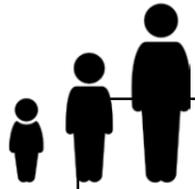




Secondary Guide

Why DSC?



Through-train Program

We offer an excellent program for students ages 4 – 18. Students who enter DSC during Elementary years gain automatic admissions to our Secondary program.



Canadian Curriculum

Recognized as one of the best education systems in the world, Canada outperforms many other English speaking countries in international assessments.



Global Pathways

Students who graduate from DSC receive the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The OSSD is internationally recognized, allowing DSC graduates to receive offers from the top 50 universities worldwide, with many students receiving conditional acceptances prior to graduation.



Multi-Cultural Environment

DSC is one of the most diverse international schools with over 50 student nationalities, encouraging students' global perspective.



International Languages

DSC is proud to be one of a few international schools in Hong Kong that offers three international languages (Chinese, French, and Japanese) starting from Pre-Grade 1.

Why DSC?



Quality Teachers

100% of our teachers are Education Bureau (EDB) qualified educators with more than 90% having additional registration in Canada with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

DSC teachers also regularly pursue advanced degrees and specialized qualifications through OCT and top universities around the world. Nearly 50% of our teaching staff hold advanced degrees (Masters and/or Doctorates).



Excellent Chinese Studies Program

DSC's First Language Chinese program follows the National Curriculum designed by the People's Education Press in Beijing.



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Whole-child education is necessary for the overall success of all children. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a key requirement for the success of students. SEL is built into the Canadian curriculum, integrated into daily classroom activities, academic lessons, and school events.



Innovation and Design Thinking

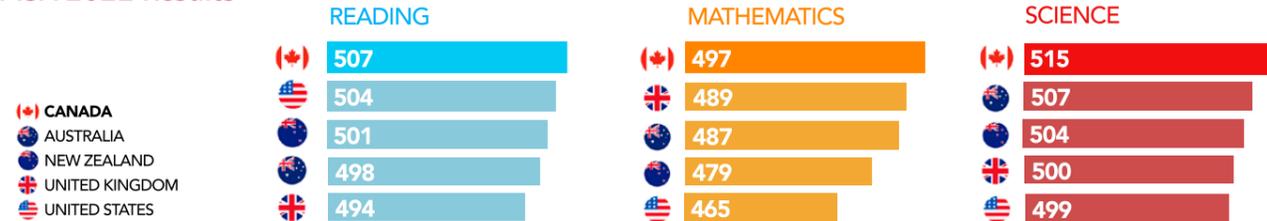
Students are regularly involved in project-based learning that require students to start, research, develop, experiment, and connect their knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Canadian Curriculum

The Canadian Curriculum is an internationally recognized curriculum equivalent to many other leading curricula and education systems around the world. It has demonstrated its success through the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 results. Canada outperformed all other English-speaking countries in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. In addition, Canada also tied for 2nd place in the PISA Creative Thinking Assessment, placing significantly higher than the average across all OECD countries.



PISA 2022 Results



The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) program is particularly suitable by design for students transitioning from a local curriculum into an international curriculum, and for athlete scholars or creative scholars who need the support of a flexible program that can be designed around their individual needs.

Comparison chart of OSSD / IB / A-levels / AP / DSE

	Canadian	IBDP	A-Levels	Advanced Placement	DSE
Country	Canada (Ontario)	International	UK	US	HK
Duration	Flexible	2 years	2 years	Flexible	3 years
Graduation Point	January June, August	June	June	June	June
Subject Combination	Flexible	More constraints	Flexible	Flexible	More constraints
Community Experience	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Exams	Internal with a compulsory Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test	External	External	External	External
Post-Secondary Destination	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide	Worldwide

Transferable Skills

It is important to equip our students with **future-ready education**. Transferable skills are the skills and attributes that students need to thrive in the world outside of school. Based on academic research and information provided by employers, these seven important categories of transferable skills were defined and developed within the Ontario curriculum:

Critical thinking and problem-solving

Engage in inquiry processes and critically analyze information to solve problems and make informed decisions.

