

IS POLY FOR MY CHILD?

A PARENT'S GUIDE 2017/18



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ABOUT REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC

Established in 2003, Republic Polytechnic (RP) is the fifth polytechnic in Singapore and was born out of the conviction that the education landscape would benefit from diversity, both in the way the campus is built to enable learning and the delivery of its curriculum. At the iconic RP campus in Woodlands, every facility is designed to promote the holistic development of our students. Over the years, RP's Problem-based Learning (PBL) approach has produced confident graduates which our parents and industry partners can attest to.

RP currently offers full-time courses in the areas of applied and health science, engineering, management and communication, hospitality, infocomm, sports, design and the arts.

PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD



Dear Parent,

Now that the O-Level examinations are over, your child will be thinking hard about the various post-secondary pathways available. Your support and guidance is important in helping your child make the best decision.

With the different post-secondary institutions, hundreds of courses offered by polytechnics, further studies options, career tracks and admission matters, making a decision can be overwhelming and confusing. To help you make an informed decision, we have prepared this guide with essential information and tips so that you can make the right choice together with your child.

This guide offers an insight into polytechnic education, the prospects for polytechnic graduates and the learning experience at RP. Also included is a step-by-step guide on how to maximise your child's 12 choices in the Joint Admissions Exercise.

At RP, we are committed to providing a holistic education, nurturing our students to be professionals, problem solvers and passionate citizens. Over the years, RP graduates have gained recognition from industry, showing that they have that something special to offer. With our strong industry relations and robust curriculum, RP is well-placed to better equip your child to thrive in a dynamic world.

We hope this guide will serve as a useful source of information in picking the choice that best suits your child. We wish your child all the best for the O-Level results!

YEO LI PHEOW
Principal/CEO

PARENT ON POLY EDUCATION & RP

The completion of secondary school education opens many doors for your child's continued learning journey. As parents, you can guide your child in making the right choice and we hope the experiences and advice of our graduate's parent will be useful to you.

Q *How did you guide your child in making the post-secondary education decision?*

Together with Debra, we explored what her strengths are and the kind of learning environment that would ultimately help her grow. My advice to Debra was to have an interest in the course she would pursue. I also stressed that it was important to be able to pick up essential life skills such as resourcefulness, teamwork and application of knowledge in practical situations.

Debra Tan
Diploma in Civil Aviation
2012 Graduate



Q *What is your advice to parents when guiding their children in making their choices?*

Know that this decision is about him or her – not about us. We, as parents, need to consider their potential, character and strengths. Consider courses that your child has an interest in. Your child may choose to continue in a junior college or polytechnic. There is no right decision, only making the decision right to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Q *In what ways has a polytechnic education changed Debra?*

During her time at RP, Debra benefitted greatly from the teaching pedagogy and collaborative learning environment. She learnt how to work in a team to solve problems and to relate to lecturers who were very encouraging, thus enabling her to interact with adults confidently. The learning environment in RP also encouraged self-directed learning and confidence through daily presentations.

Through her internship with the Changi Airport Group, Debra gained invaluable customer service experience as a Changi Youth Ambassador. She was able to put the knowledge gained in school into handling situations arising from operational chaos or disgruntled passengers to deliver customer service professionally and confidently while remaining calm and composed.

At the end of Debra's three years in RP, I'm very encouraged to see her become more focused and driven to excel.

Mrs Cynthia Tan
Mother of Debra Tan

THE RP EXPERIENCE



DISCOVER TRANSFORM ACHIEVE

At RP, our students will graduate with more than a diploma. Our students discover their potential, transform opportunities into realities and be on course to achieve their dreams.



AT RP, LEARNING IS ACTIVE, ENGAGING AND HOLISTIC

We nurture our students to be professionals, problem solvers and passionate citizens, eager to fulfil meaningful roles in society. Our holistic and broad-based curriculum, and enhanced industry exposure provide your child with the knowledge and skills to stand him or her in good stead for the future.

LEARNING BY DOING

Learning in RP is fun, active, engaging and goes beyond listening to lectures and memorising facts. Through our PBL approach, our students have the opportunity to explore issues whilst collaborating with peers. Our aim is to develop their confidence and the ability to tackle and devise innovative solutions to complex problems.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

RP believes in learning by doing. Through the PBL approach, we challenge students to learn by completing tasks and solving problems that are aligned with real workplace issues.

Our graduates are knowledgeable team players equipped with skills necessary to handle situations, tackle problems and complete tasks.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

To complement their classroom learning, RP students undergo internships in companies relevant to their field of study.

The extensive practical training will give our students the chance to pick up industry best practices and cultivate good work ethics.

GOING GLOBAL

RP students have many opportunities to see the world through our various overseas student programmes. These programmes are designed to nurture students through training and multicultural exposure.

Our overseas study trips provide valuable learning opportunities in countries such as Australia, China, South Korea and Vietnam.

SERVICE LEARNING

The Service-Learning Club allows students to contribute to society while learning more about themselves. Service learning allows students to transform academic learning into experiential learning through meaningful engagement with different communities.



