



Administrative details for applying to overseas universities (US)

29 May 2025

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



The Common App opens to students on
1st August 2025

**You may work on writing your prompts
and essays during the June holidays**



Application process

Decision Plan

Apply by 1 Nov,
receive offer in
Dec 2025-Feb 2026

Early Action

Apply by 1 Nov,
receive offer in
Dec 2025

Early Decision

Apply by 1 Jan
2026, receive
offer in Feb/Mar
2026

Regular Decision

Submit
Application
Early

Receive
Admissions
Decision Early

Binding (expected
to enroll if
admitted)

Can apply to other
schools under this
decision plan



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 the university deadline. Please check the university's website for specific deadlines.
- 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/facts-about-applying-early-decision-or-early-action)

Application process

- Application Form and Fee (fee per school)
- Official transcripts or certified true copies (IP4/O Level, JC1 Promo results, 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 2 Teacher Recommenders (Subject Teachers)**

What are **US** Universities looking for?

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

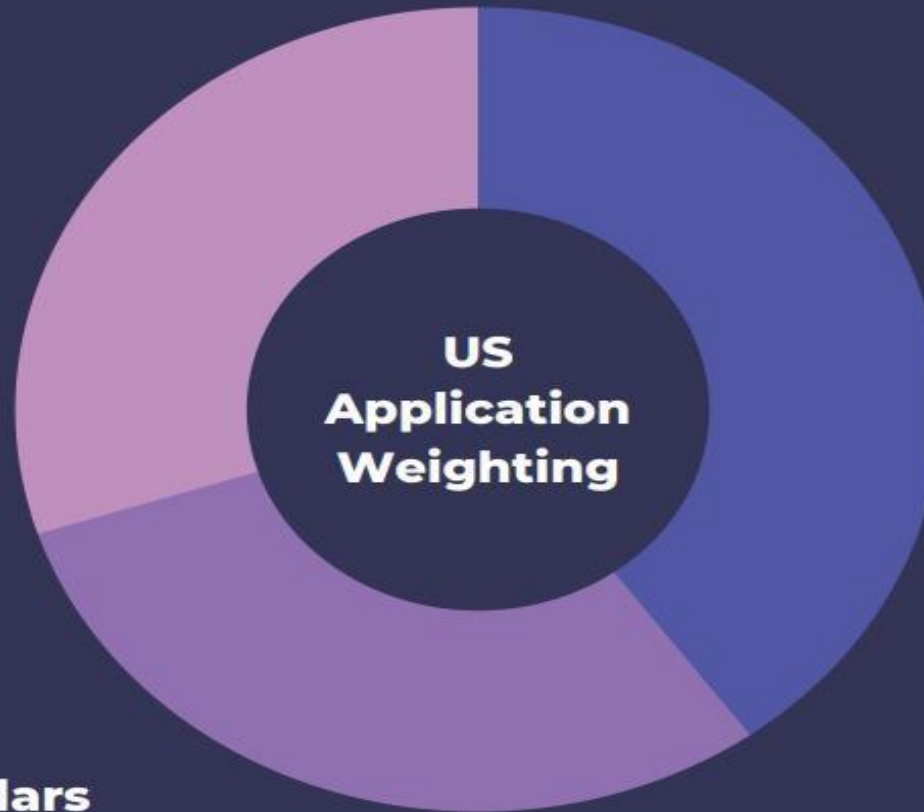


30%

**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

Confirmed 2025–26 Test Dates

Fall 2025

- ✓ August 23, 2025
- ✓ September 13, 2025
- ✓ October 4, 2025
- ✓ November 8, 2025
- ✓ December 6, 2025

Spring 2026

- ✓ March 14, 2026
- ✓ May 2, 2026
- ✓ June 6, 2026

**Register online latest two weeks before
the Test Date**

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



Key dates

- **University Application deadlines**
 - Check CommonApp
 - Check individual University admission websites
- **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 to the university:**
 - 1 Nov 2025 (Early Decision/ Early Action)** *(for most universities but some are earlier in late October 2025)*
 - 1 Jan 2026 (Regular Decision)** *(for most universities)*

Please check the deadline for every university which you are applying to.
- **December 2025 – March 2026:** Receive offer letters

TJC Internal Deadlines

Deadlines for TJC US form for approval:
Early Action/Early Decision (19 Sept 2025)
Regular Decision (10 Oct 2025)

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 Joanne Tan and Ms Ng Lay Ling for approval.

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

Before August 2025	<p>Register, Prepare and Take the Admission tests required (eg SAT, ACT, other tests)</p> <p>Start drafting CommonApp essay prompts and supplemental essays for each university you are applying to</p>
August – September 2025	<p>Set up CommonApp account. Start filling in application and drafting CommonApp essay prompts and supplemental essays.</p> <p>Retake SAT/ACT to raise your scores if needed.</p> <p>Approach your tutors to request for Teacher Recommendations.</p>
By 19 Sep 2025	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Early Action/ Early Decision
By 10 Oct 2025	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Regular Decision
Late Oct – 1 Nov 2025	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Early Decision/ Early Action) (for most schools)
1 Jan 2026	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Regular Decision) (for most schools)
December 2025 – March 2026	<p>Receive results of applications</p> <p>*After the A Level results are released in Feb/March 2026, your CT will submit the A Level results to the universities/ via CommonApp.</p>

CommonApp Account

- Set up CommonApp account (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 2025–2026:

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.
- www.educationusa.state.gov

Application to US universities

Compulsory for 2025 applications:
Please grant access to Ms Joanne Tan 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 Joanne Tan 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: What do I do if I need financial aid?
- Ans: Please approach the ECG team for advice.