

FAQs on University Entrance Requirements

(as of June 2020)

Note: Please refer to the websites of individual institutions for most updated information.

Question	Answer
1. What is the guiding principle in deciding the university entrance requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All universities support the development of a broad and balanced senior secondary curriculum. It is recognised that specification of entrance requirements for individual faculties/ departments by universities should encourage, as far as possible, a positive effect on student choice and school planning in the senior secondary curriculum. There is a consensus that less specification for individual faculties/ departments by universities will give schools flexibility in planning for senior secondary curriculum and allow students to choose electives according to their aptitude and interests. This would also help reduce the early streaming of students.
2. What are the universities' minimum entrance requirements under the New Academic Structure (NAS)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In general, the universities' minimum entrance requirements are set at the level of 3322 in the four core subjects (i.e. Level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language and Level 2 in Mathematics and Liberal Studies), plus Level 2 or 3 in one/two elective(s). Institutions may set additional faculty/programme requirements in consideration of the specific nature and needs of the programmes, including the number of electives and the required results. For more details of the admission requirements of institutions/programmes, please visit the websites of respective institutions.The 4 core subjects + 1 or 2 elective subject(s) are just the minimum requirements and do not guarantee entrance to a particular university or programme. Universities would conduct further selection on those applicants who satisfied the minimum requirements. The actual selection for admission would be on a competitive basis.
3. As most universities require 4 core subjects and one elective subject as admission criteria, can students only take 4 core subjects and one elective subject under senior secondary curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For students to have a broad and balanced education under senior secondary curriculum, it is recommended that they should take 4 core subjects and 2 or 3 electives. Moreover, the 4 core subjects + 1 or 2 elective subject(s) are just the minimum admission criteria for most universities and do not guarantee entrance to a particular university or programme. During the actual selection process of the programmes, the number of electives and their results could be a factor taking into consideration, served as tie-breakers, given with bonus points or considered as additional information.

Question	Answer
<p>4. The general entrance requirements of universities ask for 4 core subjects including Mathematics. Why are students required to study Mathematics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader mathematical literacy is an essential component for students to prepare their further studies and/or work. It is undesirable to limit students' future development and it is not advisable to stop students from learning Mathematics at the senior secondary level. Mathematics is therefore a core subject. • Students may only take the compulsory part in Mathematics which builds on the basic education and can be learnt by all students. For those students who would like to learn more Mathematics and study engineering, business, science, etc. in university, they could take one of the extended modules in Mathematics - Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics) or Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus).
<p>5. Does a student need to study both extended modules in Mathematics if they want to study in certain science or engineering faculties?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are only allowed to study one of the two extended modules in Mathematics as there is substantial overlap. Faculties/programmes in universities generally require one of the extended modules in Mathematics, if needed.
<p>6. Will Student Learning Profile (SLP) be considered in the university admission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGC-funded universities have indicated their support for the Other Learning Experiences (OLE), and would accept SLP as a document of reference value in admission under the NAS. SLP will also serve the purpose of providing topics for discussion in selection interviews. • OLE values student participation and experience, and thus there will be no assessment. Students' OLE will be recorded on SLP. In considering admission, institutions will take into account SLP that reflects a student's achievements in both academic and non-academic aspects. • Overseas institutions also value SLP as it shows students' achievements in various aspects. • SLP provides a wide range of qualitative information on the student's all-round development. A concise SLP would be a document of good reference in both selection interviews and admission.

Question	Answer
7. Will different weighting be given to different electives by the universities in their selection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general entrance requirements are just minimum requirements that a student has to fulfill before they could be considered for admission. In consideration of the specific nature and needs of the programmes, individual institutions/programmes may set specified elective subject requirements or give different weighting to different electives in the actual selection process. For more details, please visit the websites of respective institutions.
8. Will other languages (French, German, Japanese, Spanish, Hindi and Urdu) be recognised as unspecified subjects in university admission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most institutions recognise other languages as extra/unspecified subjects in meeting the minimum entrance requirement in university admission.
9. Will institutions accept students fulfilling the specified circumstances to use alternative qualification(s) in Chinese Language in lieu of HKDSE Chinese Language for admission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the current system, as stated in the LegCo paper in Feb 2008, institutions have already confirmed their acceptance of alternative Chinese Language qualifications (GCSE, IGCSE, GCE) for students fulfilling the following specified circumstances. This will be continued under the current academic system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The student has learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education. This caters specifically students who have a late start in the learning of Chinese Language (e.g. due to their settlement in Hong Kong well past the entry level) or who have been educated in Hong Kong sporadically; or (ii) The student has learned Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but has been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in our local schools. • Starting from the 2014/15 school year, senior secondary students having met the above specified circumstances may also choose to take Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)). By design, ApL(C) is a language course using the vocational field as the context. It differs from other Applied Learning (ApL) courses which focus on the knowledge and beginners' skill set related to a specific professional /vocational field. Against this background, University Grants Committee (UGC) -funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language (ACL) for the admission of NCS students with "Attained" as the minimum grade required.

Question	Answer
	<p>In view of this, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject. Details are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) For UGC-funded universities, ApL(C) is not accepted as an elective subject. (ii) For self-financing institutions, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject for admission. Apart from ApL(C) as ACL, each applicant is allowed to use a maximum of TWO ApL subjects as elective subjects for admission. Institutions may give special consideration to NCS students with ApL(C) when it is not counted as ACL, according to their individual policy. Nonetheless, ApL(C) cannot be regarded as an elective subject for admission.
<p>10. Is there flexibility for admission to UGC-funded universities for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students taking Category A Chinese Language but not reaching Level 3 or above?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institutions may consider the application case by case and handle the Chinese Language requirement flexibly for NCS students.
<p>11. Would there be any differences on universities' admission policy for local and non-local students under the NAS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGC-funded universities consider applications for admission, irrespective of whether they are made by local or non-local students, in accordance with the principle of fairness and merit-based selection. Each university administers its own admission policy and criteria as well as approved intake places to identify candidates that best fit the faculty's admission requirements. • To ensure local students' opportunity for admission is not affected by non-local students' application, the applications of non-local applicants (regardless of the academic qualifications or results of any given examination used) would be considered together with applications made by other non-local students through the non-JUPAS route. UGC-funded universities could only admit non-local students to UGC-funded programmes by way of over-enrollment. Definition of local and non-local students can be found at the following JUPAS Website (https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/3670/)