



# Administrative details for applying to overseas universities (US)

23 May 2024

Temasek Junior College

# Application to US universities



Most US universities are on  
**CommonApp** (e.g. the 8 Ivy Leagues,  
Stanford, NYU, Johns Hopkins)

Universities **NOT** on CommonApp:  
MIT, UC (University of California),  
Georgetown and more





# Application to US universities



Each year the Common App opens to students on **August 1st** and closes on **January 1st**.

You may **create an account** and fill out **general information** prior to **August 1st** and send in your application after **August 1st**.



# Application process

Apply by 1 Nov,  
receive offer in  
Jan/Feb 2025

Apply by 1 Nov,  
receive offer in  
Dec 2024

Apply by 1 Jan  
2025, receive  
offer in Feb/Mar  
2025

Decision Plan	Submit Application Early	Receive Admissions Decision Early	Binding (expected to enroll if admitted)	Can apply to other schools under this decision plan
Early Action	✓	✓		✓
Early Decision	✓	✓	✓	
Regular Decision	Optional			✓

# Early Action/ Early Decision?

## Early Action Plans:

- You can apply early action to multiple colleges.
- If you're accepted, you can say “yes” right away or wait until spring to decide.
- You can also decline the offer.

## Early Decision Plans:

- You can apply early decision to only 1 college.
- If the college accepts you and offers enough financial aid, you must go to that college. That’s why these plans are referred to as “binding.”
- Some colleges have 2 early deadlines, called early decision deadline I and early decision deadline II. They both work the same way, but the second deadline gives you more time to decide to apply early.
- Although you may apply to additional colleges through the regular admission process, **you must withdraw all other applications if this college accepts you.**

Refer to this page for more FAQs: [Facts About Applying Early Decision or Early Action – BigFuture \(collegeboard.org\)](https://collegeboard.org/early-action-decision)

# Application process

- Application Form and Fee (fee per school)
- Official transcripts or certified true copies (IP4, JC1, JC2, Predicted Grades for A Levels)
- Standardised test results (SAT or ACT, TOEFL)
- CommonApp Personal Essay + School-specific essays
- Tutor recommendations: In general, you need recommendations from **1 School Counsellor (Civics Tutor) AND 1 or 2 Teacher Recommenders (Subject Teachers)**



# What are **US** Universities looking for?

An **All-rounder**: a combination of leadership, intelligence, creativity, and initiative.

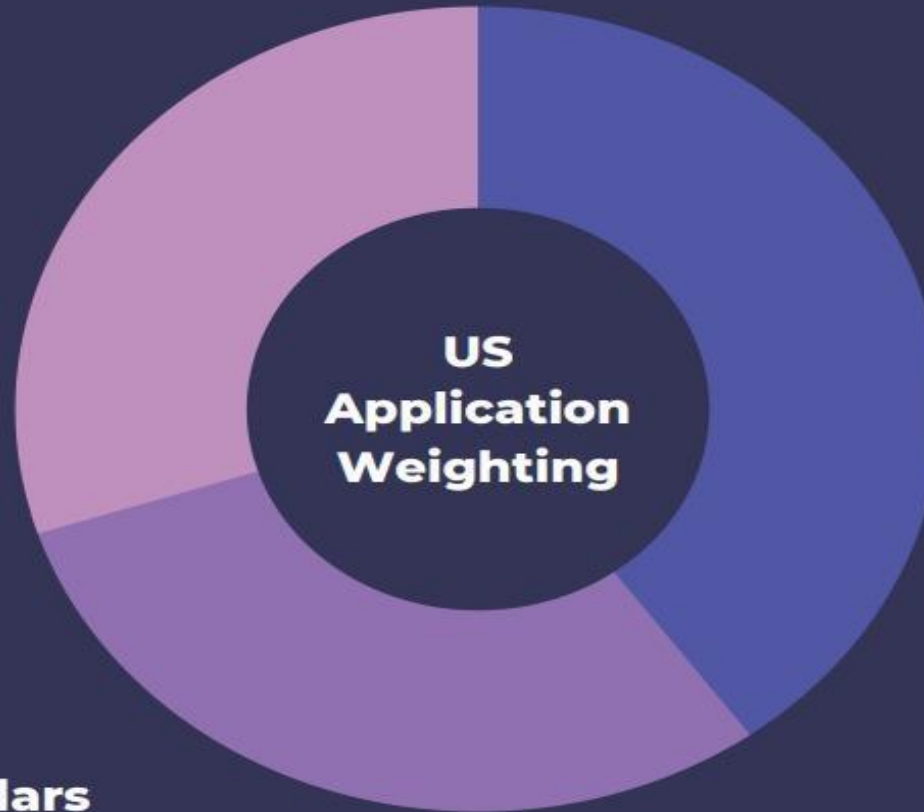


**30%**

**Common App,  
Essays, and  
Interview**

**30%**

**Extracurriculars  
and Leadership**



**40%**

**Academics:**

- Academics: SAT or ACT
- AP/IB/A Levels/GPA
- Academic Transcripts

# SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST(SAT)

- Digital SAT from 2023
- Register online at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital>
- Free and affordable practice at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital/digital-practice-preparation>
- Can re-take to improve your scores. Your score and information on number of attempts will be sent to the universities of your choice. The best score is submitted.





