

“I have gotten BCC/B and I want to apply for Economics at SMU. What are my chances of getting in?”

Example 1: Give me the stat!

1. Avoid offering opinions on chances.
2. Guide student to refer to the AU's IGP and discuss.
3. Discuss "What can you do to improve your chances?"
4. Explore alternatives based on their VIPS and offer encouragement.

“I have failed a subject. Can I still apply for local universities?”

Example 2: One subject down!

1. Guide student to refer to the entry requirements of each AU.
2. Discuss student's choices and manage expectations.
3. Discuss "What can you do to improve your chances?"
4. Discuss the other possibilities and pathways.

“I have some experiences. Can I apply via ABA? How do I do it?”

Example 3: Making the best of my experiences!

1. Discuss "What do you know about ABA/holistic admissions"?
2. Explore the university websites to find out what's really needed.
3. Ask about their experiences and how it may be relevant to their aspirations and degree choices.
4. Discuss "What can you do to improve your chances?"
5. Discuss alternatives.

“What if I don’t get my preferred choice/get rejected? How do I appeal?”

Example 4: All Eggs in One Basket!

1. Show an example of an AU appeal website/page.
2. Discuss what else to be included in the appeal.
3. Explore alternative offers/choices.
4. Seek support from ECGC when appealing.

“I did not do well. I would like to repeat A-Levels...”

Example 5: Repeat till I make it!

1. Discuss student's motivation to repeat, understand his/her abilities and learning style. Advise student to speak to the school if he/she wishes to repeat as a school candidate.
2. Discuss the implications and challenges of repeating.
3. Highlight important considerations such as having to retake 3H2s and GP in one sitting, any change in syllabus/exam format etc. (Refer to Annex E for details)
4. Discuss the alternatives to repeating.

“A polytechnic diploma will take 2 years more. Is it better for me to apply to a private institution?”

Example 6: It's a waste of time!

1. Avoid offering opinions. Instead, discuss the features and implications (pros/cons) of both options. (Refer to Annex C and D for details on each option)
2. Help student think through and realise what is important for him/her (i.e aspirations, goals, VIPS).
3. Discuss the possibilities.

“I’m not sure whether I should apply for local or overseas universities. Are overseas unis better than local unis?”

Example 7: Is the grass there greener?

1. Ask student what is appealing about overseas universities, and why this is important? Assess if student has done some research on overseas universities.
2. Discuss local AUs’ programmes and opportunities. E.g. Overseas exchange programmes, NUS Overseas Colleges etc.
3. Discuss financial commitments and 3Rs of overseas universities. (Refer to Annex D for details)
4. Discuss alternatives such as doing postgraduate studies overseas.

“Should I take a gap year? Is there a way to work and study?”

Example 8: To Work or Not to!

1. Discuss the idea of "taking a gap year" and reasons for considering the gap year.
2. Discuss what student would like to focus on during the gap year and set goals based on aspirations. (Refer to Annex E for details)
3. Discuss pathways such as Work-Study Programmes and Part-time programmes (offered by AUs like SIT or SUSS).