

Sec 4 Express & 5 Normal (Academic) Education and Career Guidance

HOUGANG
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education and Career Guidance (ECG)

Exploring Opportunities

Post-secondary education pathways
Career Aspirations

Discovering Purpose

Values, interests, personality,
skills & strengths



Staying Relevant

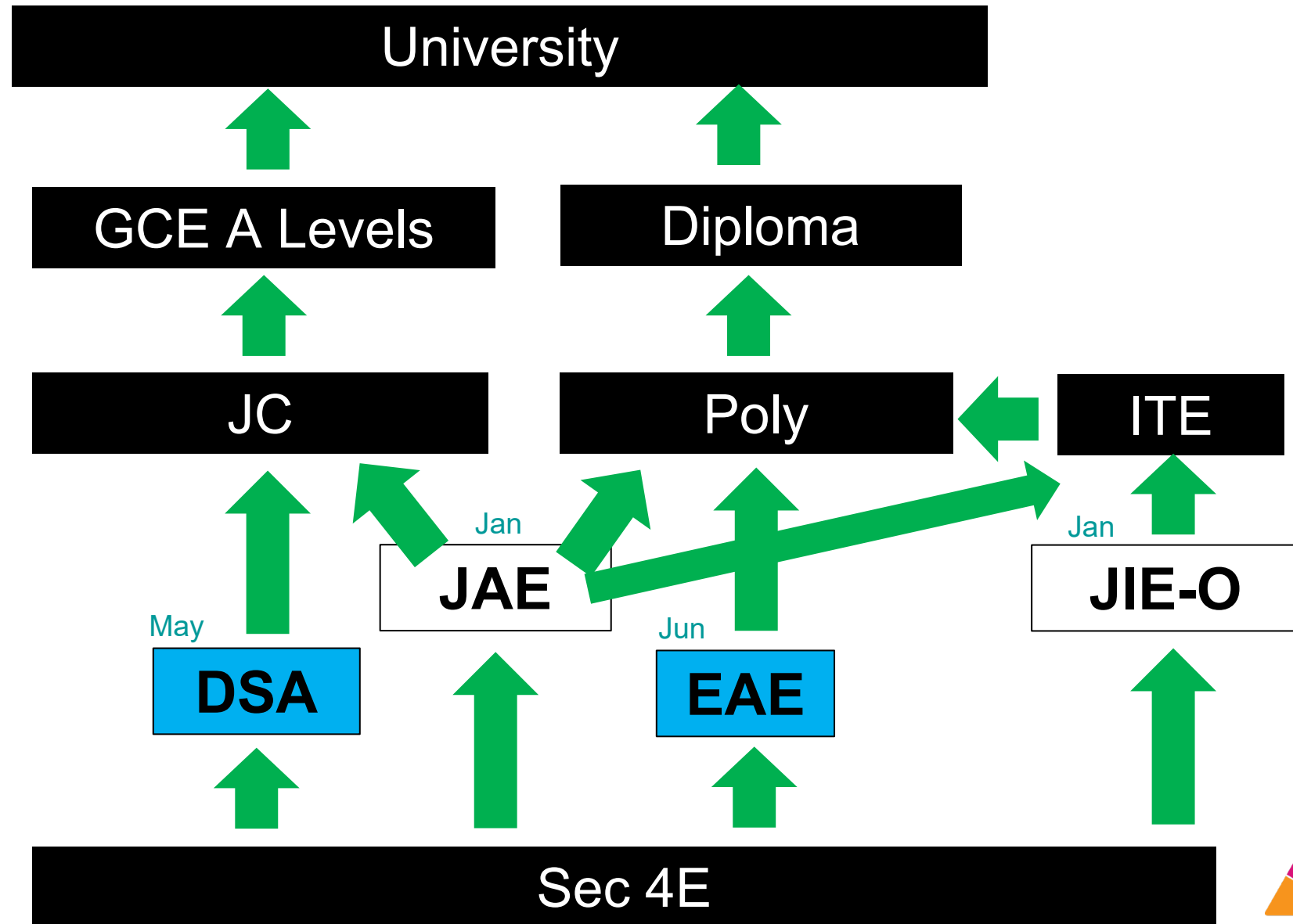
Working towards education
and career goals

