



WEST ISLAND SCHOOL CAREER & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Term: Summer | Issue 3 | Date: June 2018

THANK YOU AGAIN

Dear WIS Parents and Students,

Welcome to the summer term newsletter.

Thanks again for all your feedback on our website, and a special mention to Jacqueline Talbott who has suggested an additional and valuable careers exploration tool to add to our Resources page: *Ultimate Guide to Choosing A Career* (<http://www.jobhero.com/choosing-career-guide/>).

This term, the Year 10s started exploring HE and Careers in assembly and tutor times, and in their Learning for Life lessons. We hope that they, as well as the Year 11s and the Year 12s, continue to explore what options lie ahead, and we do encourage them to come along to the university visits in school to discover the range of courses and institutions that are out there (visits are advertised in the Student Bulletin and <http://wiscareers.weebly.com/university-visits.html>). Students may find they're inspired by a university or a course they had never considered. In this vein, this issue includes an article on new and standout courses that set them apart from the usual university offerings. Enjoy reading the newsletter and we wish everyone a relaxing summer.

WIS HE & Careers team

Thank you to
Jacqueline
Talbott

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

History: Australia's second oldest university and the oldest in Victoria - 165 years

Academic Ranking: #1 in Australia and #32 in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018); #7 in graduate employability worldwide (QS Graduate Employability Worldwide 2018); member of The Group of Eight (Go8) universities

Undergraduate faculties: Agriculture, Arts, Biomedicine, Commerce, Design, Fine Arts, Music, Oral Health and Science

Academic Calendar: Semester 1 March - June; Semester 2: July - October (Note: not all courses have Semester 2 intake)

Highlight: The University of Melbourne teaches using their special 'model' which was introduced in 2008. The model allows students to determine their own study pathway, encouraging them to explore during their undergraduate studies and specialise at graduate level. Students do not need to decide on a major when they arrive at the University, instead they can explore different subjects within their faculty in Year 1 and take 'breadth subjects' (subjects that are outside of their core studies).

Alternative pathways: Satisfactory completion of the Trinity College Foundation Studies (TCFS) can lead to undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne. Entry to TCFS: Completion of first year of IB Diploma with 23 points from five relevant subjects - for international students only.

Fees and scholarships: Two types of fees (i) domestic and (ii) international. A wide range of scholarships available: <https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au>

Application period: Domestic students: Apply through VTAC - 2019: Semester 1 application opens on 6 August 2018, closing date TBC. International students: Apply direct to the University - 2019: Semester 1 application opens now - late December 2018.

University of Melbourne Hong Kong Information Day: 21 July 2018

https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/international/north-east_asia/information-day?in_c=webtile_FS|OA_Offshore_2018_UOM_HK_InfoDay_July

ANNOUNCEMENT - YEAR 12 & 13 STUDENTS/PARENTS

Soon to be Year 12s

Tuesday 18 September 2018: British Council University Roadshow @ WIS, 12:00pm - 2:00pm, Level 3.

Soon to be Year 13s

13 August: Refresher application sessions with the WIS HE & Careers team - Final university choice form & school transcript.

13 August: Tea reception for Year 13 parents with WIS HE & Careers team, 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

Late August: Year 13 Final university choice form due (further changes are subject to approval hereafter).

Early October: UK (UCAS): Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and vet science application checked, paid and submitted.

Late October: USA (Common Application/Coalition Application/University's own application): Early Decision and Early Action applications checked, paid and submitted.

Late October: Canada: (ApplyBC/OUAC/University's own application): Application period begins.

Early November: HKU & any of the 'fast track' applications at the local universities checked, paid and submitted.

Mid November: USA: University of California (UC) application checked, paid and submitted.

End of November: UK (UCAS): All applications checked, paid and submitted.

Early December: USA, Canada and HK: All applications checked, paid and submitted

12-14 December: Careers Office closed for pre-Christmas processing of school documents to support students' applications.

(NOTE: (1) Other destinations: university applications with a September-December deadline, contact WIS HE & Careers **TWO SCHOOL WEEKS** ahead of the closing deadline. (2) Australian and New Zealand: applications take place after final exam results. WIS support will be available.)

UPCOMING ACT and SAT TEST DATES

SAT: 6 October, 1 December

SAT Subject Test: 6 October, 3 November, 1 December (For subject availability, check with College Board)

ACT: 7-8 September, 26-27 October, 7-8 December

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 gets 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 the WIS HE & Careers team.