After attaining a Bachelor of Biomedical Science from Monash University in Australia, Alice pursued a Masters in Clinical Leadership from Curtin University while working full-time at the Singapore General Hospital. She is currently a Medical Technologist at Mouth Elizabeth Novena Hospital. Alice attributes her fruitful experience in polytechnic to RP's PBL system, which nurtured her to move beyond her comfort zone and maximise her potential.

Alice Yeh
Diploma in Biomedical Sciences
2008 Graduate



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At RP, we recognise the importance of fostering the multiple talents of our students and enriching their experience through vibrant student life. We have close to 100 exciting Co-curricular Activities (CCAs) that help students discover their interests and talents, while promoting friendship and a sense of community involvement. For the full listing of our CCAs, please visit www.rp.edu.sg/CCA

Sport, Health and Wellness

- Aikido
- Aquatic
- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Canoeing
- Cue Sports
- Dragon Boat
- Floorball
- Hockey
- Intellectual Games
- Judo
- Netball
- Rexaz Cheerleading
- Rugby
- School of Sports, Health and Leisure Club
- Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tchoukball
- Tennis
- Touch Football
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Wakeboarding
- Water Polo



Adventure and Outdoor Learning

Students who love adventure and the outdoors can get their adrenaline rush at RP's Adventure Learning Centre. Your child will get to pick up new life skills and be empowered to push his or her limits through adventure learning. Teamed with an experienced coach with years of outdoor experience, Adventure Learning Clubbers will benefit from training on land and in water. Activities include mountain biking, kayaking and diving. There are also opportunities to gain certification for their skills.





Aesthetics and Culture

- Art.titude
- Beats Encore (Percussion Ensemble)
- Campus Arts Productions
- Capoeira
- Chinese Orchestra
- CREATE Club
- Dikir Barat (Malay Cultural Group)
- Drama
- Electronic Music Production (EMP)
- Film Factory
- Gamelan Naga Kencana (Gamelan Ensemble)
- GEnRe (Guitar Ensemble)
- Hip Hop
- Indian Cultural Group
- Jammerz Arena
- Latin Dancesport
- Magic
- Modern Dance
- Pentas Karyawan (Malay Cultural Group)
- Photo
- Replug
- Republic Rhapsody (A Cappella Group)
- Salsa Dance
- School of Technology for the Arts (STA) Club
- Seni Silat (Malay Cultural Group)
- String Ensemble
- Studio
- Tarian (Malay Cultural Group)
- Wind Symphony
- Write
- Wushu



EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE

Students experience different challenges when they are transitioning from the polytechnic to the world of work. It is important for students to make informed education and career decisions that are aligned to their knowledge, skills and passion.

The RP Career Centre provides a wide range of activities such as career workshops and career counselling conducted by professional Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Counsellors. Through these career-related programmes, students will understand the importance of lifelong learning and be resilient toward fulfilling their dreams and passion. They also empower students to navigate their career pathways with confidence, allowing them to take pride and add value in their future careers.

MENTORING AND COUNSELLING

To help students realise their potential, each student is assigned a mentor (a full-time lecturer appointed by the school), who will provide ongoing encouragement and guidance throughout the course of study. The mentor will help the student thrive and adapt to RP's learning environment.

Studying can be extremely stressful and RP counsellors are here to help. They support students with their academic concerns and personal issues, providing a listening ear and helping them develop positive coping strategies.



FINANCING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION



TUITION FEE AND TUITION GRANT

To subsidise the high cost of tertiary education in Singapore, the Ministry of Education (MOE) offers a tuition grant to all eligible students. For more information on the Tuition Grant Scheme, please visit:

tgonline.moe.gov.sg

With this tuition grant subsidy, the fees payable by full-time diploma students (subject to guidelines under the existing MOE policy) is the difference between the actual training cost and the tuition grant awarded. All non-Singaporean full-time students (including Singapore Permanent Residents) are required to sign a Tuition Grant agreement, which obliges them to work in a Singapore-based company for a minimum period of three years upon graduation, to receive this subsidy.

The tuition fee* amounts applicable to subsidised students for Academic Year 2017/2018 are as follows:

Singapore Citizens
\$2,680
Singapore Permanent Residents
\$5,310
International Students
\$9,203

* Fees listed above are in Singapore dollars, correct at time of printing and subject to revision. For the latest tuition fee amounts, visit: www.rp.edu.sg/course_fees

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RP offers various schemes to help students with their education expenses.

FINANCIAL SCHEMES

The following financial schemes are available to cover the payment of students' course fees.

Tertiary Tuition Fee Subsidy (TTFS) for Malays (Administered by Yayasan Mendaki)

Malay Singapore citizens, who are attending full-time diploma course and whose per capita monthly household income (PCI) of below \$1,500 may apply TTFS subsidies.

Post Secondary Education Scheme (PSE)

Students may apply to use their own or their sibling's Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) to pay for school fees to be incurred at RP, subject to terms and conditions set by MOE.

Central Provident Fund (CPF) Education Scheme

Full-time diploma students may use CPF savings, siblings', spouse's, and parents' (including step-parents') CPF savings to pay for up to 100% of his or her subsidised Tuition Fee, subject to approval by the CPF Board.

