

FAQ for NUS First Choice Bonus Points Scheme (Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Poly, IB and NUS High School) for AY2020/2021

1. What is the rationale for implementing the bonus points scheme for first choice course for undergraduate admission to NUS?

NUS has taken different approaches to broaden talent recognition, such as assessing and admitting students from diverse backgrounds and talents, and also providing support for students strong in sports and the arts. The move to award bonus points is aimed at helping students pursue their passion for a field of study.

2. When will the bonus points scheme for first choice course for undergraduate admission be implemented in NUS?

This scheme was implemented for Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level applications in AY2018 and will be extended to local polytechnic, International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma and NUS High School Diploma students from AY2019.

3. Who is eligible for the bonus points scheme for first choice course in undergraduate admission?

Students applying with the Singapore-Cambridge 'A' level, Polytechnic Diplomas from Singapore, IB Diploma and NUS High School Diploma in AY2020 will be given bonus points for their first choice non-interview single degree course. The emphasis is that this scheme applies only to non-interview courses where entry is based purely on students' academic performance.

4. How does the bonus points scheme for first choice course works for undergraduate admission in NUS?

For Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level:

The bonus points, which is up to 2.5 points, will be added to the student's admission score for the first choice non-interview single degree courses when the university evaluates the application for admission.

For Polytechnic Diplomas:

The bonus points, which is up to 0.04 points, will be added to the student's admission score for the first choice non-interview single degree courses when the university evaluates the application for admission.

For IB Diplomas:

The bonus points, which is up to 1 point, will be added to the student's admission score for the first choice non-interview single degree courses when the university evaluates the application for admission.

For NUS High School Diplomas:

The bonus points, which is up to 0.2 points, will be added to the student's admission score for the first choice non-interview single degree course when the university evaluates the application for admission.

5. Does the new bonus points scheme result in higher admission cut-off (requirements) for AY2020?

Admission to NUS is based on academic merit and open competition among the applicant cohort. The admission criteria varies from year to year depending on the applicants' performance.

6. I can select several courses in the application form for admission. How do I rank the choice of courses I wish to be considered?

Applicants will be considered for admission based on their preferred course choices ranked from first to last choice, i.e. if an applicant does not meet the admission requirements for his first choice, he will be considered for his second choice and so on.

However, this excludes the following courses:

- a. Medicine, Dentistry and Law - besides meeting course prerequisites, applicants are required to rank these courses within the first and second choice to be considered for shortlisting for test/interview (the only exception granted is when applicants place Law as their third choice with Medicine and Dentistry as their first two choices).
- b. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Industrial Design, and Nursing - besides satisfying course prerequisites, applicants are required to rank these courses within the top 3 choices in order to be considered.
- c. Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Programme - applicants are required to submit their application essay to PPE Direct Entry Portal by the stipulated deadline

Under the first choice bonus points scheme, no bonus points will be awarded for the first choice of course for these interview-based courses, which are dependent on the outcome of interviews and/or aptitude tests.

7. What is the difference between aptitude-based admissions and the first choice bonus points scheme?

Aptitude-based admissions consider factors in addition to academic grades, including ability and interest in a relevant subject, work experience, leadership and community service. Applicants must meet a minimum level of academic competence, and may be offered any of their choice of courses that they applied to, after the faculty considers their suitability and in some cases, assesses them through tests and interviews. The first choice bonus points scheme, on the other hand, gives consideration to the first choice of course that a student has applied to and provides additional points for direct admission to the course. This scheme is aimed at helping students pursue their strong interest and passion in a specific field of study.

8. If a student with least competitive set of result ranks Pharmacy as first choice, does that mean he is better than a student who has a set of better results but ranks the same course as his second choice?

Applicants will be considered for admission based on their preferred course choices ranked from first to last choice. Under the First Choice Bonus Points scheme, bonus points will be awarded for the first choice of course (applicable to non-interview based courses) to help students pursue their passion for a field of study.

9. How should the applicants rank their course choices if the IGP is not made known to IB students?

Applicants may rank their course choices based on their interest and passion, as long as they fulfil the subject pre-requisites.

10. What is difference between the bonus points for first course choices and the Mother Tongue Language (MTL) bonus points?

The bonus point scheme is applicable to the first course choice (non-interview courses) for Singapore-Cambridge 'A' level, Polytechnic, IB Diploma and NUS High School applicants. MTL bonus points only apply to Singapore-Cambridge 'A' level applicants who wish to gain admission to the Arts & Social Sciences (MTL-Related) Courses.

11. If Singapore Cambridge GCE 'A' Level applicants put FASS MTL-related courses as their first choice, would they be eligible for both first choice bonus points MTL bonus points?

Applicants presenting the Singapore-Cambridge 'A' Level qualification would be eligible for both first choice bonus points and MTL bonus points if they rank Arts & Social Sciences as their first choice and indicate their intention to use the bonus points from Mother Tongue Language or General Studies in Chinese on the application form.

Prepared by: NUS Office of Admissions

Updated on 12 March 2020