Collaboration

Develop the cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal competencies needed to work with others effectively and ethically.

Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship

Demonstrate leadership, initiative, imagination, creativity, spontaneity, and ingenuity as the students engage in a range of creative processes, motivating others with their ethical entrepreneurial spirit.

Communication

Learn about a variety of languages, and communicate effectively in different contexts, orally and in writing, using a variety of media.

Self-directed learning

Develop personal, educational, career goals and persevere to overcome challenges to reach those goals. Students also learn to adapt to change and become resilient in the face of adversity.

Digital literacy

Develop the ability to use appropriate digital technology in a safe, legal, and ethically responsible manner.

Global citizenship and sustainability

Students learn about diverse world views and perspectives in order to effectively address the various political, environmental, social, and economic issues of today's interconnected and interdependent world.

DSC Secondary Journey

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
Elementary	Core Subjects System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • International Languages • Mathematics • Science & Technology • History • Geography • Health • The Arts 		Credit System (30 credits)				
					Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test		
					Grade 10 Math Financial Literacy Test		
			Minimum of 40 hours of community service				
	House Programs		Homeroom System				
	Guidance Support by Higher Education & Pathways Advisors						
	Extra-Curricular Activities						
	Experiential Learning						
		OSSD+ Signature Programs (Optional, more information on p.14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit System (32 credits) • 100 hours of community service • Career Integrated Learning • Masterclass Sessions 					

Post-Secondary (see destinations on p.23)

Personalized Pathways @ DSC



	Sara Tomita (2021 Graduate)	Anna Danda (2023 Graduate)	Niina Sakon (2023 Graduate)	Clement Tong (2024 Graduate)	Isaac Lee (2025 Graduate)
Background	Sara entered DSC as an ESL student in Grade 9. She rapidly advanced her English proficiency and developed a strong passion for Chemistry.	Anna began her journey at DSC as an ESL student in Grade 10. She quickly improved her English skills and eagerly followed her dream of studying Science.	Niina joined DSC in Grade 9 and became highly involved in school activities. Her dedication and enthusiasm earned her the 2023 Spirit of Canada Award.	Clement joined DSC in PG1. Throughout his 15 years at DSC, he has been highly active in community work both on campus and in the broader community. He has developed a strong interest in Sociology and Political Science.	Isaac began his journey at DSC in Grade 11. As one of our DSC Athletic Scholars, Isaac made remarkable progress while maintaining a very busy athletic schedule with golf competitions around the globe.
Choices of Elective G12 Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Functions Calculus and Vectors Chemistry Data Management Physics Kinesiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Functions Biology Chemistry Kinesiology Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Functions Challenge and Change in Society Earth and Space Science Physics Philosophy: Questions and Theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Leadership Challenge and Change in Society Data Management Economics Philosophy World Issues <p>Recipient of the OSSD+ Global Influencers Signature Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Functions Analysing Current Economic Issues Calculus and Vectors Data Management Earth and Space Science Financial Accounting Principles Kinesiology
Received Offers	<p>Canada</p> <p>University of Toronto McMaster University University of Waterloo</p> <p>UK</p> <p>Imperial College London King's College London University of Edinburg University of Manchester</p>	<p>Ireland</p> <p>University College Dublin University College Cork University of Galway</p>	<p>Canada</p> <p>Brock University University of Toronto York University</p>	<p>Hong Kong</p> <p>University of Hong Kong Chinese University Hong Kong with Scholarship Hong Kong Polytechnic University And more ...</p> <p>Canada</p> <p>University of Toronto University of British Columbia</p>	<p>US</p> <p>Northwestern University with Scholarship University of California, Berkeley with Scholarship University of California, Irvine with Scholarship Davidson College with Scholarship</p> <p>Canada</p> <p>University of British Columbia with Scholarship</p>
Final Destination	Imperial College London Bachelor of Chemistry	University College Dublin Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering	University of Toronto Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics	University of Hong Kong Bachelor of Social Science in Politics and Administration	Northwestern University Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Golf Athletic Scholarship