BURSARIES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Government-funded and private bursaries are available to help defray living expenses for eligible needy students. RP provides Laptop Assistance and Subsidy for Student Overseas Travel for needy students to get subsidised laptops and subsidies for overseas trips organised by RP. There are also financial assistance schemes for needy students who face financial challenges.

For more information on all financial assistance, please visit:

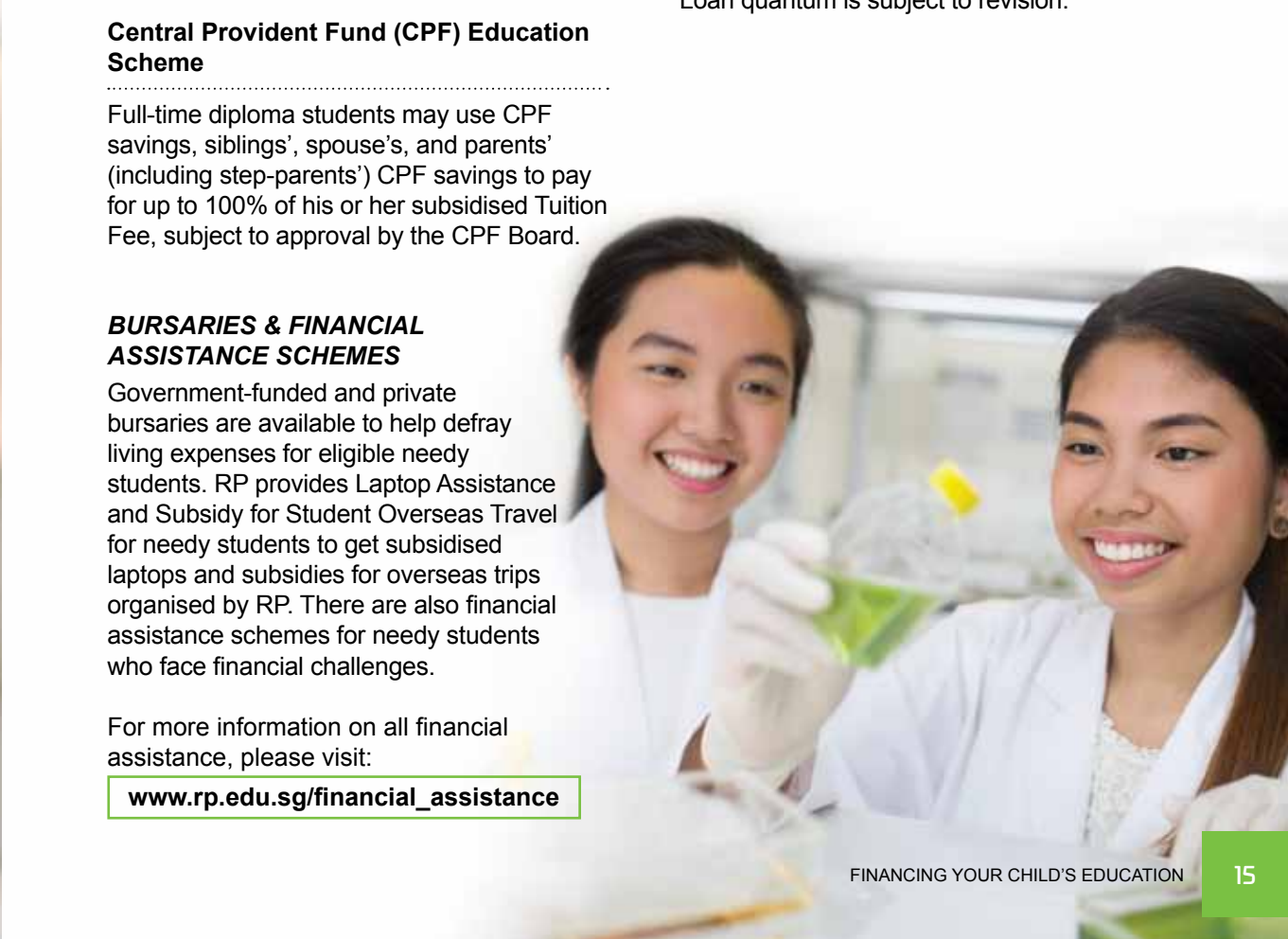
www.rp.edu.sg/financial_assistance

Tuition Fee Loan Scheme

Under DBS Tuition Fee Loan Scheme, students of all nationalities can apply for a bank loan of up to 75% of the subsidised tuition fees payable. Loan quantum is subject to revision.

Study Loan Scheme

Under DBS Study Loan Scheme, Singapore Citizen and Permanent Resident can apply for a bank loan of up to 25% of the subsidised tuition fees payable (Study Loan A) and/or \$2,000 annual living allowance (Study Loan B). Loan quantum is subject to revision.



SCHOLARSHIPS

At RP, we believe in recognising students who have excelled academically or achieved outstanding CCA performances. RP offers more than 200 bond-free scholarships to outstanding students pursuing RP's full-time diplomas. As a scholarship recipient, your child can look forward to a transformative journey of self-discovery and holistic development through RP's unique Leadership and Development programme.

