering?*

A: Math is a must. The other subject should be engineering-related, e.g. physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, etc.

10. *I'm not taking Physics, would it be a problem?*

A: Admission to engineering programs is not restricted to students taking Physics. Students taking physics, chemistry, biology or computer science will all be considered. In the first year of study, students will be advised to take the appropriate fundamental courses. These courses aim at bridging the gap between their secondary school education and the coursework at HKUST so that they can proceed smoothly to the subsequent years.

11. What is the score you expect / What is the minimum score you took in the past?

A: It's difficult to tell as applicants' quality varies from year to year. Interested students may refer to our University admission website:

<http://join.ust.hk/admissions> (click on the icon for "International Qualifications")

12. I've been receiving instruction in English all my life. Do I have to submit any TOEFL/IELTS score? Why are JUPAS students exempted?

A: Yes, you have to submit official English test scores. We accept a wide range of English tests – you can find it on our University admission website: <http://join.ust.hk/admissions> (go to "Entry Requirements")

We don't really waive it for the JUPAS students. All JUPAS students are required to obtain Level 3 in the HKDSE English exam.

13. I heard that there will be interview in Nov this year? Am I eligible for that? How can I make myself invited?

A: The interviews to be held in late 2015 are only for HKDSE (JUPAS) candidates. For non-JUPAS students, we will review the applications first. If we find interview helpful, we'll contact you to set up an interview. This year, we will also conduct interviews with applicants in London on 5-6 December 2015. We are also planning to conduct interviews in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Taipei in early 2016. Exact details of interview arrangements will be announced by the University in due course.

14. Should I send in my personal profile along the application?

A: Whatever documents or information you feel can support your application are welcome. You can upload them onto our admission system after you start your application process.

15. How much weight do you give to extra-curricular activities and other achievements?

A: We'll look at the information and it helps us to understand you better. Do let us know of your MAJOR interest and achievements, but be selective in your entry.

16. What should I write in the personal statement?

A: Anything about yourself that will enable us to understand you better, e.g. why you are interested in engineering.

17. How many references should I provide? Is it compulsory?

A: Academic reference is not compulsory, but it would support your application. Normally 2 would be sufficient.

18. I will not have my final IB/GCEAL/IAL/SAT-AP results by your deadline (i.e. Dec), should I still apply? How does it work?

A: Of course you should apply. We will give students who do not yet have final results a conditional offer. The conditions will be specified very clearly on the admission offer letter. If you accept our offer, you pay the deposit and the place will be kept for you. When your final results are released, and you meet our conditions, the offer will be

automatically converted into a firm offer. On the contrary, if you fail to meet the conditions, the offer will be withdrawn but the deposit will be refunded.

19. How do I apply for scholarships? When can I get scholarship?

A: You don't have to apply for scholarship. We consider all applicants and select the outstanding ones for award. If you are selected for a scholarship, you will be notified at the same time when you receive an admission offer from us. In addition to scholarships awarded based on academic merit, the University also offers scholarships to recognise non-academic attainments. Some of them are open for applications, e.g. the **HKUST Alumni Endowment Fund Sports Scholarships for New Undergraduate Students**. For more details of these scholarships, please visit http://sfao.ust.hk/scholarships/intro_new.html.

20. What are the job opportunities after graduation?

A: Our graduates have no problem in securing employment. Many receive more than one offer before graduation. While most work in engineering fields related to their major, some graduates do choose to work in other sectors, and some others choose to go on with graduate studies. Engineering graduates are popular among employers because of their good quantitative skills and logical thinking.

II. IB

21. I'm taking Math at SL. Am I eligible to apply for engineering programs?

A: Yes, you can apply. We accept both HL and SL Math. Same rule for other Science subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc.

22. Must I take Physics?

A: No, we accept any science or engineering-related subjects, including but not limited to chemistry, biology, and computer science. See Q.10 above.

23. If I'm taking IB, do I have to submit SAT/AP scores too?

A: SAT/AP are not required if you apply on strength of IB. But if you do well in the tests, you can supply the scores to us as supplementary information.

