

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

### General Questions about the DPP

#### 1. What is the DPP?

The DPP allows Secondary 4N(A) students to be admitted directly into a two-year *Higher Nitec* programme at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) without having to sit for the O-Level examinations or undergo a *Nitec* programme. 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 18 full-time *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP for eligible S4N(A) students.

##### 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 Cyber & Network Security
- *Higher Nitec* in Games Art & Design
- *Higher Nitec* in IT Applications & Development
- *Higher Nitec* in IT Systems & Networks

##### Business & Services

- *Higher Nitec* in Accounting
- *Higher Nitec* in Event Management
- *Higher Nitec* in Financial Services
- *Higher Nitec* in Hospitality Operations
- *Higher Nitec* in Leisure & Travel Operations
- *Higher Nitec* in International Logistics
- *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 2020<sup>1</sup> as a school candidate, and have met the following requirements are eligible to apply for the DPP:-

- 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 2020 (and those who offered GCE O-Level Mother Tongue in Secondary 3 in 2019) may combine their grades from these examinations with their N(A)-Level results to apply for the DPP. In doing so, they may use the following grade conversion table for computation of their ELMAB3 aggregates:

GCE O-Level Grade	Converted N(A) Grade
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7-E8	3

The GCE O-Level grade of 9 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 should note that eligibility to apply for the DPP does not guarantee placement in a DPP course.

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<sup>1</sup> School-based Secondary 4 N(A) candidates who offered GCE O-Level examination subjects in 2020, and those who sat for their GCE-O Level Mother Tongue in Secondary 3 in 2019 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 2020.

**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 2020 to be eligible for application to the DPP.

N(A) through-train students continue to be able to apply for *Higher Nitec* and polytechnic courses when they are in Secondary 5 through the respective ITE and polytechnic Early Admissions Exercises (EAE), if they have strong aptitude and interest in specific courses. The ITE EAE will open in late May, and the polytechnic EAE will open in late June, before students sit for the GCE O-Level papers. Students may also apply for *Higher Nitec* and polytechnic courses through the Joint Admissions Exercise after the release of their O-Level results.

**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 2021 ITE Admission Booklet.

Students who have sat for both GCE N- and GCE O-Level examination subjects may also apply for the DPP. Please refer to questions 8 and 9 for more details.

Successful applicants will be posted to respective DPP *Higher Nitec* courses, which will begin in January 2021. Students who have received and accepted a DPP offer by end-2020 need not report for Secondary 5 on 4 January 2021.

**8. 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 to continue in the DPP.

**9. Can Secondary 4 N(A) students who are newly 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 in January 2021, students who were not previously eligible but are now eligible will also be allowed to apply for the DPP.

**10. 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.

**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?**

Before applying for the PFP and/or the DPP, students are encouraged to consider carefully their interests and strengths, as well as the courses offered under both programmes.

For more information on the PFP and DPP, as well as the courses offered, students may refer to the PFP website (<https://pfp.polytechnic.edu.sg/PFP/index.html>) or the DPP website (<https://www.ite.edu.sg/admissions/full-time-courses/higher-nitec/direct-entry-scheme-to-polytechnic-programme>). One option for Secondary 4 Normal (Academic) students who are interested in both the PFP and DPP is to first progress to Secondary 5 and then apply for both the PFP and DPP upon release of the GCE O-Level examination results in January.

**12. Can I apply for the 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.

If the student has already accepted his/her DPP offer, his/her secondary school will contact him/her if he/she is eligible for PFP and the collection of the PFP eligibility form (Form P), after the release of the GCE O-Level results. If the student decides to apply for and accepts his/her PFP offer in January, he/she will need to apply for withdrawal from the DPP course. Applicant can apply for refund of his/her DPP enrolment fees, subject to ITE's approval.

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

Yes, applicants can submit separate applications to *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP and *Nitec* courses under the Joint Intake Exercise. 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 2020 GCE N-Level examination results. Applicants are required to log into the ITE website to check their results. Successful applicants have to accept the offer during the acceptance period stated in ITE website. If they do not accept the offer during this stipulated 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](http://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 2020 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 through either the EAE or JAE.

**17. Are there courses that are suitable for students with specific learning needs?**

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

**Post Application and Acceptance**

**18. 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 2021 before the *Higher Nitec* course commences in April 2021. The preparatory course comprises:

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

**19. 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.

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

The total training duration of the *Higher Nitec* courses under the DPP, excluding the 10-week preparatory course, is 2 years. This is similar to other non-DPP *Higher Nitec* courses.

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

The DPP course fees for the AY2020 intake are shown below. Please note that these fees are for reference and are subject to change. Updated course fees for the AY2021 intake will be available on ITE's website in December 2020.

Course	Category	Fees for 10-Week Preparatory Course				Total
		Registration Fee	Course Fee	Supplementary Fee	GHSI(IS)	
Preparatory Course	Singapore Citizen	\$5	\$100	\$9	-	\$114
	Permanent Resident	\$5	\$1,400	\$9	-	\$1,414
	International Student	\$5	\$3,800	\$9	\$6	\$3,820

Course	Category	Fees for <i>Higher Nitec</i> Course Per Term of 6 Months				Total
		Course Fee	Supplementary Fee	Exam Fee	GHSI(IS)	
All <i>Higher Nitec</i> courses	Singapore Citizen	\$295	\$18	-	-	\$313.00
	Permanent Resident	\$3,880	\$18	\$24	-	\$3,922
	International Student	\$10,180	\$18	\$30	\$12	\$10,240

**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 Account (PSEA) 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(IS)]. The purpose of the GHSI(IS) is to help defray the hospitalisation expenses for International Students in the event that they are hospitalised. The GHSI(IS) amount payable is subject to yearly review.

7) The total fees per term per academic year shown in the table are for students in the full-time *Nitec* and *Higher Nitec* courses.

8) 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 following term**.

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

Yes. However, refund of fees is not guaranteed, and is subject to approval by ITE. 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

## 23. 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 November 2020)**