More details on scholarships can be found at www.rp.edu.sg/scholarship



Nur Hidayah Binte Ramlee
Diploma in Arts and Theatre
Management
School of Technology for the Arts
Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship



Mageshwaran Sukumaran
Diploma in Industrial and
Operations Management
School of Engineering
Lee Foundation Scholarship



Maxine Quek Rong
Diploma in Biomedical Sciences
School of Applied Science
RP Freshmen Scholarship

LIFE BEYOND RP



A polytechnic education is a versatile one and paves the way for both a career right after graduation or further education in a university.

CAREER PATH FOR A POLYTECHNIC GRADUATE

An education at RP prepares and produces work-ready graduates, with many of our students embarking on meaningful careers after graduation.

With a strong grounding and practical knowledge complemented by industry internships, RP graduates have made a positive impression on the industry.


GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The Graduate Employment Survey, jointly conducted by the five polytechnics in 2015, showed that demand for polytechnic graduates remained high and they continued to enjoy good starting salaries.

The 2015 survey revealed that polytechnic graduates continue to have healthy overall employment rates, similar to those who graduated in 2014. The overall employment rate in 2015 remained high at 88.9% for fresh graduates and 91.5% for post-National Service (NS) graduates.

COURSE CATEGORY	GROSS MONTHLY SALARY (SGD)			
	Fresh Graduates		Post-NS Graduates	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Applied Sciences	\$2,042	\$2,000	\$2,673	\$2,338
Built Environment, Engineering & Maritime	\$2,233	\$2,200	\$2,635	\$2,500
Business, Management, Design & Others	\$2,151	\$2,000	\$2,858	\$2,500
Health Sciences	\$2,379	\$2,350	\$2,686	\$2,610
Hybrid Courses	\$2,097	\$2,000	\$2,727	\$2,300
Information & Digital Technologies	\$2,163	\$2,000	\$2,556	\$2,478

Gross salary comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay and commissions, before deductions of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments and payments-in-kind are excluded.



Mysara Bte Mohammad Aljaru
Diploma in Communication and Information Design
(Now known as Diploma in Mass Communication)
2014 Graduate

During her time in RP, Mysara was the deputy editor/news editor for student publication, *The Republican Post*. She did well during her internship at TODAY newspaper, working at the Digital Desk and writing feature articles for the Features Desk. Upon graduation from RP, Mysara pursued a journalism degree from Murdoch University whilst working as an Assistant Producer with Channel NewsAsia. Currently, Mysara works as a full-time producer with Channel NewsAsia.

FURTHER STUDIES

Every RP diploma is recognised and has a pathway leading to a relevant degree with top universities — from Australia and Europe to Singapore.

With an RP diploma, your child may grant advanced standing in their respective field of study. These pathways allow a shorter time when pursuing his or her degree at a university. Your child may complete his or her degree programme in just over two or three years in a four-year degree programme.

For more information on further studies and formal links to RP's diploma to university degree pathways, please visit: www.rp.edu.sg/further_studies



APPLYING TO A POLYTECHNIC

JOINT ADMISSIONS EXERCISE

Most O-Level students applying to the polytechnics will go through the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE). JAE application will commence on the day of release of the O-Level examination results, for six calendar days.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO

- Satisfy the Minimum Entry Requirement (MER) to the course applied for
- Obtain a net ELR2B2 aggregate score of 26 points or better
- Be prepared to attend an interview and undergo an aptitude test where necessary

RP ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFO

For any admission-related questions, please contact

Hotline : +65 6510 3000

Email : Help-Registrar@rp.edu.sg

Website : www.rp.edu.sg/admissions



STEPS FOR APPLYING THROUGH JAE

STEP 1

KNOW THE COURSES YOUR CHILD QUALIFIES FOR

Students eligible for the JAE will receive their O-Level results along with a Form A, which will include a list of courses your child is eligible to apply for.

