



Higher Education & Careers Fair FAQ from 2024

This document compiles the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and corresponding responses shared by the universities that participated in our Higher Education Fair 2024. These questions were gathered directly from attendees during the fair, offering valuable insights into the concerns and interests of prospective students. The responses provided by university representatives reflect the key information about admissions, programs, campus life, and other relevant aspects of the application process. The information below is not to be taken as updated for 2025 but serves as a good starting point and inspiration for questions this year.

SG - Local Universities

When are the application dates?

- Applications typically open in mid-October and close in mid-March for IB students. Specific dates vary each year, so it's recommended to check the university admissions websites.

What are the cut off scores for IB?

- Check official university websites for updates as cut-offs vary slightly each year.
- Remember that increasingly, co-curricular achievements and personal statements play a crucial role in admissions as well.

SG - Singapore University of Social Sciences

Programme offering for Psychology, Economics & Arts

- We recently launched Full-time Undergraduate Psychology for 2024 intake.
- We currently do not offer Economics & Arts, however we do offer minors and free electives that may offer such subjects.

Application Process

- Please refer to our [website](#)

Admission criteria

- For Singapore Citizen/ Permanent Resident generally we are looking at 32-35, and international students 35 and above, however every year it depends on the competitiveness of the cohort and the score may differ.

Accommodation in SUSS

- Unfortunately, we are currently using space from SIM Global Education and we do not have accommodation to offer but do work with hostel providers near the campus to offer competitive rates to students.

SG/AU - Curtin University

Minimum entry requirements

- 4 passes at IGCSE with a Grade C or better in one of the following subjects: English, English Literature, English Language, First Language English, English General Paper or English as Second Language.
- Essential course prerequisites for Information Technology: Mathematics. Calculus is desirable.
- Entry requirements for Bachelor programs-IB Diploma with 24 points from 6 subjects at one sitting. 3 of the subjects must be at the higher level and one of the 6 subjects must be English.

AU - University of Melbourne

- Medicine @ UniMelb is offered as a Graduate course.
- Lots of enquiries at the fair for Medicine, Engineering, Teaching and Veterinary Medicine.
- Most questions were regarding the course [entry requirements](#), scholarships and whether CCAs would be "useful" for admission.

AU - Uni of Western Australia

- Common questions at the fair included [general entry requirements](#), scholarships, selection criteria for medicine and dentistry, application using predicted grades, and whether their subject combination would meet UWA's prerequisite requirements.

UK - Applications

- Common questions asked include [UCAS application process](#), clinical programme places, career options after graduating, entry requirement and scholarships.

How long are degrees in the UK?

- Typically 3 years



UK - King's College London

Does your university provide deferrals for military or National Service?

Yes - up to two years. Applicants will need to provide evidence that they will be undertaking compulsory service along with their deferral request, and all requests should be made via King's application portal.

Do we need to take an English Language test?

- IB students can use their English A or English B, Standard Level or Higher Level grades to meet the English Language requirements. Please refer to King's Undergraduate [English Language requirement webpage](#)

Entry requirements for Medicine (MBBS) and Law (LLB).

- Please check King's course webpages for detailed information on the entry requirements:
 - <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/medicine-mbbs>
 - <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/law-llb>

The international quota* for places on Medicine, Dentistry and Physiotherapy

- Medicine: 28 to 30 places (as of Apr 2024) More places were offered post April 2024 - 80 places
- Dentistry: 15 places (as of Apr 2024)

*There is no quota for the Law LLB course

UK - British Council

Students with UK passports asking about home fees

- an organisation that supports this particular topic (UK Study options)

Scholarships and what is available

- [British Council 'Study UK'](#) page outlines this.

UK - Glasgow

- Most students asked about general information about the programme and entry requirements. Seems like students had done good research beforehand as well.

US - Education USA, What do you do?



- EducationUSA is a U.S. government program to provide free university advising for students applying to U.S. universities. We can answer any questions you have on the process, from researching universities to applying for the student visa, and also give feedback on your essays and overall application. All our services are free - book an appointment at calendly.com/educationusasingapore/30min!

US - Do I need to take both the SAT and ACT?

- No. The ACT and SAT are viewed the same by universities. You do not have to take both. Both are currently computer-based tests offered several times a year. Both are valid for 5 years.
- It is recommended to take one of them if you have the chance, just in case your university requires a test score. Students typically take the test around year 11 to not conflict with final exams and possibly retake the test if needed. However, if you are not able to take the test, you can look on fairtest.org for which 2000+ universities are still test blind or test optional.

