

Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions about the DPP

1. What is the DPP?

The DPP prepares Secondary 4 Normal (Academic) [N(A)] students for progression into selected polytechnic diploma courses via a two-year *Higher Nitec* course at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). DPP students who successfully complete their *Higher Nitec* courses and attain the required minimum qualifying *Higher Nitec* Grade Point Average (GPA) scores are guaranteed a place in one of the polytechnic diploma courses that are mapped to their *Higher Nitec* course.

2. Which *Higher Nitec* courses are offered under the DPP?

ITE offers a wide range of full-time *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP for eligible N(A) students. The 17 *Higher Nitec* courses offered under DPP are as follows:

Applied Sciences

- *Higher Nitec* in Chemical Technology

Engineering

- *Higher Nitec* in Civil & Structural Engineering Design
- *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering
- *Higher Nitec* in Electronics Engineering
- *Higher Nitec* in Mechanical Engineering
- *Higher Nitec* in Mechatronics Engineering

Info-Communications Technology

- *Higher Nitec* in Business Information Systems
- *Higher Nitec* in Information Technology
- *Higher Nitec* in Games Art & Design
- *Higher Nitec* in Cyber & Network Security

Business & Services

- *Higher Nitec* in Accounting
- *Higher Nitec* in Banking Services
- *Higher Nitec* in Event Management
- *Higher Nitec* in Hospitality Operations
- *Higher Nitec* in Leisure & Travel Operations
- *Higher Nitec* in Logistics for International Trade
- *Higher Nitec* in Service Management

Eligibility

3. Who can apply for the DPP?

Secondary 4 N(A) students who have sat for their GCE N-Level examinations in 2015¹ and met the following requirements are eligible to apply.

- a. Obtained an ELMAB3 aggregate of **19** points or better (excluding CCA bonus points); **and**
- b. Met the following course-specific requirements:

For Applied Sciences, Engineering and Info-Communications Technology courses:

GCE N-Level subjects	Minimum Required Grades
English Language Syllabus A	4
Mathematics (Syllabus A/ Additional)	4
Any three other subjects excluding CCA	5

For Business & Services courses:

GCE N-Level subjects	Minimum Required Grades
English Language Syllabus A	3
Mathematics (Syllabus A/ Additional)	4
Any three other subjects excluding CCA	5

Secondary 4N(A) students who offered **GCE O-Level examination subjects** in 2015 may use the following grade conversion table for computation of their ELMAB3 aggregates:

GCE O-Level Grade	Converted Grade
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7-E8	3

The GCE O-Level grade of F9 and GCE N(A) grade of U will not be considered for computation of the ELMAB3 aggregate score. If a student has taken the same subject at both the GCE N- and GCE O-Level examinations, only the better grade will be used in the computation of his/her ELMAB3 aggregate to determine DPP eligibility.

Students are also advised to note that eligibility to apply for the DPP does not guarantee placement in a DPP course.

¹ Secondary 4 N(A) students who offered GCE O-Level examination subjects in 2015, and those who sat for their GCE-O Level Mother Tongue in Secondary 3 may combine their grades from these examinations with their N(A) examination grades to apply for the DPP.

4. Are Normal (Technical) students able to apply for the DPP?

No. Secondary 4 Normal (Technical) students will continue to benefit from other available progression pathways such as the two- or three-year *Nitec* courses at ITE that provide a strong skills-based foundation for employment.

5. What is the age requirement for DPP applicants?

Applicants must be at least 16 years old as of 1 January 2016.

6. Are Secondary 4 N(A) through-train students who bypassed the GCE N-Levels eligible for the DPP?

No. Students must have sat for the GCE N-Level examinations in 2015 to be eligible for application to the DPP.

Application Process

7. How do I apply for the DPP?

Upon the release of the GCE N-Level examination results, eligible Secondary 4N(A) students can apply for the DPP using their GCE N-Level examination results and school-based O-Level preliminary examination results (if applicable). Upon release of the DPP posting results, students who have been offered a place must indicate acceptance of the offer by end December, failing which the offer will lapse and the place will be offered to another student. More information on the admission procedures can be found in the January 2016 ITE Admission Booklet.

Successful applicants will be posted to respective DPP *Higher Nitec* courses, which will begin in January 2016. Students who have received and accepted a DPP offer by end 2015 need not report for Secondary 5 on 4 January 2016.

