

Frequently Asked Questions on School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) and Multi-talent Development Scholarship (MDS) for Successful SNDAS Student Admittees

- (a) Are local students pursuing non-local secondary curricula, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) or the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level, eligible for nomination under SNDAS?**

No. Only local students pursuing the local secondary curriculum and taking the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination will be eligible for nomination under SNDAS.

- (b) Will the nominations be processed if student nominees failed to include their chosen SNDAS-participating programme as one of their 20 JUPAS programme choices?**

No. It is a prerequisite for student nominees to apply for admission to universities through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) in parallel and include their chosen SNDAS-participating programme as one of their 20 JUPAS programme choices.

Participating universities may also require student nominees to include their chosen SNDAS-participating programme as one of their JUPAS Band A programme choices. School principals, teachers and students are advised to study the specific admission requirements for each SNDAS-participating programme carefully.

- (c) Can students apply for SNDAS without being nominated by school principals?**

No. Students must be nominated by their school principals to participate in SNDAS.

- (d) Are those entering for the HKDSE as private candidates eligible for SNDAS?**

No. Only school candidates can be nominated for SNDAS.

(e) Are there any restrictions on the nominations to be made by school principals under SNDAS?

Each local secondary school has a quota of **two** nominations for nominating students with exceptional talents and interests in specific disciplines / areas to participate in SNDAS. Each student nominee can apply for admission to **one** designated University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded undergraduate programme.

(f) How will SNDAS applications be assessed?

The universities have drawn up the specific admission requirements under SNDAS for each participating programme (click [here](#)). The universities will arrange interviews for **ALL** students nominated for SNDAS to assess the suitability of the nominees for specific programmes. Written / practical tests may also be arranged by the universities for further assessment.

(g) While the universities will make firm offers to successful SNDAS student nominees in June 2026, can these nominees decide on whether to accept the offers after the release of the HKDSE Examination results?

No. Successful nominees must decide whether to accept the offer **before** the release of the HKDSE Examination results. Once accepted, the **firm offer is binding** and the nominees **WILL NOT** be considered / accepted by other programmes regardless of their HKDSE Examination results. Their JUPAS applications will automatically be removed from the JUPAS application system.

(h) For SNDAS student nominees who have rejected the firm offers, are they allowed to re-accept the offers after the release of HKDSE Examination result?

No. Nominees must decide whether to accept the firm offers **before** the release of the HKDSE Examination results. The rejected SNDAS offers **cannot** be re-accepted.

Students who have rejected the firm offers will be considered as **unsuccessful nominees**, their JUPAS applications will continue to be processed. If they choose to apply for the same programme through JUPAS, the universities will consider their JUPAS applications after the release of the HKDSE Examination results.

(i) What are the differences between SNDAS and the School Principal's Nominations Scheme (SPN) under JUPAS?

The major differences between SNDAS and SPN under JUPAS are tabulated below:

Feature	SNDAS	SPN under JUPAS
Number of Programmes Applied for	One	Three
Realm of Achievements	Academic and non-academic	Non-academic
General Entrance Requirement for University Admissions	Not applicable (Admissions are not subject to HKDSE Examination results. Each participating undergraduate programme has its own admission requirements.)	Applicable
Admission Interview	Required	Not mandatory
Firm Offer	Applicable (Firm offers to be made before the release of HKDSE Examination results.)	Not applicable (Individual candidates may be given conditional offers or bonus points.)
Application Route	In parallel with JUPAS	JUPAS

(j) Can SNDAS nominees simultaneously apply for admission to universities via SPN under JUPAS or the respective direct admission schemes for prospective student-athletes established by the eight UGC-funded universities under the UGC's Student-Athlete Learning Support and Admission Scheme?

No. In the event that a SNDAS nominee simultaneously applies for admission to universities via the above scheme(s), his/her SNDAS application will automatically be disqualified.

(k) Are all students studying in the schools for Hong Kong children on the Mainland eligible for nomination under SNDAS?

No. SNDAS only also cover the schools for Hong Kong children on the Mainland listed under the HKDSE Participating School List published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority; HKDSE candidates from the related schools for Hong Kong children on the Mainland are eligible to be nominated, provided that they fulfill the criteria listed under “Eligibility” of SNDAS.

(l) Can unsuccessful SNDAS student nominees apply for the Multi-talent Development Scholarship (MDS) offered by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB)?

No. The eight UGC-funded universities will only select students demonstrating outstanding performance in arts, sports and/or community service from the pool of successful SNDAS student admittees for award of the scholarship.

(m) Are successful SNDAS student admittees with outstanding achievements in areas other than arts, sports and/or community service eligible for the MDS?

No. Only successful SNDAS student admittees who demonstrated outstanding performance in the three designated areas (i.e. arts, sports and/or community service) are eligible for the MDS. The HYAB will provide general guidelines and selection criteria which define the area of achievements for reference by universities.

(n) Do successful SNDAS student admittees who are interested in the MDS need to submit an application?

No. The eight UGC-funded universities will select students demonstrating outstanding performance in arts, sports and/or community service from the pool of successful SNDAS student admittees for award of the MDS. No separate application is required.

- (o) Does the HYAB continue to disburse the MDS to students in the event of graduation deferral?**

HYAB disburses scholarship to awardees across the normative duration of their 4-year undergraduate degree programmes.

- (p) Whom shall I approach if I have any question relating to the MDS to be awarded for SNDAS student admittees?**

For enquiries on the MDS, please contact HYAB at 3509 7001 or scholarship@hyab.gov.hk.