

1. Selection Criteria and Process:

- What are the criteria for selection?

There are no specific selection criteria. All Secondary 2 students are eligible for selection. The school encourages students to choose one STEM-related ISS subject—Mobile Web Application, Mechanical Design Automation, or Internet of Things. Each of these subjects is equivalent to one GCE N-Level Science subject and broadens students' course options at ITE, providing greater flexibility when exploring future education pathways.

- How are students selected for the courses?

Students should choose their ISS subjects based on their interests, strengths and what they have discovered through the Lower Secondary Discovery Modules. These learning experiences help students better understand their interests and make informed choices.

- What is the process for selection and placement?

Step 1: All Secondary 2 students will attend an ISS briefing where they will learn about the available subjects, subject combinations and specialised learning spaces.

Step 2: Students are encouraged to discuss the available options with their parents before making their choices.

Step 3: After the Secondary 2 end of year examinations, students will rank five ISS subject combinations from their first to fifth choice.

Step 4: The school will make every effort to allocate students to one of their top three choices, subject to course availability.

- Is there any interview or selection test before students are allocated an ISS subject combination?

No. There is no interview or selection test. All Secondary 2 students are eligible to participate in the ISS selection exercise. Students are encouraged to make informed choices based on their interests, strengths and experiences gained through the Discovery Modules and ECG programme.

- How does the school decide who gets a particular subject combination if it is oversubscribed?

If a subject combination is oversubscribed, the school will consider students' ranked choices together with curriculum requirements, course capacities and any special considerations. Every effort will be made to allocate students fairly and according to their preferences.

- Can students appeal if they are not allocated their preferred ISS subject combination?

Yes. Appeals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval will depend on whether vacancies are available and whether the change can be accommodated without affecting the overall allocation.

2. **Guidance and Preparation:**

- How does the ISS selection process prepare students for future academic and career paths?

ISS helps students discover their interests while developing industry-related knowledge and practical skills. These experiences support students in making more informed education and career decisions after secondary school.

This experience also prepares students to make more informed course choices during the Joint Intake Exercise (JIE) when applying for ITE, as they will have a clearer understanding of the pathways and areas of study that align with their interests and future career goals.

- What guidance is provided to help students make connections to their future paths?

Throughout their four years at Crest Secondary School, students are supported through the Education and Career Guidance (ECG) component of the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum. ECG lessons and experiences help students discover their interests, strengths, and aspirations while exploring various education and career pathways.

In Secondary 2, students receive additional guidance to support their ISS selection. Through ECG activities, exposure to different industries, and ISS briefings, students are equipped to make informed choices that align with their interests and support their future academic and career pathways.

3. **Course Details and Options:**

- What ITE skills subjects are available for selection?

Students will select two ISS subjects from the five offerings. To support this process, the school has curated eight subject combinations, from which students will rank their preferred choices during the selection exercise. The list of combinations will be shared with students during the ISS briefing.

- Which ITE provides the respective courses for each skill subject?

Information on the ITE college offering each ISS subject will be shared during the Secondary 2 Parents' ISS Selection Briefing. The presentation slides will also be made available to parents after the session for future reference.

- Are there courses related to robotics, design, and coding?

Yes. Students who are interested in robotics and 3D design are encouraged to consider Mechanical Design Automation (MDA), which provides opportunities to develop skills in these areas.

Students with an interest in coding and application development may find Mobile Web Application (MWA) to be the most suitable choice, as the course focuses on programming concepts and the development of mobile and web applications.

Students are encouraged to consider their interests and the experiences they have gained through the Lower Secondary Discovery Modules when selecting their ISS subjects.

- Can students choose two STEM-based ISS subjects (e.g. MDA, MWA or IoT)?

Yes. Students select from ISS subject combinations, not individual subjects. If a combination includes two STEM-based subjects, students may indicate it as one of their preferences. Allocation will still depend on availability and the overall allocation process.

4. **Support and Accommodations:**

- How can parents support their children during the ISS selection process?

Parents play an important role in guiding their children to make informed decisions. We encourage parents to discuss their child's interests, strengths, and aspirations, while exploring how the different ISS subjects relate to future education and career opportunities. These conversations can help students choose an ISS combination that best aligns with their interests and aspirations.

- Is there a limit to the number of students who can be accepted for each ISS subject?

Yes. Each ISS subject has a planned capacity based on staffing, specialized facilities and learning resources. When demand exceeds the available places, the school will allocate students according to the established allocation process while making every effort to meet students' preferences.

- How does the school accommodate students with different learning styles or needs?

Crest Secondary School is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. Teachers use Differentiated Instruction to adapt teaching strategies and learning activities to meet the diverse learning needs of students. In addition, our Special Educational Needs (SEN) Officers work closely with teachers to provide targeted support, enabling students to access the curriculum and achieve their learning potential.

- What happens if my child fails one of the assessment components? Is there an opportunity for a retake?

ISS is assessed over a two-year period through practical assessments, project work and a theory examination. The final grade is based on the overall assessment across the course. Teachers will provide continuous guidance and support throughout the programme. There are generally no separate retakes for individual assessment components.

5. Progression and Alternatives:

- What happens if a student does not fare well in the selected course? Do they have to repeat the year?

No. Students will not be required to repeat the year if they do not perform well in their selected ISS course. ISS is assessed through coursework completed over a two-year period (Secondary 3 and 4), culminating in a theory examination at the end of Secondary 4. Throughout the course, teachers will provide guidance and support to help students develop the required knowledge and skills.

- Is it possible for students to switch subjects if they find it challenging to cope?

As ISS courses follow a structured two-year curriculum, changes to students' selected subjects are generally not permitted, except under exceptional circumstances. Teachers will provide support and intervention to help students overcome challenges and succeed in their chosen course. We therefore encourage students to carefully consider their interests and strengths, and discuss their options with their parents before making their ISS selections.

- What Polytechnic courses can my child pursue after taking each ISS subject?

ISS equips students with industry-relevant knowledge and practical skills that support progression to related ITE courses, which may in turn lead to Polytechnic pathways. However, admission to Polytechnic depends on students' overall academic performance and the admission requirements of individual courses.

For example, MWA may lead towards IT-related courses, MDA towards Engineering and Robotics, IoTA towards Electronics and Smart Technologies, ReC towards Business, and CrO towards Hospitality and Culinary programmes.

6. Additional Information:

- Request for more information on the ISS selection process and each skills subject.

The presentation slides from the Secondary 2 Parents' ISS briefing, will be shared with parents after the session. For detailed descriptions of each ISS subject, parents and students may also refer to the school's website.

- Specific questions regarding attachment to nearby ITEs.

No. The ISS curriculum does not include attachments to ITE colleges. Instead, Secondary 3 students will participate in the Industry Experiential Programme (IEP), where they will be attached to a company for four weeks. This authentic workplace experience enables students to apply their learning, gain industry exposure, and develop workplace skills in a real-world setting.

- Will students need to source their own company for the Industry Experiential Programme (IEP), or will the school arrange the attachment?

The school will arrange suitable industry attachments for students. The four-week Industry Experiential Programme allows students to apply their learning in an authentic workplace and gain valuable industry exposure.