My time at DSC helped prepare me extremely well for my time at university! I had a much easier time adjusting to the exam and study schedule. I am also very glad for my teachers at DSC, who always pushed us to take the initiative and create work routines. This helped me regulate my study schedules throughout university - so I was able to maintain a healthy, (almost) stress-free, work-life balance.

- Anna Danda, DSC '23
University College Dublin, Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering

Grade 7 - 8

Students in Grades 7 and 8 continue to focus on both academic and social skills necessary to support their growth and development. Students have specialized subject teachers and rotate through the day to subject-specific classes. The academic program includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- History
- Geography
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts – Drama, Dance, Visual Arts, and Music
- International Languages – Chinese (Putonghua), French, or Japanese

Subject teachers prioritize the creation of inclusive and stimulating learning environments to support and challenge student thinking. Teachers are committed to providing a rigorous model of learning to enhance student mastery of the subject material. Students demonstrate their mastery by applying knowledge of the subject material in unique and varied ways.

Digital literacy and digital citizenship are infused into all subject areas. In addition to teaching and assessing subject-specific material, Grade 7 and 8 teachers collaborate to create a variety of activities that develop transferable skills and promote safe and responsible use of learning technologies.

DSC also has a House Leagues program to help students build a strong sense of community and personal accomplishment through teamwork. This program encourages the importance of balancing academics with healthy active living. It fosters friendly competition between homeroom classes and encourages students to develop collaboration skills as they learn to work together as a team.



Timetable

Grade 7 Timetable sample

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 - 8:10	Student Arrival				
8:10 - 8:50	Science & Technology	Mathmatics	Science & Technology	English	Physical Education
8:54 - 9:34	Physical Education	Mathmatics	Dance	English	Mathmatics
9:38 - 10:18	English	Music	History/ Geography	Mathmatics	Mathmatics
10:22 - 11:02	English	Health	History/ Geography	Mathmatics	Music
11:02 - 11:47	Lunch and Recess				
11:54 - 12:04	Homeroom				
12:08 - 12:48	Visual Arts	Science & Technology	English	Drama	English
12:52 - 1:32	Visual Arts	Visual Arts	English	Drama	English
1:36 - 2:16	International Languages	International Languages	International Languages	International Languages	History/ Geography
2:22 - 3:02	Mathmatics	Dance	Mathmatics	Science & Technology	History/ Geography
3:02	Student Dismissal				

Grade 9 -12

High School is a very busy time for students – both academically and socially. The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) program requirements are rigorous yet offer students the flexibility to choose courses that align with their individual strengths and their post-secondary pathway interests.

Our teachers are committed to creating stimulating learning environments that challenge students to critically analyze, interpret, and communicate their understanding of course content and its implications and/or application. Curriculum delivery is dynamic and varied with multiple opportunities for students to practice/ demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in various ways.

The High School academic year is structured into two semesters. Semester 1 runs from September to January/ February while Semester 2 is from January/February to June. Students typically take 4 courses per semester. This allows students to focus more time and effort on fewer courses in comparison to other non-semester school models.

Grade 9 - 12 Timetable	
8:20 am - 9:44am	Period 1
9:48am - 11:12am	Period 2
11:12am - 12:08pm	Lunch
12:08pm - 1:32pm	Period 3
1:36pm - 3:00pm	Period 4
3:00pm	Student Dismissal



High School Courses

We offer a broad range of courses from a diverse array of subject areas to meet student interests, aptitudes, and post-secondary destination requirements. DSC is proud to be one of the leading schools in Hong Kong, offering many specialized courses across different subject areas.