24. I'm NOT taking the full IB diploma program, am I still eligible for admission? Would it help if I also send you my SAT/AP scores?

A: Basically, we need a full IB diploma for admission. But we can consider IB certificate on a case basis. If you do not have a full IB diploma, but have some other public exam results (such as SAT/AP), do send them in with your applications, and we will review it on a case basis.

25. How much scholarship can I get?

A. HKUST offers a scholarship scheme for IB diploma holders for 2016 intake:

Total 45 points (i.e. full mark) – full tuition plus living allowance (HK\$50,000), renewable for the duration of the program (i.e. 4 years) on condition that you can maintain good results at HKUST.

Total 42-44 points – one-off full tuition

Total 40-41 points – one-off half tuition

Total 38-39 points – one-off HK\$15,000

Total 36-37 points – one-off HK\$10,000

School may top up the scholarship based on academic merit.

Scholarship offers are issued at the same time when admission offers are issued.

III. GCE A-Level/IAL

26. Am I eligible for admission if I have only 1 AS level subjects and 2 AL subject?

A: Sorry, we require at least 3 subjects at Advanced Level.

27. Do you accept AS level Math? Do you require Further Math?

A: We require Math at Advanced Level since good mathematical skills and solid preparation are essential to engineering studies. But Further Math is not required.

28. Would it be better for me to take more than 3 subjects?

A: Basically 3 subjects would be good enough if they are science and engineering-related subjects.

29. Is there any scholarship scheme for GCE AL/IAL holders?

A: The University has no scheme for GCE AL/IAL holders but Schools can offer scholarships to individual applicants on grounds of academic merit.

IV. SAT/AP

30. I'm taking SAT Reasoning Test, but no SAT subject or AP subject tests, can I apply?

A: Sorry, HKUST requires at least 3 SAT subjects or AP subjects in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test. However, if you hold other qualification which you can use to apply for admission, you may use your SAT Reasoning Test scores as a supplementary qualification on top of your admission basis.

31. What difference does it make if I apply with SAT subject tests instead of AP subjects?

A: Applications with either SAT Subjects and AP subjects will both be considered. However, as AP subjects are more advanced, candidates may obtain transfer credits for certain subjects if they reach the level of attainment required. There is no credit transfer for SAT subjects.

32. Do you recognise the Redesigned SAT Reasoning Test?

A: Redesigned SAT Reasoning Test is also recognised, more details will be announced on the [University](#) website later.

33. I only take SAT Math Level 1. Can I apply for engineering programs?

A: Yes, you can apply though Math at a more advanced level is strongly preferred. We will review the overall profile of an application.

34. Is AP Calculus AB good enough for admission? Do you prefer Calculus BC to AB?

A: Cal AB is acceptable. We don't have preference between AB and BC.

35. Do you have preference for any of the Physics subjects in AP?

A: No, we don't have any preference.

36. Is there any scholarship scheme for students with SAT/AP?

A: The University has no scheme for SAT/AP but Schools can offer scholarships to individual applicants on grounds of academic merit.

V. Sub-degree and other Post-secondary qualifications holders

37. I am studying an associate degree program in HK. Should I apply for admission to the School or to programs?

A: Students who will have finished only the first year of an associate degree program by the end of the 2015-16 academic year should apply to the School for admission to Year 1. Those who will have finished the whole associate degree program by the end of the 2015-16 academic year should apply to Programs for admission to Year 2 or above.

38. I'm studying in an associate degree program and will also retake HKDSE in 2016. Should I apply through direct admission or through JUPAS?

A: You can choose to apply through either route, but can't take both routes at the same time. If you decide to apply through direct admission with your associate degree program, make sure that you complete at least one year of study before the end of the academic year 2015-16.

39. How long does it take for Associate Degree/ Higher Diploma holders to graduate?

A: Associate Degree / Higher Diploma holders may be granted credit transfer up to 60 credits, which is equivalent to 2 years. Therefore, if the credits earned at the post-secondary institute fit really well to the program requirements, it is possible that these students can graduate in 2 years. The exact number of credits to be transferred will be reviewed at the point of admission.