SAMPLE FORM A

2016 JOINT ADMISSIONS EXERCISE (JAE)		Form A	
Name : NAM SIL	JAE PIN : KMP46767	Centre Index No : 0629510029	School Code : 7310
There will be no registration after DD/MM/YYYY 04:00PM.			
Your GCE 'O' Level Examination results are as follows: 11 = A1 63 = A2 41 = A1 42 = A2 44 = A1 45 = A1 46 = A1 22 = A2 CCA = A1			
Your aggregate scores are as follows: JC : L1R5 = 07 MI : L1R4 = 05 Poly : ELR2B2-A = 06 ELR2B2-B = 06 ELR2B2-C = 05 ELR2B2-D = 05 ITE : ELB4-A = 05 ELR1B3-B = 05 ELR2B2-C = 05			
Based on the 2015 GCE 'O' Level Examination results, you are eligible to apply for all courses offered by JC (2-Year Duration) and MI (3-Year Duration). The JC and MI course codes can be found in the Joint Admissions Exercise Booklet. You are also eligible for the Polytechnic / ITE courses listed below. Though you are eligible for these courses, admission to a course under this exercise is based on merit, your indicated choices and vacancies available.			
<u>Polytechnic / ITE courses you are eligible for:</u>			
C40 C41 C42 C43 C45 C46 C47 C48 C49 C50 C51 C52 C53 C54 C55 C56 C57 C58 C59 C60 C61 C62 C63 C64 C65 C66 C67 C68 C69 C70 C71 C72 C73 C74 C75 C78 C80 C81 C83 C85 C89 C93 C94 C96 C97 C98 C99 N40 N41 N42 N43 N44 N45 N48 N49 N50 N51 N53 N54 N55 N56 N57 N59 N60 N61 N64 N65 N66 N67 N68 N69 N70 N71 N72 N73 N74 N75 N76 N77 N78 N79 N80 N81 N82 N83 N84 N85 N86 N87 N88 N89 N90 N91 N92 N93 N94 R11 R12 R13 R14 R16 R17 R18 R19 R20 R21 R22 R23 R24 R25 R26 R27 R28 R29 R31 R32 R33 R34 R35 R36 R37 R39 R40 R41 R42 R43 R44 R45 R46 R47 R48 R49 R50 R51 R52 R53 R54 R55 S33 S34 S35 S36 S37 S38 S39 S40 S41 S42 S43 S44 S45 S46 S47 S48 S50 S51 S53 S54 S55 S56 S58 S63 S64 S66 S67 S68 S69 S70 S71 S72 S73 S74 S75 S76 S82 S86 S88 S89 S90 S91 S93 S94 S95 S97 S98 S99 T01 T02 T04 T05 T06 T08 T09 T13 T15 T17 T18 T20 T22 T23 T25 T26 T27 T28 T29 T30 T31 T33 T35 T36 T37 T38 T39 T40 T42 T43 T44 T45 T46 T47 T48 T49 T50 T51 T52 T53 T54 T55 T56 T57 T58 T59 T60 T61 V10 V11 V13 V18 V19 V21 V26 V27 V28 V29 V30 V35 V39 V40 V42 V44 V45 V47 V49 V52 V54 V55 V56 V59 V62 V64 V65 V66 V67 V68 V69 V70 V71 V72 V73 V74 V75 V76 V77 V78 V81 V82 V83 V84 V85 V86 V87 V88 V89 V90 V91 V92 V93 V94 V95 V96 V99			
Note: • You can also apply for other suitable courses for GCE 'O' students, offered by ITE. Please see ITE's admission booklet on JIE.			

Your subjects and grades received.

A

Your child's aggregate score for polytechnic courses* (excluding CCA bonus points).

B

RP course code starts with an "R"

C

STEP 2

MAXIMISING YOUR CHOICES

Your child will be given 12 choices in the JAE application. It is important to list your choices wisely or you may end up not getting any of your choices.

Here are some tips to help maximise your child's choices. In the example below, we illustrate some possible choices if your child's net aggregate score is 14. The numbers in brackets are the courses' Last Aggregate Score (LAS) for the previous year.

TOP 4 CHOICES

List the courses your child is most **passionate** in.

- 1 Course A (12)
- 2 Course B (13)
- 3 Course C (13)
- 4 Course D (14)

Your child should not hesitate to select his or her favourite courses as one of the top 4 choices. LAS serves only as a guide and may vary each year.

NEXT 4 CHOICES

List the courses your child is **keen** and **eligible** for.

- 5 Course E (15)
- 6 Course F (14)
- 7 Course G (16)
- 8 Course H (14)

For the next 4 choices, your child should select courses he or she is interested in and stands a good chance of getting into. Your child will stand a higher chance of getting into a particular course as compared to a student with a less favourable net aggregate score as posting is based on merit.

LAST 4 CHOICES

List the courses your child is **confident of getting into**.

- 9 Course I (16)
- 10 Course J (17)
- 11 Course K (18)
- 12 Course L (18)

In the last 4 choices, your child should select less competitive courses that he or she clearly qualifies for. Remember to fill up all 12 choices even if your child is confident of getting into a desired course.



STEP 3

CONSIDERING OTHER OPTIONS FOR APPLYING TO A POLYTECHNIC

DIRECT ADMISSIONS EXERCISE (DAE)



- Held in RP from January to April for applicants with O-Level results.
- DAE is also open to applicants with A-Level results, Integrated Programme results, Nitec and Higher Nitec results, and international qualifications, in March, April and July/October respectively.

EARLY ADMISSIONS EXERCISE (EAE)

- For current Sec 4 Express or Sec 5 Normal (Academic) students.
- EAE allows students to secure a conditional placement in the course of their choice based on aptitude and interest even before taking their O-Level examinations.
- EAE is held jointly by the five polytechnics in June/July and applicants are notified of their application results in August.

EARLY ADMISSIONS EXERCISE (I) [EAE(I)]

- For ITE students with a strong aptitude and interest in a field related to the diploma course they are applying for.
- EAE (I) is held jointly by the five polytechnics in January. Applicants are notified of their application results in February.

JOINT POLYTECHNIC ADMISSIONS EXERCISE (JPAE)

- JPAE is for Higher Nitec and Nitec holders to apply for a place in a polytechnic course.
- JPAE is held jointly by the five polytechnics in February and applicants are notified of their application results in April.

POLYTECHNIC FOUNDATION PROGRAMME (PFP)

- PFP is a one-year preparatory programme offered to well-performing Sec 4 Normal (Academic) students in their N-Level examinations.
- It is a through-train pathway allowing students to bypass Sec 5 and gain direct entry into polytechnic diploma programmes. Upon release of the O-Level results, eligible students will be invited to apply.