	Foundation	Specialization
Languages	English (Grade 9 – 10) Chinese (Beginner and Intermediate) Japanese (Beginner and Intermediate) French (Core)	English (Grade 11 – 12) Chinese (Advanced) Japanese (Advanced)
The Arts	Drama (Dramatic Forms and Techniques) Visual Arts (Foundations and Experimentation)	Drama (Dramatic Processes and Producing Drama) Visual Arts (Develop and Refine)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Advanced Functions Calculus and Vectors Data Management
Business	Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset Launching and Leading a Business	Accounting Business Leadership Economics International Business Marketing
Science & Technology	Biology Chemistry Computer Science Physics	Earth and Space Science Kinesiology Information and Communication Technology
Social Sciences	Civics Geography History	Challenge and Change in Society Food and Culture Philosophy: Questions & Theories World Issues: A Geographical Analysis

OSSD Graduation Requirements

Students must complete each of the following to be eligible for graduation:

- 30 credits = 17 compulsory courses + 13 elective courses
- 40 Hours of Community Service
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (in Grade 10)
- Ontario Secondary School Financial Literacy test (Grade 10 Math) (September 2025 onwards)

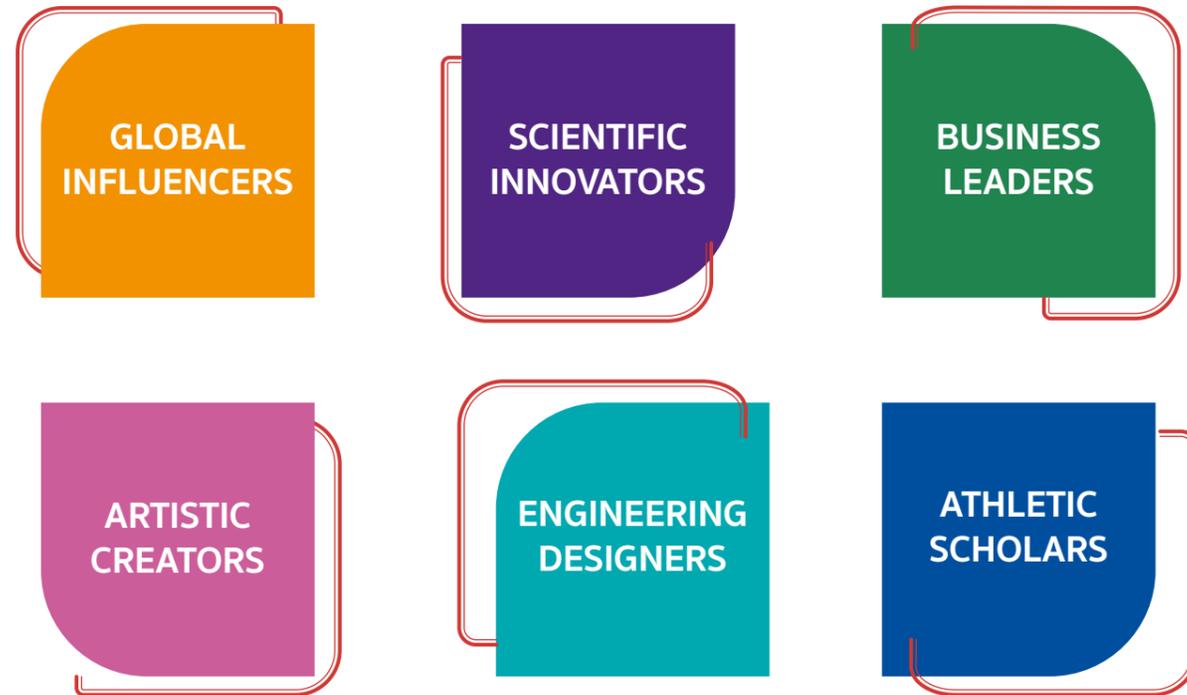
OSSD⁺

OSSD⁺ Signature Program

DSC is dedicated to preparing students to get into the program and career pathway of their choice. The OSSD⁺ Signature Program provides an enhanced, rigorous academic framework that aligns with their interests, passions, and goals.

