

Frequently Asked Questions

Art Elective Programme (AEP) at Secondary Level

Pursuing art in secondary school

1. My child has strong interest in art but is not so certain about her/his own artistic ability. Would the AEP be suited for her/him?

Students who demonstrate strong interest in art and have put in effort in developing artistic abilities can consider applying to the AEP and sitting for the selection exercise. The development of artistic abilities need not be through private art lessons or external certifications. For many students, this can be through active and self-directed participation in Primary Art lessons and art-related co-curricular activities (CCA).

2. Aside from the AEP, what other pathways can my child consider to best develop her/his ability and interest in art?

Depending on your child's interest, readiness and commitment towards art learning, while bearing in mind other interests she/he may have, other pathways to consider include:

- Offering the [Enhanced Art Programme \(EAP\)](#) (also a MOE special art programme)
- Offering Art as a subject at upper secondary level
- Joining art-related CCA or school-specific Applied Learning / Learning for Life Programmes (ALP/LLP)

One child may benefit more from an early 4-year commitment to specialising in art, while another child may benefit more from withholding such a commitment until upper secondary level.

Curriculum

3. Is the AEP the same as the GCE O-Level Art/Higher Art syllabus?

No. The AEP is a four-year programme whereas non-AEP O-Level Art/Higher Art students would only offer the subject at the upper secondary level. On top of having the O-Level Higher Art syllabus as a core component to the AEP curriculum, the programme also provides additional enrichment and arts leadership developmental opportunities at the national level (such as AEP combined schools workshops) and in school.

As with all students who offer O-Level Higher Art, the Higher Art grade may be taken as follows upon graduation:

- The R1 or R3 subject in the L1R5 aggregate score computation (equivalent to a Humanities subject) for admission to junior colleges
- The R1 or R2 subject in the L1R4 aggregate score computation for admission to Millennia Institute
- The R2 or B2 subject in the ELR2B2 aggregate score computation for admission to polytechnics
- GCE O-Level grades for admission to ITE

Learn more about the [admission criteria to post-secondary institutions here](#).

4. What is the difference between the AEP, EAP and the O-Level Art Course?

Please refer to this [infosheet](#) for a comparison between AEP, EAP and taking Art as a subject at upper secondary level.

5. What is the difference between the AEP and the School of the Arts (SOTA) visual arts curriculum?

SOTA is one of Singapore's specialised schools. It provides a 6-year curriculum with the learning of art forms (such as visual arts or music) at its core. It is also an International Baccalaureate (IB) World school that offers the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the IB Career-related Programme (IBCP). In contrast, the AEP is a special art programme that is still situated within mainstream schools. Secondary AEP students offer the GCE Higher Art syllabus and sit for the corresponding national examination in their graduating year.

6. Can students be in AEP and Third Language concurrently?

Like AEP, Third Language requires significant commitment from its students. Students should consider factors such as total workload, scheduling and aspirations carefully before committing to an overall curriculum that is manageable. Lastly, students should also check with schools on school-based policies regarding enrolment in external programmes.

Eligibility and selection

7. Are Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) students eligible for the AEP?

Students from all courses are eligible to apply for the programme.

Fees and subsidy

8. Will the AEP support the material costs in art making? Are there other costs required by the AEP?

While the AEP schools and Centre have art materials and equipment ready for students' use, students would still need to bear the cost of some other basic materials when applicable. As part of the AEP, there may be co-payment required for enrichment activities (e.g. learning journeys and workshops) using students' Edusave funds where available. Students who need financial assistance can apply for [MOE financial assistance schemes](#) through their schools and will be supported based on their needs.

Post-secondary pathways

9. Do Secondary AEP students automatically qualify for AEP for junior college?

No. Interested students can only offer AEP at one of the 3 AEP JCs, and must first gain admission into one of these 3 JCs via the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) before sitting for the school's AEP selection exercise. Alternatively, they may apply to enter these JCs to offer AEP via Direct School Admission (DSA-JC).

10. Does the AEP grant bonus points for admission into junior colleges?

No. Bonus points are only awarded for attainment in CCA, language grades and school affiliation.

11. Apart from AEP, what are the possible pathways to pursue Art in post-secondary institutions?

AEP graduates are well equipped to further their art and design-related education at both local and international universities, polytechnics and arts institutions.

Depending on their aspirations, they can further their interest in Art in the following pathways in Singapore:

Type of post-secondary institution	Relevant courses/subjects
Junior Colleges	Most Junior Colleges offering Art at A-Level H1, H2 and H3 Art or International Baccalaureate at Higher Level.
Polytechnics	Republic Polytechnic <i>School of Technology for the Arts</i> Singapore Polytechnic <i>Media, Arts and Design School</i> Temasek Polytechnic <i>School of Design</i> Nanyang Polytechnic <i>School of Design and Media</i> Ngee Ann Polytechnic <i>School of Design and Environment</i>
ITEs	ITE College Central <i>School of Design and Media</i> <i>School of Electronics & Info-Comm Technology</i>
Arts Higher Education Institution	LASALLE College of the Arts <i>McNally School of Fine Arts, Puttnam School of Film & Animation, School of Creative Industries, School of Design Communication, School of Fashion, School of Spatial and Product Design</i> Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts <i>School of Art & Design</i> National Institute of Education <i>Visual and Performing Arts</i> National University of Singapore <i>College of Design and Engineering, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences</i> Nanyang Technological University <i>School of Art, Design and Media</i> Singapore Institute of Tech <i>Design and Media</i>

12. What higher education and career pathways do AEP students progress to?

AEP graduates' creative and critical thinking capacities are highly valued within both art-related and other pathways. Over the years, AEP alumni have gained prominence not just in the arts and culture sector, but also in many other fields such as media, urban planning and education.

Withdrawal

13. Can AEP students withdraw from the programme at any time?

Students and parents should note that the programme constitutes a 4-year commitment to a formal curriculum programme. Withdrawal from the AEP is strictly subject to MOE's approval on a case-by-case basis. Once enrolled, students are strongly encouraged to commit to the programme's full duration to experience its full scope and maximise its benefits.

Centre-based learning at the AEP Centre (for students not enrolled in schools that offer AEP/EAP)

14. Should my child offer AEP at an AEP school or at the AEP Centre (NJC)?

Students and parents should make informed choices which take into account students' strengths, interests, learning styles and well-being. For example, an AEP school likely runs a 4-year Art curriculum programme that is highly integrated and coherent with the school's overall curriculum. Conversely, the AEP Centre offers access to a 4-year Art curriculum programme while being enrolled in another (non-AEP/EAP) school for its preferred school culture or niche CCA. Additionally, while students have to travel to the AEP Centre for their AEP lessons on weekdays, the AEP Centre provides students with the opportunity to learn Art and mix with students from other schools.

15. Why are students from AEP and EAP schools not eligible for the AEP Centre?

To maximise opportunities for artistic development, the AEP Centre reserves its places for students from schools without a MOE special art programme. Students in AEP and EAP schools are highly encouraged to apply for the in-house programmes.

16. Can students still enrol in the AEP Centre after the selection exercise at the beginning of Sec 1 has concluded?

Enrolment in the AEP Centre is strictly through the selection exercise at the beginning of Sec 1 only.