FAQ

At RP, we conduct parents' talks and course counselling to address questions concerning post-secondary options and admissions. Here are some questions commonly raised.

I am interested in enrolling my child in RP. Which admissions exercise can my child apply through?

There are various admissions exercises conducted throughout the year. The admission exercise which your child is eligible for depends on the qualifications your child is holding. For instance, the admissions exercises relevant for current O-Level holders are the Joint Admissions Exercise, Early Admissions Exercise and Direct Admissions Exercise. For more information on the various admissions exercises, please see page 26 or visit:

www.rp.edu.sg/admissions

Will the ranking of the 12 choices in the JAE application affect my child's chances of getting into a particular course?

Posting is based first on merit, followed by choice order. Applicants with better aggregate scores will be considered first, even if they have indicated the course lower on their list than someone with a less favourable aggregate.

Can my child transfer to another course once they are enrolled in RP?

All students are expected to complete the course that they are enrolled in. However, under exceptional circumstances, a course transfer may be allowed if there are vacancies. Students will only be allowed to transfer to another course if they meet the relevant aggregate score or other entry requirements for that course at the time of their entry.

Students who wish to appeal for a course transfer should approach the Programme Chair of the course they are seeking to be admitted to. For students who are below 21 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must countersign applications for course transfer. RP's decision on any application for course transfer will be final.

Can my child afford to attend RP?

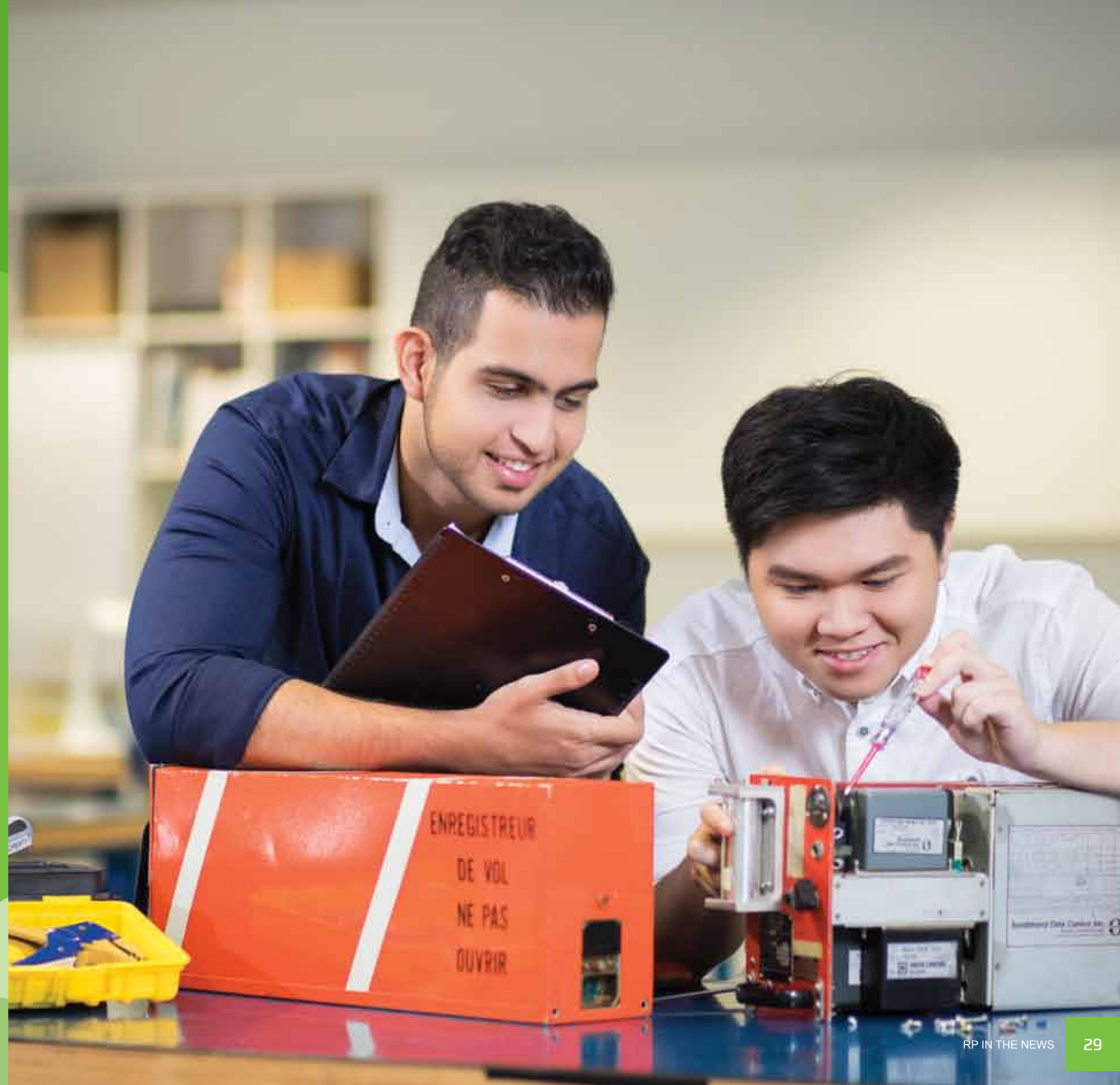
There are various financial schemes in place to help ensure no student will be denied the opportunity of a polytechnic education because of financial difficulties. For more information on the types of loans and subsidies available, please visit:

www.rp.edu.sg/Financial_Schemes

RP also offers bond-free scholarships to our newly enrolled full-time freshmen, so if your child has outstanding achievements in his or her exams and CCA, we welcome your application. Email help-scholarship@rp.edu.sg to find out more.

