
USAP Community School Application

The USAP Community School

The USAP Community School is accepting applications from qualified L6 and F4 students to begin A Level in January 2021. The two year A Level only boarding school opened with its first class of 45 L6 students in January 2020 and is run by the non-profit organization Education Matters on the belief that there are many determined and talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Zimbabwe who only lack financial resources and information to access educational futures. The USAP program, which we have transitioned into an A Level school, started in 1999 and has successfully assisted over 450 students in the last 20 years to negotiate and finance the college admissions process. Alumni of the USAP program have studied at some of the world's top most universities and many have continued to post graduate degrees and prestigious fellowships, while others have pursued professions of every description across the world, including many leading impactful initiatives in Zimbabwe and across the continent. The USAP Community School will be a **transformative/unique** educational experience merging a rigorous Cambridge A Level science curriculum, an intensive English reading and writing class, classes in critical reasoning and research methodologies, computer literacy, college preparation and the mentorship of our growing and active alumni network. Throughout their two year A Level education, students receive timely and individualized university advising complemented with contact with alumni at different levels of university or professional careers. **Applicants should note that while many alumni of the USAP program have received funded university opportunities, acceptance into the USAP Community School does NOT guarantee future university scholarships.**

Eligibility Requirements

Given the COVID19 pandemic which closed schools for much of this year in Zimbabwe, we are accepting applications from students **who began L6 sciences in 2020** and are willing to start their L6 year again in 2021. We will also accept applications from students **currently in Form 4**, if they have consistently continued with remote learning or self-study during 2020 and will be writing a full set of O level exams in November including separated sciences (biology, chemistry, physics). Acceptance to USAP is very competitive; we encourage applicants to consider applying if they have received, or are projected to earn, **mostly As and possibly some Bs** in their O level exams. We are looking for students who match **all** of our four USAP criteria to join the school: **academic excellence, demonstrated leadership potential, an ethos of giving and economic disadvantage.**

You must be able to demonstrate financial disadvantage; that your family would not be capable of financing high quality A level education or university application processes on your own. **Financial aid is available and no qualified student will be turned away for financial reasons.**

How to Apply

Please complete this application form online at ([link](#)). Alternatively return a paper form together with the required documents listed by SWIFT/FedEx/DHL or in person, to reach our offices any MWF at 23 Connaught Road in Avondale in **Harare**, **Gweru** Memorial Library, Turner Memorial Library in **Mutare** and the NUST Building/American Space at 55 Jason Moyo in **Bulawayo** no later than **Monday, October 26, 2020**. Alternatively you can print, complete and scan your application by email to info@usapschool.org.

For more information about USAP Community School, visit our website - www.usapschool.org

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We want to get to know you as well as possible. Please answer all questions on this application form fully, providing us as much information as you can about yourself, your family and community background, your dreams and ambitions, and your academic and co-curricular achievements. Please send all parts of our application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and includes as much contact information for you as possible. We cannot consider incomplete applications. **Because of the high volume of applications received, we will ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to interview as finalists for the school.**

Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach all documents listed below to your application. Please **DO NOT** send originals of reports as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents to unsuccessful candidates. Please send the completed application and attachments together. Feel free to attach paper or write on the back where you do not have sufficient space to answer the questions on this form.

Attach to this application the following documents:

- 1) A clear photocopy of **all Form 3-4 reports**. If you have written any O level subjects, please attach a copy of your statement of results.
- 2) If you have already written any **O level** exams, please include a copy of your results slip/statement of results.

Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):

What name do you prefer to be called?

Gender:

Address where you reside when not at school:

Contact telephone numbers (yours, your parents/guardians):

Email address:

Date of Birth (Month, day, year):

Mother's current occupation and workplace, if living and known (Be specific, even if self-employed):

Father's current occupation and workplace, if living and known (Be specific, even if self-employed):

If parents are deceased, state name, relationship to you, occupation/workplace of the person whom you live with:

Number of direct siblings and ages. For each, state whether they live with you, whether they are in school, which school and in what grade/form or level. :

Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and their relationships to you:

Amount of the last school fees you paid and which term it was for (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees) :

Who currently pays for your school fees? Are you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much does the bursary cover?