Post Sec Pathways for Express

HOUGANG
SECONDARY SCHOOL

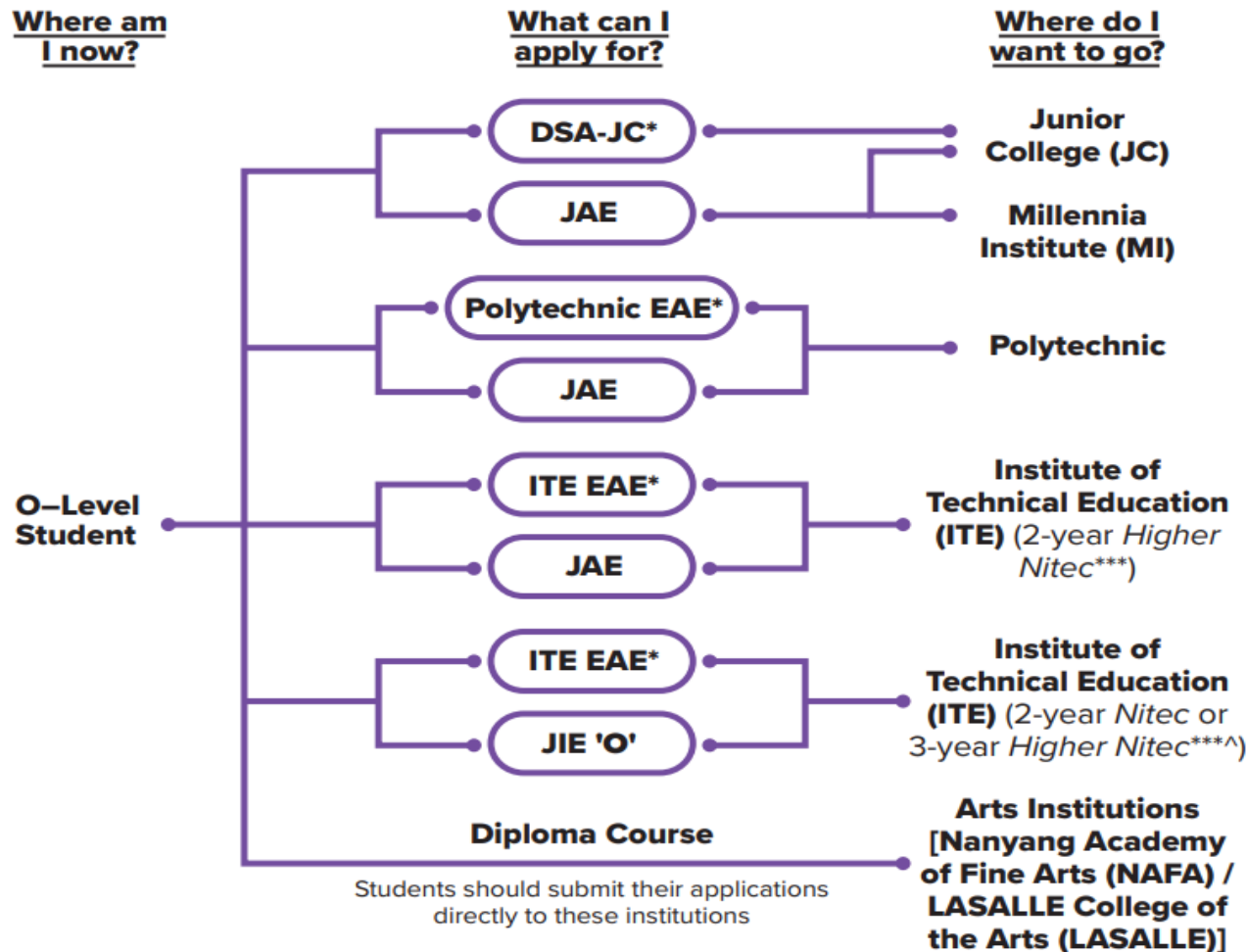


Post-Secondary Pathway for Express students





Post Sec Pathways – Express



All pathways lead to University!