8. How many course choices do I have?

Eligible students are allowed to submit up to 12 DPP course choices in their application. Similar *Higher Nitec* courses conducted at different ITE Colleges are considered as separate choices (e.g. *Higher Nitec* in Electronics Engineering at ITE College East and *Higher Nitec* in Electronics Engineering at ITE College Central are taken as two choices). Students are strongly encouraged to consider their course choices carefully together with their parents and teachers, and make decisions in line with their interests and aptitudes.

9. Can I use my school-based O-level preliminary results to apply for DPP?

Yes. Students can combine their GCE N-Level examination results and school-based O-Level preliminary examination results to apply for the DPP. Students who are successful in their DPP application will receive an offer for a DPP course. If a student takes the same subject at both N- and O-Levels, only the better grade will be used for computation of his/her ELMAB3 aggregate. Upon the release of the GCE O-Level examination results, ITE will verify if DPP applicants who had previously used school-based preliminary examination results for admission have fulfilled the necessary criteria for continuation in the DPP.

10. Can N(A) students who were not previously eligible, but are now eligible for DPP after the release of the GCE O-Level results apply for the DPP using a combination of their GCE O- and N-Level results?

Yes, after the release of the GCE O-Level results, students who were not previously eligible but are now eligible will also be invited to apply for the DPP.

11. I am interested in both the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and the DPP. What should I do, given that the DPP application is in December and the PFP application is in January?

One option for students who are interested in both the PFP and DPP is to first progress to Secondary 5 in January and then apply for both the PFP and DPP upon release of the GCE O-Level examination results.

Alternatively, if students are certain that they do not want to continue with Secondary 5 and sit for the GCE O-Level examinations, they should apply for the DPP in December. If the student successfully accepts his/her DPP offer, he/she will graduate from school at Secondary 4 Normal (Academic), and his/her school will not reserve a place for the student in Secondary 5. He/She will also be required to complete his/her DPP enrolment by paying enrolment fees and starting his/her 10-week DPP preparatory programme in January. If the student is eligible for the PFP, his/her secondary school will contact him/her regarding the collection of the PFP eligibility form (Form P), which is issued on the day of the release of the GCE O-Level results. If the student applies for and accepts his/her PFP offer in January, he/she will need to apply for withdrawal from the DPP course as well as for a refund of his/her DPP enrolment fees.

12. Can I apply for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and DPP at the same time?

Yes. However, if the student is offered a place in both the PFP and DPP, he/she may only accept one course offer. Students who accept both offers will have their offers voided.

13. Can I apply for *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP and *Nitec* courses under the Joint Intake Exercises at the same time?

Yes, applicants can submit separate applications to *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP and *Nitec* courses under the Joint Intake Exercises. However, once an applicant is successful for a *Higher Nitec* course, he/she will not be offered a *Nitec* course.

14. When will I know my application results for the DPP?

Dates for release of the DPP application results will be published on the ITE website upon release of the 2015 GCE N-Level examination results. Applicants are required to log into the ITE website to check their results. Successful applicants have six days to accept the offer. If they do not accept the offer during this period, they are deemed to have forfeited their DPP offer.

15. If I do not get posted to a *Higher Nitec* course during the main application phase, can I appeal for another course? What are the appeal procedures?

Applicants can submit an appeal via the ITE website (www.ite.edu.sg) after the release of the DPP application results. Actual dates of the appeal period will be published on the ITE website upon release of the 2015 GCE N-Level examination results.

16. Why can't all students be offered a course of their choice?

Admissions to DPP courses are highly competitive and based on merit. Students may speak to ITE's course counsellors or Education and Career Guidance Counsellors to learn more about the various DPP *Higher Nitec* courses. Students can also choose not to accept DPP offers that were not among their choices, and instead progress to Secondary 5 – this allows them the option of re-applying for admission into a course of their choice in the polytechnics or ITE upon completion of their GCE O-Level examinations.

17. Must I apply for deferment from National Service (NS) in order to study in ITE?

NS-liable persons who wish to pursue full-time ITE courses, including the DPP, in 2016 will have to check their eligibility for NS deferment at the Central Manpower Database (CMPB). Only students who are eligible for NS deferment will be offered a place in the DPP *Higher Nitec* course. In general, NS-liable persons will be granted deferment for *Higher Nitec* courses if they are able to commence the course before 19 years old (for Secondary 4 students) or 20 years old (for Secondary 5 students), as at 1 Jan 2016.

