



Administrative details for applying to overseas universities (US)

2026

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 2026

**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 2026-Feb
2027

Early Action

Apply by 1 Nov,
receive offer in
Dec 2026

Early Decision

Apply by 1 Jan
2027, receive
offer in Feb/Mar
2027

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)**

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 2026-27 Test Dates

Fall 2026

- ✓ August 22, 2026
- ✓ September 12, 2026
- ✓ October 3, 2026
- ✓ November 7, 2026
- ✓ December 5, 2026

Spring 2027

- ✓ March 6, 2027
- ✓ May 1, 2027
- ✓ June 5, 2027

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



Universities' Application Deadlines

- **Deadlines for submission of application to the university:**
 - 1 Nov 2026 (Early Decision/ Early Action) *(for most universities but some are earlier in late October 2026)*
 - 1 Jan 2027 (Regular Decision) *(for most universities)*

Please check the deadline for every university which you are applying to.

- **December 2026 – March 2027:** Receive offer letters

TJC Internal Deadlines

Deadlines for TJC US form for approval and to approach your teachers:

Early Action/Early Decision (by 18 Sept 2026)

Regular Decision (by 30 Oct 2026)

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, Ms Ng Lay Ling and Mr Koh Rui Yang for approval. **Indicate in your email header: [US Application]**

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 2026	Register, Prepare and Take the Admission tests required (eg SAT, ACT, other tests) Start drafting CommonApp essay prompts and supplemental essays for each university you are applying to
August – September 2026	Set up CommonApp account. Start filling in application and drafting CommonApp essay prompts and supplemental essays. Retake SAT/ACT to raise your scores if needed. Approach your tutors to request for Teacher Recommendations.
By 18 Sep 2026	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Early Action/ Early Decision
By 30 Oct 2026	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Regular Decision
By 20 Nov 2026	*Final Deadline to submit TJC US Form for US Regular Decision
Late Oct – 1 Nov 2026	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Early Decision/ Early Action) (for most schools)
1 Jan 2027	Deadline for submission of application on CommonApp (Regular Decision) (for most schools)
December 2026 – March 2027	Receive results of applications *After the A Level results are released in Feb/March 2027, your CT will submit the A Level results to the universities/ via CommonApp.

Submission of TJC US form + inform your teacher referees

- **Impt!** Current students and alumni to adhere to all internal deadlines set. This is non-negotiable. We need time to get the materials ready for you. After 20 Nov 2026, all approval requests and queries will be responded to when school reopens next year.

By 18 Sep 2026	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Early Action/ Early Decision
By 30 Oct 2026	Deadline to Submit TJC US Form for Regular Decision
By 20 Nov 2026	*Final Deadline to submit TJC US Form for US Regular Decision

CommonApp Account

- Set up CommonApp account (www.commonapp.org/) after 1 Aug'26
- 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 2026–2027:

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.

[Announcing the 2026–2027 Common App essay prompts](#)

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 2026 applications:
Please grant access to Ms Joanne Tan,
Ms. Ng Lay Ling and Mr Koh Rui Yang 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, Ms Ng Lay Ling & Mr Koh Rui Yang and submit the TJC US form.

