

Frequently Asked Questions

Enhanced Music Programme (EMP) at Secondary Level

Pursuing music in secondary school

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

Students who demonstrate strong interest in music and have put in effort in developing musical abilities can consider applying to the EMP and sitting for the selection exercise. The development of musical abilities need not be through private music lessons or certification by external music examination boards. For many students, this can be through active and self-directed participation in Music co-curricular activities (CCA) and Primary Music lessons where they learn to:

- Make connections to music concepts when listening to music
- Perform by singing or playing an instrument fluently
- Create or arrange songs/music

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

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

- Offering the [Music Elective Programme\(MEP\)](#) (also a MOE music programme) from secondary 1
- Offering O-Level Music as a subject at upper secondary level
- Joining music-related CCA
- Enrolling in schools that offer Aesthetics / Music and Performing Arts related Applied Learning / Learning for Life Programmes (ALP/LLP)

Curriculum

3. Is the EMP the same as the GCE O-Level Music/Higher Music syllabus?

No. On top of having the Music/ Higher Music syllabus as a core component to the EMP curriculum, the programme also provides additional enrichment and arts leadership developmental opportunities at the national level (such as the EMP & MEP camp) and in school.

The aggregate score computation for JAE using Higher Music or Music would be:

O-Level Subject	Admission to a JC or Millennia Institute (L1R5 and L1R4 aggregate score computation)	Admission to Polytechnics or Institutes of Education (ITE) (ELR2B2 aggregate score computation)
Higher Music	L1R5: Counted as R1 or R3 subject (equivalent to a Humanities subject) L1R4: Counted as R1 or R2 subject	Polytechnic: Counted as R2 (except for ELR2B2-C and D), or B2 subject (for all) Higher Nitec: Counted as a B2, B3 or 4 subject for ELR2B2-C, ELR1B3-B and ELB4-A respectively
Music	L1R5: Counted as R4 or R5 subject L1R4: Counted as R3 or R4 subject	

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

4. What is the difference between the EMP, MEP and the O-Level Music Course?

Please refer to this [infographic](#) for a comparison between the three options.

5. What is the difference between the EMP and the School of the Arts (SOTA) music 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 EMP is a special music programme that is still situated within mainstream schools. Secondary EMP students offer the GCE Music/ Higher Music syllabus and sit for the corresponding national examination in their graduating year.

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

Like EMP, 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 EMP?

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

Fees and subsidy

8. Will the EMP support the cost for learning a musical instrument? Are there other costs required by the EMP?

Schools may arrange for students who cannot afford their own instruments to loan school instruments home where available. As part of the EMP, there may be co-payment required for enrichment activities (e.g. learning journeys and workshops). 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. What are the possible pathways to pursue Music in post-secondary institutions?

Depending on the students' aspirations, EMP students can further their interest in Music in the following pathways:

Type of post-secondary institution	Relevant courses/subjects
Junior Colleges	Selected Junior Colleges offering Music at A-Level H2 and H3 Music 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>
ITEs	School of Design and Media <i>Higher Nitec in Performance Production</i> School of Engineering <i>Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound)</i>
Arts Higher Education Institution	LASALLE College of the Arts <i>School of Contemporary Music</i> Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts <i>School of Music</i> National Institute of Education <i>Visual and Performing Arts</i> Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

10. Do Secondary EMP students automatically qualify for MEP for junior college?

No. Interested students can only offer MEP at one of the 6 MEP JCs and must first gain admission into one of these 6 JCs via the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE).

Once enrolled into these MEP JCs, all students who have obtained a pass in GCE O-Level Music/Higher Music can be admitted into the JC MEP. Students who did not offer Music or Higher Music at GCE O-Level will have to pass the MEP selection exercise to qualify for the programme.

Alternatively, students may apply to enter these JCs to offer MEP via Direct School Admission (DSA-JC).

11. Does the EMP grant bonus points for admission into junior colleges?

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