18. My child has specific learning needs. How do I select a suitable *Higher Nitec* course for him/her?

Students with special education needs are advised to consult the respective ITE College's Learning Accessibility Office to discuss the range of DPP courses suitable for their abilities and needs before submitting their DPP application. More details on the Learning Accessibility Office may be found on the ITE website.

Post Application and Acceptance

19. Do I need to attend any preparatory course as part of the DPP?

Yes. If students are successful in their DPP application, they will need to attend a 10-week preparatory course starting in January 2016 before the *Higher Nitec* course commences in April 2016. The preparatory course comprises:

- Oral & Communication Skills; and
- Mathematics, Science or Business Skills topics.

20. Can *Higher Nitec* students who are not under the DPP also gain admission into Year 1 or Year 2 of polytechnic diploma courses?

Higher Nitec students who are not under the DPP can apply for admission to the polytechnics under the Joint Polytechnic Admissions Exercise (JPAE). Admission to polytechnic diploma courses is based on merit, subject to the availability of vacancies. Students who wish to gain admission into a polytechnic course must also meet the minimum qualifying GPA for the course.

21. What is the training duration of the *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP?

The total training duration, including the 10-week preparatory course and *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP is 2¼ years.

22. What are the fees for the *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP?

The DPP course fees are shown below. Please note that these fees are for reference and are subject to change. Updated course fees will be available on ITE's website in December 2015.

Course	Category	Fees for 10-Week Preparatory Course				Total
		Registration Fee	Course Fee	Supplementary Fee	GHSI	
Preparatory Course	Singapore Citizen	\$5	\$80	\$9	-	\$94
	Permanent Resident	\$5	\$1,050	\$9	-	\$1,064
	International Student	\$5	\$2,650	\$9	\$18	\$2,682

Course	Category	Fees for <i>Higher Nitec</i> Course Per Term of 6 Months				Total
		Course Fee	Supplementary Fee	Exam Fee	GHSI	
All <i>Higher Nitec</i> courses	Singapore Citizen	\$285	\$18	-	-	\$303
	Permanent Resident	\$3,800	\$18	\$12.60	-	\$3,830.60
	International Student	\$9,500	\$18	\$28	\$35	\$9,581

Note:

Under the cohort-based fee structure, a student's tuition fees will remain unchanged for the entire duration of the course. With this new fee structure, students will have greater certainty regarding tuition fees and help them to better plan for the financing of their studies.

- 1) One term is 6 months.
- 2) Registration Fee is a one-time payment, paid once at the commencement of the course
- 3) Fees are subject to revision.
- 4) The fee rates are inclusive of GST or after GST subsidy.
- 5) Students are required to pay their term fees for all terms by the stipulated dates in order to remain in their course of study. Students may pay their first term fees through PSEA/Cash/NETS/Credit Card payment. For the subsequent terms, students may pay their fees through PSEA/GIRO. It is compulsory for international students to pay their subsequent term fees through GIRO upon admission. ITE will advise the students on the procedures for GIRO payment when term commences. Details on the MOE Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Scheme, and its eligibility and usage may be found here: <http://www.moe.gov.sg/initiatives/post-secondary-education-account/>
- 6) Full-time International Students studying in ITE are required to purchase a Group Hospitalisation and Surgical Insurance (GHSI). The purpose of the GHSI is to help defray the hospitalisation expenses for International Students in the event that they are hospitalised.
- 7) Fees are charged based on citizenship at the point of term commencement. Students who have officially informed ITE of their change in citizenship to Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident **before** the term commences will have their fees adjusted to the Singapore Citizen / Permanent Resident rate for that term. However, for students who inform ITE officially of their Citizenship change to Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident after the term commencement, their fees will be adjusted to the Singapore Citizen/ Permanent Resident rate only **with effect from the next term**.

23. Is there any refund of fees if I decide to withdraw from the *Higher Nitec* course?

Yes. However, the refund of fees is not automatic, and is subject to approval. Applicants must apply for refund before ITE will process the request. Fees may be refundable under the following conditions:

Date of Application for Refund	Amount of Refund
2 weeks or more before start of course/term	100% refund
Less than 2 weeks before start of course/term	50% refund
After start of course/term	No refund

24. Are ITE financial assistance schemes available to DPP students?

Yes. DPP students can apply for ITE's financial assistance schemes at the respective ITE Colleges upon admission to the course.

(Information updated as of 28 September 2015)