The purpose of the OSSD⁺ Signature Program is to promote specialized academic discipline, enhanced community outreach and leadership development, real-world experiences, and career mentorship through work placements. Our bespoke programs offer a great opportunity to maximize the high school experience and acquire the skills necessary to make a positive difference in the local and global communities.

DSC International School offers 6 options for students to choose from:



Read more about OSSD⁺ Signature Program

Career Integrated Learning

The Career Integrated Learning (Co-op) course provides opportunities for students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills developed throughout the program with relevant work experience in their area of specialization while earning 1 credit.

- Experiential Learning Cycle: Students will participate in the experience, reflect on their learning, and then apply that learning to education and career/life planning
- Connects in-class learning with real-world experience
- Opportunity to learn in an authentic setting outside the walls of the classroom

During summer school (July), students will attend school on set days with most of their time at their co-op placement.

In previous years, our students joined different placement programs in the field of:

- Architecture
- Education
- Business and Marketing
- Community Organization
- Product Design





Sports

DSC's sports teams offer a diverse array of options that cater to various interests and skill levels. Students engage in healthy physical activities that promote both physical and mental well-being while developing essential skills in competition, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Our athletes have the opportunity to represent DSC and showcase their talents on a broader stage. Our Director of Athletics and ECA Programs collaborate with dedicated coaches to facilitate student participation in competitions as members of the International Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong (ISSFHK) and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation (HKSSF), and the Greater Bay Area Cup Youth Sports Tournament (GBA Cup).

DSC has achieved significant recognition, winning numerous medals and championship banners in tournaments throughout Hong Kong and China. Our sports offerings include Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Dance, Fencing, Soccer, Squash, Touch Rugby, Track and Field, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Ball Hockey.

These teams not only allow students to enhance their athletic abilities and compete at a high level, but they also prioritize teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth. Our coaching staff ensure that students excel in their respective sports while acquiring valuable life skills.

Flexible Program for Professional Athletes

Recognized by the Hong Kong Sport Institute, DSC is one of the Elite Athlete-friendly schools that provide a flexible program to meet the needs of professional athletes, so that they can succeed in both academic and athletic development.

Extracurricular Activities (ECA)

We offer a wide range of extracurricular programs for our students. With over 100 options for school-wide extracurricular activities, we encourage students to learn new skills, make new friends, and develop leadership and social skills while building a strong sense of community. We have many different sports available for students to choose from including **Badminton, Ball Hockey, Basketball, Fencing, Golf, Soccer, Taekwondo, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, X-Country** and more.

Other than sports, we also provide ECA in many different areas such as **Arts and Crafts, Battle of the Books, Debate Club, Dance, Drama, MAD Club, Model United Nations, Robotics, Sailing, and many more.**

International Languages

DSC offers three international languages – Chinese (Putonghua), Japanese, and French. All DSC students select one of these languages to study based on their interest and/or proficiency skills.

Chinese (Putonghua)

DSC offers both First Language and Second Language Chinese programs. The Chinese program at DSC prepares students to immerse into a Putonghua-speaking environment and prepare for the external Chinese proficiency exams to enhance their future education and career choices.

First Language Program

The Chinese First Language program follows the national curriculum by using the textbooks designed by the People's Education Press (人教版语文). The program is designed in a progressive nature in different stages which are interconnected and spiraling upwards to accumulate Chinese language knowledge.

