University looks like it's a long way off. Why worry? Besides, don't they just make a whole lot easier to get? Singap-er another tongue, no CCAs or CIP, just A levels, right?

Yes and no. It's a few years away, but now is the time to pick up skills that excite admissions departments. That means having more on your form than just good exam results. The recent changes in admission criteria make it clear that the goalposts are shifting back to where they were a few years ago. But if you want to score, you'll have to trap, or at least wrap up all of these changes, universities want well-rounded students.

According to the Singapore Management University (SMU), someone with outstanding CCA involvement in addition to good results would be a very appealing candidate. This is because it shows "the strong intellectual and extra-curricular interests handled the demands of academic, sports and active". Usually recently, you needed good results plus Project Work, Co-Curricular Activities (CCA), Community Involvement Programme (CIP) and the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).

Now, CCA and CIP and SAT are no longer needed for local area. You do have to include other mother tongue language (MTL) pretests when you apply for the diploma of your A level grades for university admission. All that matters is that your examinations results alone will determine your place. Don't celebrate just yet, though. It's not as easy as it sounds.

Project Work is here to stay. It is considered an A-level subject, and it is assessed under your A-level results. You still have to take your MTL means too—score at least a D7 for your MTL or a pass in MTL B. And if you have done well in MTL, you can use your results to count towards your admission score. CCA, CIP and SAT are no longer needed for local area. You do have to include other mother tongue language (MTL) pretests when you apply for the diploma of your A-level grades for university admission. All that matters is that your examination results alone will determine your place. Don't celebrate just yet, though. It's not as easy as it sounds.

CCA and CIP can also develop some leadership qualities. These are part of the university admission. Including these as part of university admission can also help those who are not so good in their studies. So, in a way, you don't need CCA, CIP and good mother tongue language to get into university. But some students said in that they have no value in them and would continue with catching in CCA and CIP and further college, even if they don't need to enter university now.

"CCA and CIP can also develop some leadership qualities not developed in secondary school. Including these as part of university admission can also help those who are not so good in their studies."

Geting into University

The First Change

Initially, your academic result accounted for 100 per cent of the admissions score for university entry. There was a reduction to 75 per cent, with SAT results taking up 25 per cent. CCA and CIP were removed as requirements to enter university, and the SAT was introduced as an additional test of your potential.

The second change

Now, you don't need CCA or CIP, or to take any other subject. The SAT remains at 25 per cent of the admission score for university entry. The SAT is intended to help students who want to go to university and who may not have done well in their local exams. It will also help students who want to go to university and who don't have a good mother tongue language (MTL) pretest. It will also help students who want to go to university and who don't have a good mother tongue language (MTL) pretest.

The Mother Tongue Language Change

Many students struggled with MTL. Some did well in their other subjects but failed in their MTL. The MTL was removed as part of the university admission score. Students who did not do well in their MTL were not excluded from university admission. However, they were not given credit for their MTL results.