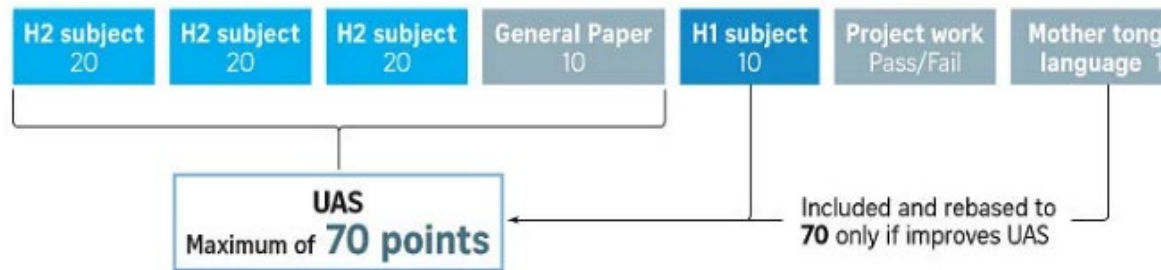
Admission Exercise	Institutions	Pathway	Eligibility Criteria
JAE	JC	2-yr A Level or IB Diploma	Gross L1R5 ≤ 20 + Grade Requirements
	MI	3-yr A Level	Gross L1R4 ≤ 20 + Grade Requirements
	Polytechnic	3-yr Diploma	Net ELR2B2 ≤ 26* + Min. Entry Requirements
	ITE	<i>2-yr Higher Nitec</i>	Sat for at least 5 'O' Level subjects over a max. of 2 years + Min. Entry Requirements
JIE 'O'	ITE	<i>3-yr Higher Nitec</i> or <i>2-yr Nitec</i>	Sat for at least 5 'O' Level subjects + Min. Entry Requirements
Arts Insti. Admission Exercise	Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE)	3-yr Diploma	25 points in 4 GCE 'O' Level subjects excluding English <i>(Visit websites for other admission requirements)</i>

Junior College (JC) /Millennia Institute (MI): A-Levels

Recent changes to A-level Curriculum

Fourth content-based A-level subject to be dropped from university admission score

UAS COMPUTATION FROM 2026



- **General Paper** will become a compulsory subject.
- Knowledge and Inquiry will be offered only as a contrasting subject.
- **Project work** will be graded on a Pass or Fail basis. Students will need to pass it to be eligible for admission to Autonomous Universities.
- **Progressive removal of Mid-year exams** for JCs and MI from year 2024.



Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE)

Guiding Students To Make Their 12 Choices



Passion Basket

First 3 - 4 Choices

Consider courses that **most align** with your Values, Interests, Personality & Skills (V.I.P.S) and strengths.



Practical Basket

Next 4 Choices

Choose courses you are **interested in** and stand a **good chance in securing**. (where your net score is **within** the range of the last year's aggregate score).



Prudence Basket

Last 4 Choices

Include alternative courses and institutions where the latest aggregate scores are **higher** than yours. With this, your chances of securing a place will be higher.

Restricted - Only for Internal Circulation

Maximize the number of course choices in each application.

