

## NUS COLLEGE APPLICATION

Thank you for applying to NUS College. In this NUS College-specific section, we would like you to:

- Reflect on your co-curricular records and non-academic activities (and, optionally, contextualise them if need be);
- Tell us more about who you are, how you relate to others, and how you think. To do this, you will have to provide two short answers (maximum of 100 words each), and write a longer essay (maximum of 600 words).

Please answer in Standard English.

### I. Reflection on Co-Curricular and/or Non-Academic Activities

Near the end of this process, you will be able to upload your Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) Records, and/or a documentation of your non-academic pursuits, if these are available. As part of your application to NUS College, we would now like you to write a little about your co-curricular and/or non-academic activities.

*Mandatory:* Please **reflect** on your CCA record and/or non-academic pursuits, in about 100 words or fewer. Rather than repeat the information that will be in the records you upload, use this opportunity to process and think more about them. If you do not have an official record of your non-academic pursuits, you may still reflect on these pursuits in this section. Here are some examples of questions you can address in this reflection:

- What was the rationale or principle behind what you chose to be involved with? You can even tell us about what you chose *not* to do, and why.
- Did you participate in a wide-ranging number of activities, or do your activities revolve around one or a few main interests and themes?
- Were your involvement and interests steady and consistent, or did they change, evolve, and/or deepen over the years?
- If you spent more time on some activities and interests than others, how did you make decisions about what you prioritized?

[TEXT BOX 1] (550 characters) (compulsory)

*Optional:* Please **contextualise** your CCA records and/or non-academic pursuits. Sometimes, records make more sense if we understand their contexts and even constraints. For example, perhaps your school did not offer any or many CCAs, or limited students to a fixed number of them. Maybe you created your own extra-curricular opportunities that you would like us to know about. Perhaps you had to forgo some overseas experiences because of health concerns or familial reasons. Perhaps you do not have documentation on your non-academic pursuits. This would be the place to include such information.

If your record is self-explanatory, then there is no need to complete this section. If you do choose to provide context, do so in 100 words or fewer.

[TEXT BOX 2] (550 characters) (optional)

## **II. Telling Us More: Who Are You? How Do You Relate to Others? How Do You Think?**

**Please respond to the following question in 100 words or fewer:**

You presumably learnt your values from someone, or through some process or experience. Tell us about one value that came about in a way you did not expect.

[TEXT BOX 3] (550 characters) (compulsory)

**Please respond to the following question in 100 words or fewer:**

How do “other people” function for you? What roles do others play for you and your sense of self? Do you look to others for affirmation, confirmation, differentiation, direction, recognition, validation, nothing at all, and/or something else?

[TEXT BOX 4] (550 characters) (compulsory)

**Write an original essay of no more than 600 words responding to one of the following prompts. Please indicate which question you are answering. Please also use new paragraphs where appropriate to present your writing clearly; ample space has been provided.**

**Not only should your essay be original, but we urge you not to reuse essays you have written for other occasions and purposes. Your response to the prompt should give us some insight into you and your thought processes. In particular, we are looking for you to be analytical and reflective. Though you should respond to the prompt you’ve chosen, you can do so using any subject or example, and that subject can come from any discipline (whether the humanities, social sciences, sciences, etc). If you do choose a technical subject, you should write about it using more generalist language; as a whole, you should assume an intelligent but non-specialist audience.**

1. There is probably a topic or subject (anything from a film or TV programme, to a scientific theory) that you enjoy. But is there an idea or topic that you enjoy *analysing*? Conversely, is there a subject that you found yourself enjoying *less* after you had analysed it? Do you generally think that analysis and enjoyment go hand-in-hand, or are they at odds?
2. Online, some people post their thoughts and experiences and often end by asking a variation of this question: “Anyone else, or just me?” Conversely, one of the more popular subreddits on the social media site Reddit prompts people to express their “unpopular opinions” (although, in response, there is often a debate about whether that opinion is truly unpopular, and there is also the paradox whereby the most popular unpopular opinions get upvoted). What is either the most popular or unpopular opinion you have? Do you think “popularity” matters, or should matter, when it comes to opinions and arguments?

3. “There’s no such thing as a stupid question.” Tell us why you agree or disagree with this. In either case, analyse a question you have asked, have heard someone ask, or just one you can imagine, that shows you that there are or aren’t stupid questions. Why is or was the question stupid/not stupid? What makes a question stupid?

[TEXT BOX 5] (3900 characters) (compulsory)