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

ACT/SAT Concordance - the newly revised table can be accessed at:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/act-sat-concordance.html>

KNOW YOUR CPGs FROM YOUR UAGs

7

Your **Current Predicted Grade (CPG)** represents the grade that your subject teacher assesses is the most likely grade that you will achieve at the end of the course given your rate of progress. What the CPG isn't is the grade you have achieved in your latest subject test, latest written assignment or latest internal assessment (IA). A CPG grade is dynamic and multi-dimensional in reflecting your learning progress and potential.

6

5

Your **University Application Grade (UAG)** represents the most optimistic and realistic grade that your subject teacher can give to help secure offers from the universities that you could meet. To give the optimal grade, your teacher carries out a holistic evaluation of your achievement and future potential in their subject. This means that your Year 12 performance, including formal assessments, will influence your UAG, as will any improvements seen in Year 13.

Merit

5

All these different factors mean it is far from a guarantee that you will achieve the UAG grade, but we hope that with your hard work and your diligence between October and May - when the final exams take place - you will achieve that grade.

3

6

4

You should never attempt to pressurize your teacher into giving you a higher UAG because you "need it" for a course, for several reasons: (1) Your subject teacher is an experienced teaching specialist in their field and has a good track record in predicting accurately student performance in the final exams, as will be demonstrated by your final exam result in July. (2) Giving you a higher UAG than you are able to achieve is risky and can back fire if you don't

meet the offer requirements of your top-choice university in the summer. (3) A university preparation course like the IBDP, the IBCP and the ID should engage and challenge you intellectually. Always remember universities want future students who **earn** their academic credentials rather than make a **demand** for them. Grade improvement through personal hard work is the most compelling evidence you can offer a university to show that you are an excellent candidate. (4) Finally, accurate UAGs are the backbone of an effective application strategy. They help you to identify which university and which course entry requirements are your 'good-fit' **reach** or **target** or **safety** choices. Also, they help universities to identify which high schools have a reliable track record for sending students who can fully meet (or exceed) the entry requirements. Over the years, West Island School has built a strong reputation among the top 100 universities around the world for sending outstanding students to them, and we plan to continue this practice.

Distinction*

NEW AND INTERESTING COURSES ...

HKUST: BSc in Integrated Systems and Design (ISD)– launching September 2018

Using project-based experiential learning, this flexible course aims to nurture innovators and researchers with design and systems thinking mindset and entrepreneur spirit. Students – under the guidance of dedicated faculty and mentorship from industrial partners, take open-ended team-based projects to build their knowledge in design and systems thinking, specific technology strength and entrepreneurial spirit through learning-by-doing. Students choose their own means in acquiring the necessary knowledge – whether by taking regular university courses, and recognised online or flip-classroom courses, or even self-study. (e.g. to create a robotic arm – student may look to take calculus, computer programming, physics to aid in the project).

Although housed under the School of Engineering, the course also facilitates interactions among faculty of different disciplines in order to spark new ideas and collaborations. Senior executives and engineers from like-minded industries including DJI, Philips, Dyson, Tencent and Analog Devices will be invited to participate in the programme by offering industrial and market perspectives for the students' projects, as well as invaluable internship opportunities.

<https://www.seng.ust.hk/web/eng/subcat.php?catid=5&subid=69>

HKU: Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Global Health Development – launching September 2019

Working across several faculties, this degree takes a multidisciplinary approach studying the intertwining nature of health and development. Its aim - to train future leaders and decision-makers to solve the many urgent global issues facing the world today. Students study aspects of law, architecture, economics, science, politics amongst other subjects, and the course may include overseas work placements in companies such as the United Nations and the World Bank. <http://sph.hku.hk/ghd/en/>

Abertay University: Ethical Hacking: In the world's first degree in ethical hacking, students learn how to take a practical and offensive approach by deliberately breaking systems and circumventing security defences. The real and growing threat of cybercrime to individuals and organisations means that ethical hackers – creative problem solvers who systematically attempt to penetrate a computer system or network to find and fix security vulnerabilities – are highly sought-after. Course modules include Dynamic Internet Systems, Digital Forensics, and Cryptography.

<https://www.abertay.ac.uk/course-search/undergraduate/ethical-hacking/>

St Andrews: Scottish – Canadian Medical Programme

Open only to overseas-paying Canadian citizens or domiciles. This course enables Canadian students to study medicine in the UK and apply for residency training in Canada.

Candidates study at St Andrews and Edinburgh Medical School to complete their medical degree, with some time spent on attachment to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta, Canada. The attachment will include:

- an enhanced orientation to the Canadian healthcare system
- an opportunity to train for Canadian licencing exams (MCCEE/MCCQE)
- further guidance on the process of application for a residency place in Canada

Students then apply for a residency training place in Canada (rather than Foundation Training in the UK).

http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/UG-teaching_A990_brochure.pdf