- **JAE and JIE "O" are separate applications**, and each has 12 choices.
- **Direct Applications** to Art Institutions – NAFA & Lasalle



MOE Coursefinder

<https://www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg/quick-links/For-Students/>

To explore Poly, JC & ITE courses with latest cut off points

Example

MySkillsFuture | ECG Bookcase | **CourseFinder**

[MySkillsFuture For Secondary Students](#) | [Education and Career Guidance Bookcase](#) | [MOE Course Finder](#)

The screenshot shows the MOE Coursefinder interface. On the left, there are filter sections: 'Criteria' (with a 'Clear all' link), 'Colleges' (with an 'ITE College' checkbox), 'Aggregate' (with an 'Aggregate type' dropdown and 'Aggregate score' input), 'Field of study' (with checkboxes for Applied and Health Sciences, Business and Services, Electronics and Info-comm Technology, Engineering, Hospitality, and Media and Design), and 'Qualification' (with a checked 'GCE N-Level' option). A large blue arrow points from the 'MOE Course Finder' link in the navigation bar to the 'Criteria' section. On the right, the 'Courses in ITE' section is displayed, showing 'Showing 50 courses' and 'Qualifications: GCE N-Level'. The list includes: 'Higher Nitec in AI Applications (3 years)', 'Higher Nitec in Accounting (3 years)', 'Higher Nitec in Applied Food Science (3 years)', and 'Higher Nitec in Architectural Technology (3 years)'. Each course entry shows admission types, college locations, and qualification requirements.

School Website

Aptitude Based Admissions (ABA) [DSA (JC) / EAE (Poly)]

HOU GANG
SECONDARY SCHOOL





Why ABA?

- Do not have to compete for admission to Post-Sec Educational Institutions (PSEIs) based on their academic results compared to everyone else.
- Secure a place in a competitive course.
- Have relevant aptitude and interests to support their EAE application.
- Clear about the course they wish to pursue.



Changes in Education Landscape

Post-Secondary

1. Recent changes to **A-level Curriculum**
2. Expansion and changes in **Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)**
3. New ITE curriculum with **shortened route to Higher Nitec**
4. **More progression pathways for ITE graduates**, including offering of Work-Study and Technical Diplomas by ITE

Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL)

5. Expansion of **Aptitude-Based Admissions at Autonomous Universities**
6. **Interdisciplinary learning** in IHL
7. **University of the Arts Singapore** in addition to the **six autonomous universities**

Aptitude-based Admissions e.g. EAE, DSA

Direct School Admission (DSA JC)

based on talents and achievements like sports, performing arts or academic areas not demonstrated at the O-level exams.

THE STRAITS TIMES

SINGAPORE

Strong in a CCA or leadership skills?
DSA could suit you



Source: [Strong in a CCA or leadership skills? DSA could suit you | The Straits Times](#)

THE STRAITS TIMES

BRANDED CONTENT

Jump-starting her career:
How teen lands dream
poly course even before
her O-level exams

Through the Early Admissions Exercise,
she is now building a strong educational
foundation at Republic Polytechnic



Source: [Jump-starting her career: How teen lands dream poly course even before her O-level exams | The Straits Times](#)

Early Admissions Exercise (EAE Poly/ITE)

based on
aptitudes &
interests

Find out more from
[MOE Post-secondary Admissions](#)

More aptitude-based varsity admissions to shift emphasis away from academic grades

THE STRAITS TIMES



Sandra Davie
Senior Education Correspondent

UPDATED 30 JAN 2020, 5:53 PM SGT



“... universities should move in the same direction as NTU, which recently committed to [extending aptitude-based admissions](#) to 50 per cent of each intake over the next few years....some courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Law, and Architecture have had a long tradition of using aptitude-based admissions...”



What is ABA?

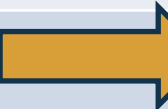
- For students who have **strong aptitude and interest** in specific fields of study.
- Students who have applied will be assessed through different modes e.g. interviews.
- These will take place before their O-Level examinations.
- **The students who were successful in their DSA (JC) / EAE (Poly) application will still need to meet the two criteria.**

Criteria : 1. Min. Entry Requirements (MERs)
2. Subject pre-requisites.



Junior College (JC) – 2 years to A Levels

Entry requirements - obtain **20 points or less gross L1R5 aggregate score** excluding CCA bonus points and to meet the minimum entry requirements (MER).

