

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

1. What is the rationale for implementing the bonus points scheme for first choice programme 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 programme for undergraduate admission be implemented in NUS?

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

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

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

4. How does the bonus points scheme for first choice programme 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 programmes 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 programmes 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 programmes 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 programmes when the university evaluates the application for admission.

5. Does the new bonus points scheme result in higher admission cut-off (requirements)? 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 programmes in the application form for admission. How do I rank the choice of programmes I wish to be considered?

Applicants will be considered for admission based on their preferred programme 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 programmes:

- a. Medicine, Dentistry and Law - besides meeting programme prerequisites, applicants are required to rank these programmes 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 programme prerequisites, applicants are required to rank these programmes 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 programme for these interview-based programmes, 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 programmes 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 programme that a student has applied to and provides additional points for direct admission to the programme. 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 programme as his second choice?

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

9. How should the applicants rank their programme choices if the IGP is not made known to IB students? Applicants may rank their programme 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 programme choices and the Mother Tongue Language (MTL) bonus points?

The bonus point scheme is applicable to the first programme choice (non-interview programmes) 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 Humanities and Sciences (MTL-Related) Programmes.

11. If Singapore Cambridge GCE 'A' Level applicants put Humanities and Sciences programme 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 Humanities and 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