

**POLYTECHNIC EARLY ADMISSIONS EXERCISE FOR O-LEVEL STUDENTS
(FOR ADMISSION IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2022)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*This set of FAQs can also be found online on the Poly EAE portal at
<https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg>*

General

1. What is the Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE) for O-Level students?

The Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE) allows students to apply for and receive conditional offers for admission prior to their GCE O-Level Examinations. Students applying through the Poly EAE are considered for admission on the basis of demonstrated aptitude and interest, beyond just academic grades.

2. Who can take part in Poly EAE for O-Level students?

Poly EAE is open to:

- (a) Singapore Citizens (SC) and Permanent Residents (PR) who have registered to sit for the GCE O-Level Examinations in the year of the Poly EAE application;
- (b) International Students enrolled in government, government-aided and Independent Schools during the year of the Poly EAE application, who have registered to sit for the GCE O-Level Examinations in the year of the Poly EAE application.

3. How many places are set aside for Poly EAE?

In Academic Year 2021, the five polytechnics (Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic) admitted about 20% of their Academic Year intake through Poly EAE. The EAE intake may differ from year to year, and would depend on student demand and the quality of the EAE applications.

4. If I am really keen on a polytechnic education in a specific field, why do I still need to take the GCE O-Level Examinations? Why do I still need to meet academic criteria?

While interest in a field of study is important, having the requisite academic foundation helps to assure that you will be able to cope with the rigour of a polytechnic education and benefit from it. It is for this reason that students seeking admission to the polytechnics are required to meet the following admissions criteria:

- (a) A net ELR2B2 aggregate score of 26 points or better for the GCE O-Level Examinations*; and

- (b) Minimum entry requirements (MERs) for their respective diploma courses. The MERs for each polytechnic course can be found on the polytechnics' websites.

**Exception is for Nursing courses, which require a net ELR2B2 aggregate of 28 points or better. Applicants may combine results from no more than 2 sittings of the GCE O-Level examination.*

5. What happens if I do not meet the O-Level academic criteria?

If you do not meet the admissions criteria, your conditional offer will be automatically revoked upon the release of the GCE O-Level Examinations results. You will be eligible to participate in the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) and other polytechnic admissions exercises at that point.

Application

6. When will I be able to apply through Poly EAE?

Poly EAE applications for O-Level students will be open from 24 June 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Selection

7. What attributes will be considered under Poly EAE? How will I be assessed for admission through this exercise?

Poly EAE focuses on students who have strong aptitude and interest in a field related to the diploma course they are applying for. Where relevant to the course they are applying for, the polytechnics may consider students' outstanding talents and achievements, such as in sports, arts, leadership, entrepreneurship and community service.

Polytechnics will have the discretion to determine their modes of assessment, such as portfolios, interviews and aptitude tests, where relevant and appropriate. Polytechnics may also consider participation in relevant co-curricular activities (CCAs), Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs), Applied Learning Programmes (ALP) and Applied Subjects, as well as participation in activities such as work attachments and sustained involvement in projects that are related to the course students are applying for.

8. How are students selected during EAE? How can students find out more about what is expected of them during the EAE selection?

The polytechnics use a range of assessment modalities to determine students' interest and aptitude in a particular area, including portfolios, aptitude tests, and interviews. Students may visit the respective institutions' websites to find out more about the expectations of the EAE selection process for the different courses, and how they can be best prepared to demonstrate their interest and aptitude in the chosen course.

9. In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, how will the Poly EAE selection process be affected?

To ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff amidst the COVID-19 situation, the polytechnics will conduct EAE selections largely via electronic means, such as online interviews, or portfolio submissions over email, for most courses. On-campus selection will still need to proceed for some courses, where the selection process cannot be meaningfully replicated in a remote manner. One example of such courses is Nanyang Polytechnic's Diploma in Oral Health Therapy. In all instances where applicants need to come onto campus, the polytechnics will ensure that appropriate safe management measures are put in place. This includes staggering assessment slots and designating waiting areas to avoid inter-mingling of applicants. Despite these changes, the polytechnics will ensure that selection remains rigorous and fair to all applicants.

The polytechnics will continue to monitor the national situation and will facilitate on-campus selection for more courses, if the situation allows.

10. What if I am unable to attend the selection tests (e.g. interviews) as I am unwell, or am under restrictions arising from the COVID-19 situation?

You should inform the polytechnic immediately if you are unable to make it for their scheduled appointment, be it for online or on-campus selection, so that alternative arrangements can be made. When the polytechnics reach out to shortlisted applicants to inform them about the details of their interview, they will also share a point of contact which applicants may reach out to in the event that they are unable to make it for their scheduled appointment.

Offer and Acceptance

11. Can I receive more than one offer in the Poly EAE? How will the order of my course choices affect my final outcome?

While you may apply for up to three course choices, you are only eligible to receive up to **one** offer. If you are assessed to be suitable for more than one of your course choices during the selection stage, your received offer will be to the course which is ranked highest among your three choices.

12. Can I switch courses after the release of the GCE O-Level Examination results?

No. Once you have accepted your conditional offer and met the admissions criteria for the polytechnic course after the release of your final results, your EAE offer will be automatically confirmed and you will not be able to switch courses within or across polytechnics. You will also not be eligible to take part in the JAE and other polytechnic admissions exercises. Students are expected to honour the commitment to their choice of polytechnic and the course under Poly EAE.

Poly EAE is targeted at students who are interested in a particular course in the polytechnics, and admission is based on the student's suitability for that course. If you

are still discovering and/or developing your strengths and interests related to specific polytechnic courses, you can instead apply for a polytechnic course through the JAE after receiving your GCE O-Level Examination results.

13. Can I apply through Poly EAE and the Direct Schools Admission – Junior College (DSA-JC) Exercise concurrently?

Yes, you can participate in both Poly EAE and the DSA-JC Exercise. However, you should only accept either a polytechnic or junior college offer. Students who accept both offers will be disqualified from both exercises, unless they reject one of the offers before the end of the Acceptance Stage on 10 September 2021.

Withdrawal

14. If I have accepted a Poly EAE offer but subsequently decide that I prefer taking part in JAE, what can I do?

Should you wish to withdraw your acceptance of the Poly EAE offer, you must submit your withdrawal online via the Poly EAE online portal no later than 15 October 2021. Students who have accepted a Poly EAE offer but do not withdraw by the deadline will be deemed to have confirmed their acceptance and will not be eligible to participate in the JAE and other polytechnic admissions exercises.

Course-Level Allowances

15. What are the courses that have a course-level allowance of 50% for aptitude-based admissions? Why and how were these courses selected?

The full list of courses with a course-level allowance of 50% for the upcoming 2021 Poly EAE will be made available by early-June 2021 at <https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg>.

These courses have been given a higher allowance as interest and strengths in the field are particularly important, e.g. in Early Childhood, Social Work and Design.

16. Why not expand the course-level allowance for these courses to 100%?

Keeping the course-level intake allowance at 50% preserves a viable pathway into these specific diploma courses for other students who do not apply through aptitude-based admissions, whether it is because they have yet to discover or develop specific interests, or are undecided on the diploma course that they wish to apply for.

17. What about other courses that do not have a 50% allowance?

Course-level allowance for all other polytechnic diploma courses will remain at 30%.

END

(Information updated as of 10 May 2021)