L1R5	
L1	English or Higher Mother Tongue
R1	Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities
R2	Any 1 best-scoring subject from Mathematics or Science 
R3	Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities, Mathematics or Science
R4, R5	Any 2 best-scoring subjects except Religious Knowledge

Subject	Grade
English	1 - 6
Any 1 Mathematics Additional Mathematics / Mathematics	1 - 7
Any 1 Mother Tongue Language (MTL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTL: Chinese, Malay, Tamil • MTL approved by MOE in lieu of an official MTL (MTL-in-lieu): Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Thai, Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTL or MTL-in-lieu: 1-7 • Higher MTL: 1-8 • 'B' Syllabus: Merit or Pass <p>Note: There is no Higher level or 'B' Syllabus for "MTL-in-lieu".</p>



Millenia Institute (MI) – 3 Years to A Levels

Entry requirements - obtain **20 points or less for gross L1R4 aggregate score** excluding **CCA** bonus points and meet the minimum entry requirements (MER).

L1R4	
L1	English or Higher Mother Tongue
R1, R2	Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities, Mathematics or Science
R3, R4	Any 2 best-scoring subjects except Religious Knowledge



Subject	Grade
English	1 - 6
Any 1 Mathematics Additional Mathematics / Mathematics	1 - 7
Any 1 Mother Tongue Language (MTL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTL: Chinese, Malay, Tamil • MTL approved by MOE in lieu of an official MTL (MTL-in-lieu): Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Thai, Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTL or MTL-in-lieu: 1-7 • Higher MTL: 1-8 • 'B' Syllabus: Merit or Pass <p>Note: There is no Higher level or 'B' Syllabus for "MTL-in-lieu".</p>



Art Institutions – NAFA & LASALLE

3 Years to Diploma

Entry requirements - obtain **25 points or less, raw aggregate score for Best 4 subjects excluding English** and CCA bonus points, and to meet the minimum entry requirements (MER).

NAFA

ENGLISH – C6 OR BETTER



LASALLE

ENGLISH – C6 OR BETTER



Other admission requirements

Auditions

Interviews

Write Ups

Portfolio



Polytechnic – 3 Years to Diploma

Entry requirements - obtain **26 points or less**, net **ELR2B2 aggregate score** including CCA bonus points and to meet the minimum entry requirements (MER) as shown in the table below.

** Each Course has Aggregate Cut-Off Points*

1

Net ELR2B2 (5 Subjects) ≤ 26 points*

EL= English Language, R2 = Relevant 2 Subjects, B2 = Best 2 Subjects; includes deduction of CCA bonus points

2

Meet Minimum Entry Requirements (Course-dependent)

- **194 courses across 9 course clusters**

- **Relevant Subjects (per course)**

A • Humanities
• Media-related

B • Business & Management

C • Sciences, Engineering
• ICT, Built Environment

D • Built Environment
• Media & Design

Institute of Technical Education (ITE)

2 Year Higher Nitec

5 “O” LEVEL SUBJECTS

Meet Minimum Entry Requirements
(Course Dependent)

ELB4-A

ELR1B3-B

ELR2B2C

3 Year Higher Nitec / 2 Year Nitec

2 “O” LEVEL SUBJECTS

Grade 1 - 8

OR

COMPLETED “O” LEVEL



What to prepare?

General application

- Write Up - Personal, Talent and Achievement.
- Pre-interview – Aptitude test, Pre-interview survey, Auditions, Trials.
- Interview – Individual / Group, Online or Onsite.
- Portfolio.

Sample - Diploma in Accountancy

I learnt how to generate P and L, balance sheets invoice data entry into Sage and do sales spreadsheets for an outlet under <ABC>. This experience piqued my interest as I love working with numbers, organizing and analyzing data. Through this course, I want to learn more about the ever changing accounting field. I aspire to be an accountant to help my family business grow successfully.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic
600 character course write up
3

What to include in a Portfolio?