	Early Years	Elementary	Secondary
Grade	PGIB > PGIA > 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5 > 6 > 7 > 8 >		Grade 9-12
	National Curriculum designed by Beijing Language & Culture University Press 北语社的国际汉语教材	Chinese National Curriculum 人教版语文	Level 3 ▶ IGCSE (First) Level 2 ▶ IGCSE (Second) HSK Level 4 or above OSSD* Signature Program Chinese and Literature 1 Chinese and Literature 2 HSK Level 5 or 6

Second Language Program

The Second Language Putonghua Program is also based on the national curriculum designed by Beijing Language Culture University Press. All students with or without knowledge of the Chinese language can choose to enroll in this program and be placed into different levels of Putonghua classes (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) based on the teacher assessment and recommendation.

	Early Years	Elementary	Secondary
Grade	PGIB > PGIA > 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5 > 6 > 7 > 8 > 9 > 10 > 11 > 12		
Near Native Level	The Second Language Programs are based on the National Curriculum designed by Beijing Language & Culture University Press, which is authorized by Centre for Language Education. (北语社的国际汉语教材)		Level 3 ▶ IGCSE (First) Level 2 ▶ IGCSE (Second) HSK Level 4 or above
Intermediate Level			Level 2 ▶ IGCSE (Second) HSK Level 4 or above
Beginner Level			Level 1

Japanese (First and Second Language)

We offer a Japanese First Language Program for Grades 7 – 8 that follows the Japanese National Curriculum. From Grade 9 onwards, we offer 3 courses for Japanese Second Language students.

	Early Years	Elementary	Secondary
Grade	PGIB > PGIA > 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5 > 6 > 7 > 8 > 9 > 10 > 11 > 12		
First Language Program	Japanese National Curriculum		Level 3
Second Language Program	coming soon		Level 2 Level 1

French (Second Language)

Our French as a Second Language Program follows the Canadian (Ontario) core French curriculum. Students entering Grade 7 should have some prior knowledge of French before commencing in this program.

	Early Years	Elementary	Secondary
Grade	PGIB > PGIA > 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5 > 6 > 7 > 8 > 9 > 10 > 11 > 12		
Second Language Program	Ontario French Curriculum		Level 1



Student Support

ESL

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program is recommended for students who require support to transition into mainstream English. The ESL program focuses on the four areas of language acquisition for fluency and literacy: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

In Grades 7 & 8, there are two levels of ESL support before entering into the English program. In Grades 9-12, there are 4 levels of ESL support prior to taking Grade 9 English. All High School ESL courses are credit-based and can be applied toward the 30 credits required for graduation. Students are assessed prior to entry into DSC and placed in the appropriate level.

Secondary



Social-Emotional Learning

At DSC, we prioritize the holistic development of each student by emphasizing socio-emotional learning alongside cognitive, social, and physical growth. Our commitment to creating a safe and supportive learning environment fosters positive social-emotional development. Through engaging in homeroom activities, students explore essential topics such as stress management, wellness, self-esteem, anti-bullying, healthy living, and conflict resolution. Additionally, our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors offer individualized counselling sessions to help students navigate daily challenges. For more serious concerns, we ensure that students receive appropriate support by referring them to our dedicated Social Workers. This comprehensive approach underscores our belief in nurturing the whole child, equipping them with the skills needed for lifelong success.



Experiential Learning

School life is not only about academics but also taking part in activities that broaden students' horizons and give meaning to what is being studied. At DSC, we have structured our programming opportunities so that students can be active local and global citizens.

Experiential Learning Week

Each year, DSC students take part in our Experiential Learning Week. These exciting and educational programs are designed to give students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the walls of the classroom and are structured around one or more of the following themes:

- Leadership Skills and Collaboration
- Enhancing Cultural Awareness
- Community Involvement Through Service Projects
- Enriching Creativity
- Adventure and Sports

By participating in these learning experiences, students will enhance their learning competencies while developing skills in the following areas: Independence, Leadership, Organization, and Collaboration.

Community Service

The purpose of community involvement is to reinforce civic responsibility, strengthen the community, and develop a positive self-image. Volunteering is a great way to gain experience, build up one's resume for university entrance, and become a well-rounded person.