For other frequently asked questions, please visit: www.rp.edu.sg/faq

RP IN THE NEWS



Polytechnic duo in line to become doctors

20 May 2014
The Straits Times

Republic Poly students among rare few offered place in NUS med school

By AMELIA TENG

THE sight of his mother crying in the principal's office hit Kenneth Gwee hard.

She had just found out that her son, then a student at Jurong Junior College, had failed most of his subjects and would have to repeat his first year.

"That was the first time I saw my mother crying. It was a wakeup call," said Mr Gwee, now 20.

"I realised that I needed to take control of my life and start pursuing what I was passionate about."

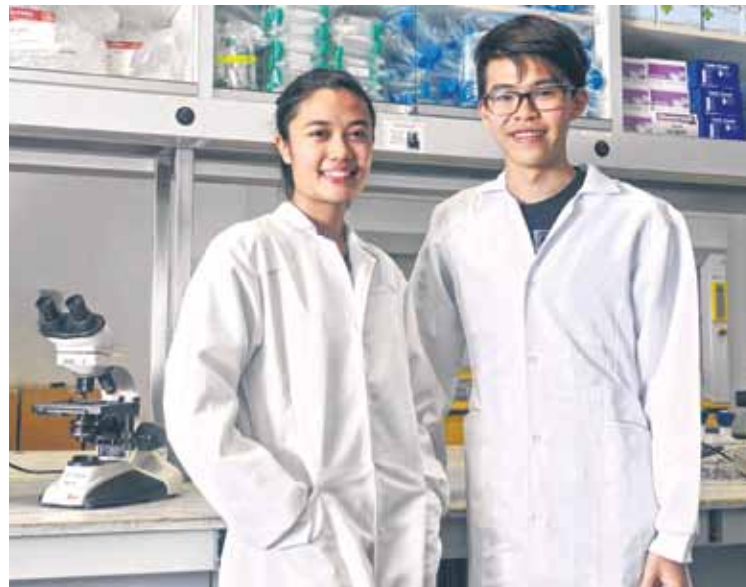
He had initially chosen the junior college route because his family had felt it gave him the greatest chance of making it to university.

But that day, he decided that instead of plodding on in chemistry, mathematics and economics – subjects he had little interest in – he would transfer to Republic Polytechnic where he could study biomedical sciences, a field close to his heart.

Three years later, his hard work has paid off – he graduated this year with a diploma in biomedical science, and a near-perfect grade point average of 3.96.

To top that, he has been accepted into the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine with schoolmate Noor Ahmed Alkaff, 19.

Said Ms Noor, who has an older brother: "I'm just very grateful that I'm a step



Ms Noor Ahmed Alkaff, 19, and Mr Kenneth Gwee, 20, both of whom graduated with a diploma in biomedical science, have been offered a place in NUS medical school. Only one other Republic Polytechnic student has been accepted before and such offers for polytechnic students are relatively rare.
ST PHOTO: MATTHIAS HO

closer to my dream of being a doctor." Her parents run a resort in Malaysia.

Only one other student from Republic Polytechnic has been accepted before, and such offers for polytechnic students are relatively rare. Since NUS started giving out places in its medical school to polytechnic students in 2007, only a handful have been accepted.

But Mr Gwee had not excelled in his studies before going to polytechnic. "I wasn't very mature in secondary school and I didn't put in much effort in studying," said the elder son of a furniture salesman and pawnshop clerk.

"To me, studying medicine was just a dream, and I never thought I'd make it this far."

But, he explained, at the polytechnic, "I truly enjoyed learning at school, and it didn't feel like the struggle I experienced

in junior college because I was very interested in the lessons every day".

Yesterday, he was conferred the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Science and Mathematics, given to the polytechnic's top computer science or technology students, at a graduation ceremony at Republic Polytechnic.

The event was attended by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Lawrence Wong.

Graduation season for the polytechnics is taking place over the next few weeks.

Nearly 4,500 students will graduate from Republic, the youngest of the five polytechnics here. In total, some 25,000 students will get their diplomas.

■ ateng@sph.com.sg

Internship paves way for full-time job

24 Feb 2015
The Straits Times



The staff at Hope Technik include (from left) engineers Julien Li Hao and Wong Kai; general manager Michael Leong; senior mechanical engineer Samuel Lee Zhi Wei; and technicians Brandon Wong Liang Fu and Mohamad Jafry Samsudin. Mr Jafry was cited by Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam in his Budget speech yesterday as a person who benefited from his immersive internship.
ST PHOTO: ONG WEE JIN

By AMELIA TENG

ALL it took was a five-month stint at Singapore engineering firm Hope Technik for Mr Mohamad Jafry Samsudin to decide that he wanted to eventually join the company.