Category	Examples
Academic Achievements	Top in English Language and Geography for Level in 2024
Non Academic Achievements	Edusave Character Award 2024
Leadership Experience	School Council, Prefectorial Board, Key Leadership Roles in CCA
Competitions	International, Regional, National, Zonal
External Activities	Volunteer Work, Part Time Work
Talent – e.g., Arts	Art pieces, written articles, grading certificates, record of performance
Skills – e.g., IT, Language	Created websites, mobile application, foreign language proficiency certificates
Recommendation letters / Testimonials	From teachers, employers

POLY EAE Process:
Stage 2 - Pre-Interview:
Portfolio



Group and Case Interview: To Showcase Your Ability

-  Ability to work in a Team and under pressure
-  Ability to accept and improve from constructive criticism
-  Ability to communicate verbally
-  Analytical, Creativity and Problem Solving Skills

POLY EAE Process:
Stage 3 - Interview





Other Considerations

- Application to Poly EAE max. 3 course choices i.e. 3 x personal write up and 1x talent and achievement write up
- Application to ITE EAE max. 3 course choices i.e. 3 x personal write up and 1x talent and achievement write up
- Visit JC websites for DSA specific requests. Applications are not limited.



SIL & EAE Preparation

Aligning SIL project to EAE assessment criteria.

HSU MYAT NOE, JULIA (40)



Julia Hsu applied for Poly-EAE Diploma in Apparel Design and Merchandising at TP and was offered. She has accepted the offer.

Learning to use a sewing machine

Julia's SIL journey!



REFLECTION:

There were many challenges that I had to overcome when learning how to use the sewing machine. Threading the machine was difficult on its own, but my thread would constantly jam the fabric the first few times I tried using it.

However, my father was knowledgeable in this aspect, which was extremely helpful since he was able to help me fix my mistakes. Surprisingly, we even bonded while he was teaching me the ropes!

GOAL:

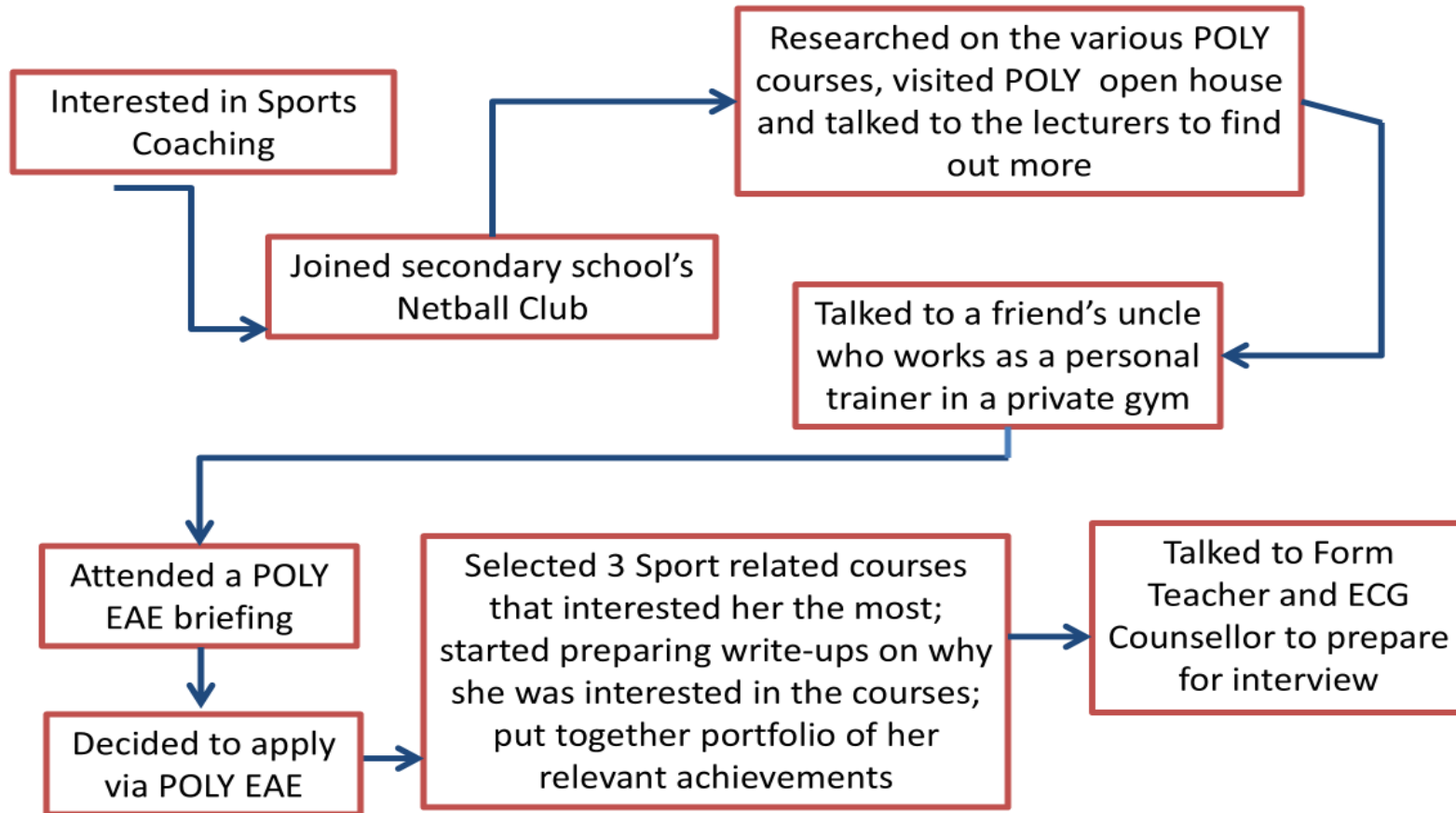
After acquiring knowledge on how to use a sewing machine by watching youtube videos, I wanted to challenge myself by creating a garment that I would actually wear. I wanted to do this by upcycling old clothing that I'd otherwise deem useless.