As part of the OSSD requirement, students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service. We work with students to find suitable placements so that students can meet this graduation requirement. In addition, during our Experiential Learning Week, students travel to different destinations and have the opportunity to work towards their community service hours on various service projects.



Higher Education and Pathways

DSC International School adopts a comprehensive community approach to fostering student success. Our dedicated staff collaborates with families to ensure a unified effort in helping each student identify their strengths, learning preferences, and passions. This partnership enables students to explore various opportunities, empowering them to achieve their full potential both at DSC and beyond. This supportive process begins with the initial introduction to the school and continues through graduation. Each year, individualized plans are developed and refined with the guidance of our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors, teacher mentors, social workers, and parents.

Our Higher Education and Pathways Advisors play a crucial role in guiding students in Grades 7-12 through academic and post-secondary planning. This team offers a diverse range of ongoing support and tailored workshops designed to ensure student success. They work collaboratively to customize academic planning according to each student's future aspirations, while also fostering a balanced program that promotes social-emotional development alongside academic achievement.

Interconnected Community Equals Student Success

Together, we ensure students are successful and develop the academic and social-emotional skills required for success in school and life.

Higher Education and Pathways Advisors

Assisting students with the development of an individualized education plan, such as:

- course selection
- extracurricular activities
- community service
- university selection
- application procedures

Teacher Mentors

Working closely with the students to monitor their academic progress, and help them to reach their set goals and graduation requirements for the university and program of their choice.



Parents

Helping students to identify their goals and understand the process by attending our:

- workshops
- course selection fairs
- university fairs
- consultations

Social Workers

Supporting students with social-emotional development, assist their educational and personal journey with our on-campus and confidential professional counselling service.

University Pathways

Our ongoing success ensures a bright pathway to higher education worldwide. Every year, our graduates receive offers from the **top 100 universities** worldwide.

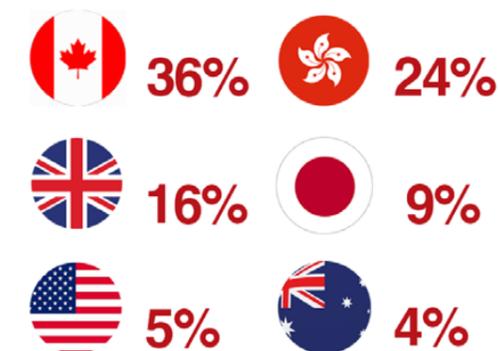
Please visit our website to view the full list of universities.



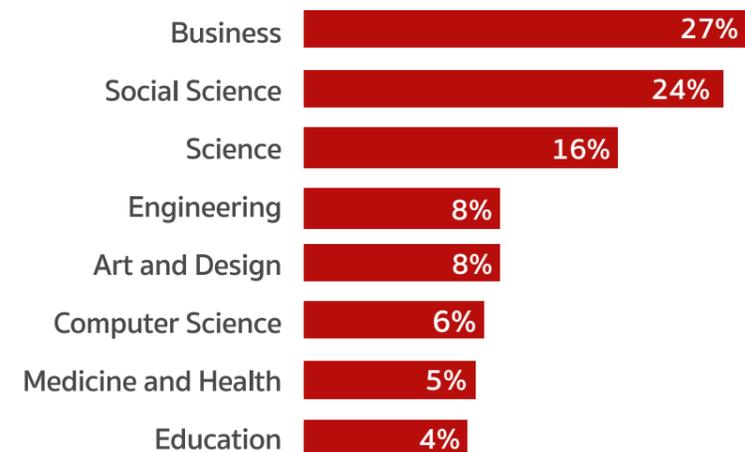
University Acceptance Rate (2021 – 2024)



Top 6 University Destinations (2021 – 2024)



Top 8 University fields accepted by our graduates (2021 – 2024)



Admissions

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Email: admissions@dsc.edu.hk

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Dream! Succeed! Celebrate!