If your fees are paid by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person? Do you live with this relative?

Have you or your siblings ever missed more than two weeks of school because of finances? IF so, please explain.

What should we know about your economic and personal background and your family's financial situation?
(No word limit for this question - feel free to write on the back of this paper or use extra paper as necessary and take your time to answer thoroughly)

Academic and School Information:

"O" Level School Name, Location and Contact Number:

Headmaster/Headmistress' name, contact number and if possible, email address:

Career Counselor or Deputy Head's name, contact number and if possible, email address:

Who from your school could we call to get a recommendation for you? State name, title and contact number.

When did you write or will you write your O levels?

List "O" Level Subjects you took or are taking. If you have already taken them, indicate the symbol you got for each. Please circle your favorite subject. Underline the subject you find most challenging.

At USAPCS all students take 3 A levels - Mathematics and Chemistry and either Biology or Physics in addition to our own curriculum of Humanities, Reasoning, Research Methods and Computers. Circle if you would rather take Biology or Physics? Did you take this subject at O level?

Biology

Physics

Are you taking ZIMSEC exams, Cambridge O level exams or both? If you are in **L6 currently**, which subjects are you taking?

List below all schools you have attended and which grades/forms you did at each school:

School

Location

Grades/Forms Completed

Reason for leaving

List extracurricular clubs, sports and activities that you have participated in at secondary school or in your community and/or church. How many hours a week do you devote to each? **Optionally, if you want to give us a sample of a talent, feel free to attach evidence (ie copy of poem, drawing, musical recording, award, etc).** *We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.*

Which one of these activities is the most important to you and why?

What is the most important academic honor/prize you have been awarded?

Short Answer Questions

*Please use lined paper to answer the questions below **in 100 words or less each**. Number your answers and/or rewrite the questions. We want to get to know you well through these questions so take time to answer them honestly and fully.*

1. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership in any sphere - family, community, church, school and name any formal leadership positions you have held.

2. What is something you are curious about and would love to learn? Why?

3. Complete these sentences as they best fit you and your uniqueness....
 - a. My favorite source of inspiration is....

 - b. My favorite book is....

 - c. Three words my best friend would use to describe me are....

 - d. Something I struggle with is...

4. What do you imagine yourself doing 10 years after graduating from university?

5. Tell us about a time when you expressed an opinion different than those around you.

6. What idea or topic do you think is important but under-discussed?

7. If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, real or imagined, who would it be and why?

8. What aspect of your community or country would you like to see change and what role do you see for yourself in bringing about this positive difference?

9. Our school is built on four values - integrity, service, equality and curiosity. If you were to add a fifth value for our school, what would it be and why?

10. What excites you most about joining the USAP Community School?

Essay Topics

Write an essay from one of the topics below of between 400-600 words. Use this essay as an opportunity for us to get to know you personally, how you think, what you have experienced and what is important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, it is essential that all experiences told in this essay be a true and accurate depiction of your life and that you write it by yourself without the aid of teachers and peers. Be truthful, be authentic, be you!

1. There is a Quaker saying: “***Let your life speak.***” Describe the environment in which you were raised-your family, home, neighborhood, or community-and how it influenced the person you are today.
2. “Each life converges to some center, expressed or still; exists in every human nature, a goal”- Emily Dickinson. What do you understand to be the **goal** of your life and why?
3. Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” – Albert Einstein
Describe your most interesting **mistake**.

Education in 2020

In a paragraph or two, please describe your educational experience in 2020. (use more paper if needed) We understand it has been a disruptive year of schooling for all students in Zimbabwe. Since schools closed in late March, have you had any remote learning? If so, by what methods (WhatsApp? In person extra lessons? Zoom online lessons? Self-study with books and notes?) ? What do you feel you have learned this year academically and what are your fears about what you have missed? Do you wish to repeat this year of schooling or if not, what assurances do you have that you have mastered the materials? What have you learned about yourself as a learner?

Thank you for applying for the USAP Community School. We look forward to reading and reviewing your application and we will be in touch with those who move to the finalist round about interviews. For everyone who has completed this form we know you are talented and determined, and we hope you have learned something new about yourself from the process of applying.

Application Deadline - Monday, October 26, 2020

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