I found inspiration on Pinterest; a way to turn an old t-shirt into a halter top:



Student Annie's Story

POLY EAE PROCESS



POLY EAE STORIES

THE STRAITS TIMES

She is now a third-year diploma student in business studies.



When Ms Hemavarshnee Saravanan was in Secondary 4, she started a hair accessories business with a friend. It sealed her decision to apply to a polytechnic via the early admissions exercise. PHOTO: Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC

Hemavarshnee Saravanan was in Secondary 4, she started a hair accessories business with a friend to sell scrunchies in school-approved colours.

“Students want to look as cute as possible, but it was hard to do that with school rules. So we decided to sell white or green hair ties to give students more options instead of just using black rubber bands,” says the former St Margaret’s Secondary student.

According to the Ministry of Education, applications and admissions via the polytechnic EAE have remained relatively consistent over the past three years. About 13,500 students applied for the polytechnic EAE in 2023 for admission in 2024, and 5,500 received an offer.

Miss Jolene Chong, 20, graduated in May with a diploma in applied AI and analytics from Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP). She shared during the EAE interview that she was involved in freelance work during her secondary school days, developing websites from scratch for clients from a job portal.



She topped her diploma programme with a 4.0 GPA and will be studying computer science at the National University of Singapore.

Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/parenting-education/how-to-guide-your-child-to-secure-a-polytechnic-spot-before-the-o-levels>



Miss Jolene Chong, 20, who graduated in May with a diploma in applied AI and analytics from Nanyang Polytechnic, entered the institution through the early admissions exercise. PHOTO: NANYANG POLYTECHNIC



Education & Career Guidance @ The Engagement Centre (Canteen)

**School Term Tues & Wed
(except PH) 8am to 5pm**

Booking link



<https://go.gov.sg/hss-ecgc>

Book an appointment -
One to One or Group

<https://go.gov.sg/hss-ecgc>

Drop me an email:

[**Juan_peiling@schools.gov.sg**](mailto:Juan_peiling@schools.gov.sg)

- Help students discover their strengths, interests and aspirations.
- Guide students in making informed plans for their education and career through individual and group guidance sessions or workshops.
- Support students in their applications to POLY EAE, ITE EAE, DSA-JC.