Mr Jafry, 28, served as an intern at the firm in 2012, when he was a student at Republic Polytechnic, and found himself helping to develop the latest Red Rhino vehicles used by the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

He graduated with an aerospace avionics diploma later that year. After doing some part-time work, he joined Hope Technik as a technician in its composites department. The firm

develops engineering solutions for the military, motorsport and biomedical industries.

Mr Jafry was cited by Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam in his Budget speech yesterday as a person who benefited from his immersive internship.

Mr Jafry, speaking to The Straits Times yesterday, said: "Getting work experience is good because while some skills learnt in school are transferable, a lot of technical skills can be learnt in-depth only on the job.

"Five months was good because it gave me enough time to learn and perfect my skills, from installing the body panels of a vehicle to welding and cutting."

Hope Technik general manager Michael Leong said the firm wanted Mr Jafry to return as he had shown positive qualities during the internship.

"He's responsible, a fast learner and a good team player," he said. "He's also a good craftsman and builder."

Mr Leong added that longer internships will better enable students and employers to know if they are suited for each other.

He said: "The early part of an internship – the first month or so – is for the student and company to get to know each other.

"With more time, students can be exposed to more projects, or move on from basic skills to more complex things."

USEFUL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR AY 2017/2018

SEMESTER 1

Teaching Weeks	Monday, 17 April 2017 – Tuesday, 6 June 2017	7.5 weeks
Break	Wednesday, 7 June 2017 – Monday, 26 June 2017	2.5 weeks
Study Period & Mid-Semester Assessment	Tuesday, 27 June 2017 – Friday, 7 July 2017	1.5 weeks
Teaching Weeks	Monday, 10 July 2017 – Monday, 21 August 2017	7 weeks
Study Period & End-Semester Exam & Make-up Exam	Tuesday, 22 August 2017 – Tuesday, 12 September 2017	2.5 weeks
Vacation	Wednesday, 13 September 2017 – Sunday, 15 October 2017	5 weeks

SEMESTER 2

Teaching Weeks	Monday, 16 October 2017 – Monday, 4 December 2017	7.5 weeks
Study Period & Mid-Semester Assessment	Tuesday, 5 December 2017 – Friday, 15 December 2017	1.5 weeks
Break	Saturday, 16 December 2017 – Monday, 1 January 2018	2 weeks
Teaching Weeks	Tuesday, 2 January 2018 – Monday, 12 February 2018	7 weeks
Study Period & End-Semester Exam & Make-up Exam	Tuesday, 13 February 2018 – Monday, 5 March 2018	2 weeks
Vacation	Tuesday, 6 March 2018 – Sunday, 15 April 2018	6 weeks



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School of Infocomm help-SOI@rp.edu.sg

School of Management and Communication help-SMC@rp.edu.sg

School of Sports, Health and Leisure help-SHL@rp.edu.sg

School of Technology for the Arts help-STA@rp.edu.sg

GETTING TO RP

Bus Services **169, 902***

Nearest MRT Station **Woodlands**

* Bus 902 operates from 7:30am to 10:00am on weekdays, except for public holidays and RP school vacations.



School of Applied Science

Diploma in

- R14** Biomedical Sciences
- R16** Biotechnology
- R29** Environmental Science
- R53** Marine Science and Aquaculture
- R17** Materials Science
- R22** Pharmaceutical Sciences



School of Engineering

- R42** Common Engineering Programme

Diploma in

- R20** Aerospace Avionics
- R40** Aerospace Engineering
- R39** Aviation Management
- R50** Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- R56** Engineering Design with Business
- R54** Engineering Systems and Management
- R41** Green Building Energy Management
- R11** Industrial and Operations Management
- R21** Supply Chain Management



School of Hospitality

Diploma in

- R34** Customer Experience Management with Business
- R37** Hotel and Hospitality Management
- R28** Integrated Events Management
- R46** Restaurant and Culinary Operations
- R44** Wellness, Lifestyle and Spa Management



School of Infocomm

Diploma in

- R18** Business Applications
- R13** Business Information Systems
- R55** Infocomm Security Management
- R12** Information Technology
- R31** Interactive and Digital Media
- R47** Mobile Software Development



School of Management and Communication

Diploma in

- R48** Consumer Behaviour and Research
- R52** Human Resource Management with Psychology
- R32** Mass Communication
- R51** Social Enterprise Management



School of Sports, Health and Leisure

Diploma in

- R43** Health Management and Promotion
- R45** Health Services Management
- R33** Outdoor and Adventure Learning
- R26** Sports and Exercise Sciences
- R27** Sports and Leisure Management
- R49** Sports Coaching



School of Technology for the Arts

Diploma in

- R25** Arts and Theatre Management
- R36** Design for User Experience
- R35** Game Design
- R19** Media Production and Design
- R24** Sonic Arts



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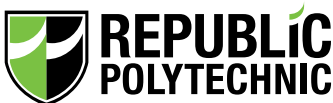
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