

Welcome from College Counselling
Summary of A1 Orientation Information with Important Points for Immediate Consideration
Jump Start Planner

Congratulations on your admittance! Now is the time to start planning your future.

- Last thing you want to hear is that you must think about leaving Lyceum, but
- A Levels are your stepping stone to university, and these two years will pass very quickly
- The College Counselling office staff is here to guide you through the application process.
- You must work hard for the best result: start right away, and take nothing for granted.
- Formal meetings will begin in January, but you may see your Guidance or College Counsellor any time you have questions.

College Advising The result you get will directly reflect the effort YOU have put in.

- Parents and students must make decisions about further education now: Which degree? Where? At what cost? Honest and frank discussions and decisions now will save wasted time and heartache later on. Educate yourselves about options, costs, aid/scholarship, etc.
 - Parents, it is important that you make decisions early. “My parents just decided I could apply abroad,” will not be accepted as an excuse for missed deadlines.
 - Parents, make clear any restrictions. It is much kinder to tell your son/daughter that you will not send them abroad *before* they spend enormous amounts of time and energy on applications – it is harder to tell them not to go after they have received admission than before they start applying.
 - Students, start figuring out who you are and what you want from university and from life.
 - Read everything in Counselling for Higher Education section of the Lyceum website. Resources are available in the library and at the photocopy shop.
- The College Counsellors will support you for whatever applications you choose to pursue.
- Pakistan: More Lyceum students will go to university in Pakistan than abroad. Applications abroad seem to get talked about more only because they are more complicated and require an earlier start.
 - Make sure you meet the requirements for an IBCC equivalence certificate, which is required for local universities. All students should be eligible to study in Pakistan.
 - Meet your counsellor in spring of the A1 year.
- Abroad: To do a good job for applications abroad, you must start this year. (Ex: students in the US start a year ahead.) You must do it yourself –your parents/friends cannot do it for you:
 - US applicants: take your first SAT/ACT test in A1 year. We wrote to you about this before the summer. We can’t make you do it, but you will really undermine your ability to select the right schools and make strong applications if you leave first testing until A2.
 - SAT: Oct, Dec, Mar, May. ACT: Sep, Oct, Dec Apr, Jun. Even May and June are good and do not conflict directly with AS exams. (If you plan and prepare ahead, you can do it!)
 - You must have a formal, pre-scheduled appointment with a College Counsellor during A1 spring in order to apply abroad. (If you would go abroad if you could, then you should have the appointment - you never know when your circumstances might change.)
 - You will need AI spring and summer, as well as AII fall, to fit everything in. Deadlines for resumes, application lists and teacher recommendations, etc. will be late A1/early A2.
- The application itself, your representative, must be excellent in order to earn acceptances you think you deserve. You need time during A2 fall to prepare excellent applications. Don’t even bother choosing competitive schools if you won’t leave time to apply properly.

- You MUST use your summer for research and come A2 fall with a short list of schools so you can hit the ground running.

In the Meantime Prove your abilities inside the classroom and out.

- Do well in school - your transcript is one of your most important credentials, test and exam scores must be supported by strong school grades – good test scores/O/AS grades are not always enough.
 - This will lead to:
 - Good AS results in June – avoid re-sits in fall A2!
 - Good transcript (English general/language too)!
 - Good projected grades!
 - Good teacher recommendations!
 - Good entrance test results!
- You must show interest and achievement in all subjects, not just those related to future studies. Schools want to know that you can do well in mandatory courses as well as elective ones; you will also have required courses at university, and they need to know that you will take them seriously.
- Maintain strong grades and attendance all the way through your AII mock examinations. Sometimes you will need to have a final transcript. Make it strong throughout.
- Excellent command of English is expected by all schools. You think because you can speak fluently that your communication skills are good, but most of you do not have strong writing skills, and the SAT critical reading scores are the lowest of all sections. Even if you got an A/A* on the O Level, you will need to work hard on your English.
 - Have some foresight. Even if a school does not seem to emphasize English for admission, strong language skills will help you succeed in university and help you to be a more desirable employee afterwards. Companies value good communication skills.
- Remain involved in a few selected extracurricular activities
 - Seek deeper involvement and responsible positions and make meaningful contributions.
- Get to know your teachers, your guidance counselor and your college counselor. The better they know you, the better they will be able to advocate for you in the admissions process.
- You are responsible for knowing everything that we send to your Lyceum e-mail address, that is posted on our notice board and that is on the website.

Take charge! These are your applications – this is YOUR future.

- This is your process – own it! We will guide you, but treat you as responsible adults.
- Your interest in the outcome will be evident by your behavior – if you really care, you will make the time and effort, and if you don't care, you will make excuses.

Welcome to The Lyceum, and we look forward to meeting and working with you.

Jump-Start Planner

Where might you apply? How to you rank your options?

- In Pakistan (everyone should have options at home)?
- Abroad
 - Asia
 - Australia/NZ
 - Canada
 - Continental Europe
 - Middle East (including Turkey)
 - US
 - UK

What are your primary considerations?

- Field of study
- Eventual final degree or qualification sought (Ex: MA/MBA/PhD)
- Degree structure (Ex: length of programme, degree of focus)
- Co-curricular opportunities (internship/research/etc)
- Cost/Availability of scholarship or financial aid or part time work
- Admission requirements and difficulty
- Quality: do not confuse fame or even rankings with quality
- Location: distance from home/proximity to relatives
- Preferences

What are the things you should start doing right now?

- Start figuring out who you are and what you want from university and from life.
- Have discussions with family, what degree, where and amount of financial support
 - It is important for them to be clear NOW about what they will support
- Plan standardized testing- SAT/SAT2/TOEFL/IELTS
- Research; schools, countries, majors, etc.
 - Resources, website, photocopy shop, library, etc
- Read information docs and attend meetings
- Plan when to meet with your college counselor

What are things you should continue to do?

- Do well in school in all subjects & maintain good attendance, this will lead to:
 - good AS results in June – avoid re-sits in fall AII
 - good transcript (English general/language too)
 - good projected grades (based on AS results and A1 grades)
 - good teacher recommendations
 - good essays (from good writing skills)
 - good entrance test results
- Remain involved in your chosen ECA, seek leadership or meaningful contribution
- Get to know your teachers and counsellors

How should you use your A1 summer?

- Make your short list of universities and be ready to apply in the fall
- Get to 90% completion on your UCASstatement / ComApp essays and supplements/ other essays
- Create your resume
- Explore potential areas of interest by doing internships/shadowing/volunteer work