Resource

HS School Website

The screenshot shows the website for Hougang Secondary School. The header includes the school logo and navigation menus for 'ABOUT US', 'DEPARTMENTS', 'KEY PROGRAMMES', 'CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES', 'HBL-SIL', and 'QUICK LINKS'. Below the header, there is a 'For Students' section with a sidebar menu on the left containing links like 'Admin', 'Appeal For Transfer Into HS', 'Assessment', 'Direct School Admission 2024', 'HBL SIL', 'HS ICT Helpdesk Form', 'For Parents', and 'For Students'. The main content area features logos for Google Workspace, the Ministry of Education Singapore, and the Student Learning Space. It also includes a Facebook icon, a QR code with the GO.gov.sg logo, and links to 'HS Facebook', 'MySkillsFuture', and 'ECG Bookcase'.




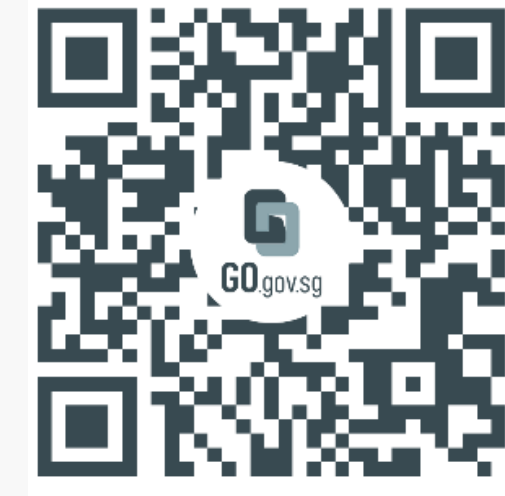
HS ECG Padlet

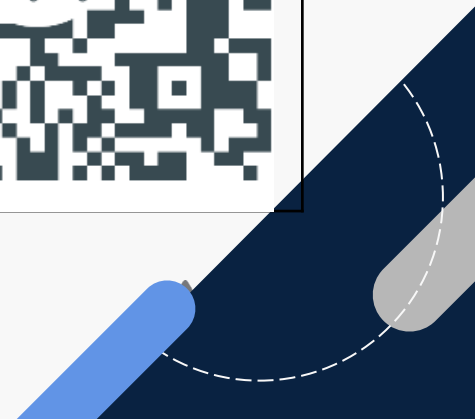
The screenshot shows a Padlet board titled 'Education and Career Guidance' with the tagline 'Discover Purpose - Explore Opportunities - Stay Relevant'. The board has a space-themed background and several pinned cards. The cards include: 'FAQ', 'Events 2025', 'EAE 2025', 'ECGC Contact', 'ECG Resource', 'Pathways for "O" level students' (with an 'Overview of Post O-Level Education Landscape' diagram), 'Compilation Poly / JC Open Houses 2025', 'THE MEDIA CHALLENGE 2025' (with a poster for 'THE MEDIA CHALLENGE 20 & 21 MARCH 2025'), and '2024 ECG BUZZ IS ARE YOU READY FOR INTERVIEWS?'. A QR code with the GO.gov.sg logo is visible at the bottom right of the board.



Resource



<p>POLY EAE APPLICATION PORTAL</p>	<p>ITE EAE APPLICATION PORTAL</p>	<p>MOE COURSE FINDER</p>	<p>MOE SCHOOL FINDER DSA-JC</p>
			



Resource



<p>NAFA</p>	<p>LASALLE</p>	<p>MY SKILLS FUTURE SECONDARY KNOW YOURSELF</p>	<p>DISCOVER NYC</p> <p>EXPLORE INDUSTRIES</p>
			

Thanks
You