# SAT

## SAT Suite of Assessments

[Home](#)[SAT](#) ▾[SAT School Day](#) ▾

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug 24, 2024	Aug 9, 2024 <a href="#">Register</a>	Aug 13, 2024
Oct 5, 2024	Sept 20, 2024 <a href="#">Register</a>	Sept 24, 2024
Nov 2, 2024	Oct 18, 2024 <a href="#">Register</a>	Oct 22, 2024
Dec 7, 2024	Nov 22, 2024 <a href="#">Register</a>	Nov 26, 2024

# American College Testing (ACT)

- The ACT is an achievement test (only a few universities require this test)
- All 4-year US universities accept ACT results
- Four parts: English, Reading, Science, Math. Writing section is optional.
- Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)





# Key dates

- **University Application deadlines**
  - Check CommonApp
  - Check individual University admission sites
- **TJC Internal Deadlines**
  - TJC US Form: for overseas education team to keep track of your application process



# Universities' Application Deadlines

- **Deadlines for submission of application:**
  - 1 Nov 2024 (Early Decision/ Early Action) *(for most universities, some are earlier)*
  - 1 Jan 2025 (Regular Decision) *(for most universities)*

*Please check the deadline for every university which you are applying to.*
- **December 2024 – March 2025:** Receive offer letters



# TJC Internal Deadlines

**Deadlines for TJC US form:**

**Early Action/Early Decision (29 Sept 2024)**

**Regular Decision (20 Oct 2024)**

Download **TJC US Form** from ECG website.

Approach:

- ONE tutor to write your “School Counsellor Report”

- TWO subject tutors to write your “Teacher Evaluation Report”.

Submit completed TJC US Form to Ms Jane Lin and Ms Ng Lay Ling for approval.

**DO NOT submit applications on CommonApp or pay online until approval has been given by Ms Jane Lin and Ms Ng Lay Ling**

Before August 2024	Register, Prepare and Take the Admission tests required (eg SAT, ACT, other tests) Start drafting personal statements
August – September 2024	Set up CommonApp account. Start filling in application and drafting personal statements and admission essays. Retake SAT/ACT to raise your scores if needed. Approach your tutors to request for Teacher Recommendations.
20 Sep 2024	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Early Action/ Early Decision
11 Oct 2024	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Regular Decision
1 Nov 2024	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Early Decision/ Early Action) (for most schools)
1 Jan 2025	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Regular Decision) (for most schools)
December 2024 – March 2025	Receive results of applications *After the A Level results are released in Feb 2025, your CT will submit the A Level results to the universities/ via CommonApp.



# CommonApp Account

- Set up CommonApp account ([www.commonapp.org/](http://www.commonapp.org/))
- Refer to **Guide to setting up Common App** on USPO website
- Ensure that all sections are filled in, and application fees are paid.



# CommonApp essay prompts

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2024–2025:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# Where to find out more?



- EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 425 international student advising centers in 178 countries.
- The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited post-secondary institutions in the United States.
- <https://educationusa.state.gov/>



# Application to US universities

Compulsory for 2024 applications:  
Please grant access to Ms Jane Lin and  
Ms. Ng Lay Ling as **Teacher Advisor** on  
CommonApp (under the  
Recommenders/FERPA section)



**Before you make any online submissions (on CommonApp or to the universities), you MUST email Ms Jane Lin and Ms Ng Lay Ling and submit the TJC US form.**



# FAQs

- Qn: When should I approach my tutors for their recommendations?
- Ans: Your tutors are NOT obliged to provide you with a recommendation. Speak to them as early as possible (at least one month before the university's deadline), so that your tutors have time to craft a recommendation that accurately reflects your personal qualities.
- Qn: Can the tutors let me know my predicted grades for A Levels?
- Ans: No. Your predicted grades are confidential. Revealing predicted grades to applicants will undermine the integrity of the application process.
- Qn: How do I know if my grades are good enough to qualify for the university?
- Ans: Use your SAT scores as a gauge. Visit <https://educationusa.state.gov/> and explore their application tools.
- Qn: What do I do if I need financial aid?
- Ans: Please approach the ECG team for advice.