



WEST ISLAND SCHOOL CAREER & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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THANK YOU

Dear WIS Parent and Students,

We kick off the spring issue of the WIS Careers and Higher Education newsletter with a thank you to the Bertamini family for sharing a fun and free interactive online resource for parents and students to calculate the potential cost of college education in the USA: <https://www.timeforpayback.com/>. We welcome other WIS families to contact us with university application resources they have found useful so they we can share them with the rest of the WIS community.

- Catherine Schofield, Head of Careers – catherine.schofield@wis.edu.hk
- Ellie Tang, Higher Education Counsellor - ellie.tang@wis.edu.hk
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SPOTLIGHT ON: DREXEL UNIVERSITY (PHILADELPHIA, USA)

History: Established in 1891, the cornerstone of Drexel's higher education model has been its career preparation **cooperative education programme**. Introduced in 1919 as one of the first models of its kind, it is integral to the University's educational experience. Through it, students alternate periods of study with periods of full-time professional employment, providing unrivaled, valuable professional experience. Although not mandatory, around 85% take part. Students are able to test drive different careers through up to 18 months work experience before they graduate. The majority of co-ops are *paid* and of those, the median *paid* six-month *co-op* salary is more than \$17,000. Drexel also has a deep history of research and innovation. Many students begin graduate-level research as early as freshmen year.

Academic ranking: 14th in U.S. News & World Report's list of Most Innovative Schools. Ranked in the top 8% of U.S. colleges and universities by The Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education.

Undergraduate faculties: Choice of 80 majors and as many minors. 10:1 student to professor ratio.

Most well-known/popular programmes: Engineering, Business, Media and Art.

On campus student diversity: 15,500 undergraduates. 15.5% of undergraduates are international from 115+ countries.

Fees and scholarships: Offers merit and need based aid to both domestic and international students. Students are evaluated for merit-based aid during the application review process. See drexel.edu/undergrad/financing/apply.

Application Requirements: Apply on the Common Application - Essay, School Transcript, Teacher Recommendation Letters; SAT/ACT Scores. See drexel.edu/undergrad/apply/int-instructions.

Application deadlines: Early Decision 1 Nov; Early Action 1 Nov; Regular Decision 15 Jan.

Upcoming ACT and SAT Test Dates

SAT: 5 May

SAT Subject Test: 5 May, 2 June

ACT: 14 April, 9 June

SAT Registration to sit test at an ESF-only test centre on HK Island:

www.collegeboard.com

For new registration, enter 670777. This is West Island's high school code. It'll ensure a copy of your results get sent to the school.

When choosing the test centre, do not use the drop-down list but use 'search by code' box and enter the five-digit code which you get from WIS Careers.

ACT Registration

<https://www.act.org/>

If you have difficulties in finding an available place at a test centre in HK, contact Ms Tang immediately so that a request to open a new test centre can be made:

ellie.tang@wis.edu.hk

Kaplan ACT-SAT Diagnostic Test - September 2017 (further test opportunities with Kaplan)

For the students who sat the ACT-SAT diagnostic test in early September, Kaplan is offering the opportunity to sit a full-length ACT or SAT mock test (depending on your diagnostic result) at their offices between now and April to prepare students to sit the SAT March and May tests and the ACT April and June tests. To take up this offer, contact Kaplan directly: Mr Alan Ng: alan.ng@kaplan.com.

Please note that WIS is not an affiliate of Kaplan Hong Kong.

Year 12s

Mon 12 March: Special session for *Most competitive applications (Ivy League, Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science)*

April: *Introduction to personal statement writing*

US applicants

WIS US Essay Workshops: We will be running a series of US essay writing workshops later this term; an email has gone out to all Year 12s about this. Sign up is compulsory. Please e-mail Ms Tang, ellie.tang@wis.edu.hk

Common Application: Explore Colleges and Essay Prompts:

The Common Application has announced that the 2018-2019 essay writing prompts will remain the same as 2017-2018. Students applying to the US universities that use the Common Application in the application process can start planning now.

Visit: <https://www.commonapp.org/>

UK applicants

Explore universities and courses:

Students looking to study in the UK can start researching options using the UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service: the centralised service used to apply to UK universities) search tool here: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

All

Visit our HE and Careers Resources page for useful tools and search engines to help with your university research: <http://wiscareers.weebly.com/resources.html>

Remember to check the HE & Careers notice board (on the door of the Upper School Area) and Student Bulletin for upcoming university visits. It's one of the most effective ways to find out about a university if you are unable to visit in person.

There will be a university applications evening for Year 12 families (USA, Canada, HK, Australia & New Zealand and the UK) in June. Details to come.

Year 13s

Mon 19 March: Big Barn session on *Gateway, graduation, exams and results confirmation and making final choices.*

We'll talk to you about accepting offers, and sending final results to universities.

Mon 26 March: Big Barn session on exams procedures and accessing post-exam results support in July, if needed.

Handling disappointment

For those of you who did not receive an offer from your first-choice university, please remember:

Perspective: Try not to take it personally. We all experience disappointment at different times in our lives. Remember that strong competition means a number of excellent students face rejection and not only from the leading, competitive universities.

Consider your options: Your second or third-choice university may actually be the greatest place for you. Look forward and focus on making the most of your experience at whichever university you end up attending. Get involved and take advantage of the many opportunities that will be presented to you.

Your college or university does not have to define you.

For students who still want to focus on their first-choice subject or university, consider the opportunities offered at post-graduate study level.

Don't let one setback sour your future: Remember all the important things in life are still there.

Treat yourself with compassion: Replace any negative self-talk with a kinder, more affirming message - you pushed yourself and tried!

We are here to support you: Don't hesitate to talk to us, a trusted teacher, or the school counsellor if you need some guidance and support. Pop in or email us anytime: careers@wis.edu.hk