US - Should I take the SAT or the ACT?

- Some students do better on the SAT and some do better on the ACT, so it can be helpful to take practice tests for both and stick to whichever one you like or score better on.
- These are the general differences:
 1. The SAT is adaptive. That means if you score well on the early sections of the SAT, the test will give you harder questions. This can help differentiate between high scorers.
 2. The ACT focuses on content knowledge and speed, thus requiring some understanding of geometry and reading charts for the science portion.
 3. The SAT was originally designed to measure aptitude and is based more on logic and has some tricky phrasing. Practicing on Khan Academy can help you get used to the style of SAT questions.

US - What are the requirements for _____ university? Are there any prerequisites that I should take?

- There are no prerequisites because there is no expectation that you already have training or experience in the field that you're applying for. Students have two years to explore before they declare a major in the U.S. system. However, it would be good for students to have some prior classes or experience in the field that you intend to study for your own sake so that you have some foundations before advanced study and can write a more convincing essay if you intend to touch on academic interests.



- There are also no IB cut-off scores for U.S. universities, but you can estimate the academic level of admitted students by looking up “Common Data Set” and the name of your university.

US - I’m interested in Law in the U.S. What programs can I look into?

- Law is a graduate level degree in the U.S., so you could take anything as an undergraduate and then go for your Juris Doctor (J.D.) However, only 4 U.S. graduate law programs allow you to practice law in Singapore - UMich, NYU, Columbia, and Harvard - according to the Singapore Institute of Legal Education. Some students intend to stay in the U.S. or practice law globally, in which case they would need to pass the bar exam in the state or region that they intend to practice in, so it could be helpful to research backwards from where you want to be in the future.
- A common path is to take an undergraduate law degree locally or in the U.K. or Australia and then take an LLM, or masters specialization, in the U.S. to deepen your understanding of a specific industry. You can also practice law as in-house counsel with a J.D. from a U.S. university that’s not on the list.

I’m interested in Business or Economics in the U.S. What’s the difference between the two and what programs might be a good fit for me?

- Undergraduate business programs tend to focus on employable skills, like resume crafting, interview skills, case competitions and case studies, excel spreadsheets, financial calculations, basics of how to read accounting documents, crafting marketing positioning and surveys, class participation, and presentations. It can provide a head-start for people who are very eager to start working and want to be surrounded by like-minded peers.
- Economics depends a bit more on the university, but is typically a more theoretical approach to understanding graphs, mathematics, history of thinkers in the field, and broad applications of the core concepts. It is a bit more flexible and can be combined with a variety of other disciplines.
- EducationUSA is not able to recommend specific universities, but you can use this information to look up which universities are good for the field that sounds more appealing to you. Collegenavigator (<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>) can be a good place to start if you have specific combinations of majors that you’re interested in. Or Collegescorecard (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>) can give you the median salary 4 years after graduation by major by university.

US - Do U.S. universities offer financial aid for international students?



- Yes - U.S. universities offer generous financial aid for international students - look at [this database](#) for how much each university has historically given. You can start building your list of universities from this if this is a very important factor.

US - What do you need to apply for a U.S. university?

- U.S. universities typically practice holistic admissions, meaning they look at a combination of:
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Transcript
 - Predicted grades
 - SAT/ACT scores
 - Essays - personal statement and supplemental essays - typically, the more selective the institution, the more supplemental essays they'll require
 - Fill out the application (CommonApp, or other portal) with your activities and academic history
 - Proof of financial ability to support yourself during your studies - (the university will request this after you're admitted, but be prepared to present it)

US - Do I need a “story” for U.S. universities?

- Yes - for very selective institutions your story can be the way to stand out. But don't worry, you already have a story! The holistic application process gives the admissions reader a lot of information - your activities, hobbies, family responsibilities, additional information, relationships with your teachers, academic strengths, family background, etc. They then piece these parts together to create a general understanding of you and decide if you're a good cultural fit for the university, meaning you're able to connect with the other students, will take advantage of the opportunities on and around campus, and will enjoy your time at university.
- Your essays are your chance to craft the narrative that guides the reader through the highlights of what you've done and show your voice so they can easily envision you on campus.

EU - University College Utrecht

What is liberal arts and sciences?

- The classical model of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the core of our educational system. You learn to think critically and to employ multiple perspectives by studying different subjects from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Science. At University College Utrecht, you learn to grapple with complicated issues that matter in today's world.



Do you have scholarships?

Yes, read more [here](#).

Do you have housing?

- Yes and guaranteed for all UCU students.