



USAP 2018 Application Form

There are many determined and talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Zimbabwe who only lack financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. USAP, run by the non-profit organization Education Matters, is a college access program which seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low income, Upper Sixth "A" level students in Zimbabwe. USAP assists a cohort of these students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for international colleges and universities with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's Zimbabwe. USAP works closely with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities internationally. The program finances the costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations. USAP expects a sincere commitment of students to give back their energy and time to the program, to their communities and to Zimbabwe, to be the best they can be. USAP participants will work on their application process to secure places and financial assistance to begin studies in August 2019. **Please Note: Acceptance into USAP is no guarantee of a scholarship or financial assistance to study overseas.**

To apply to USAP, you must be an Upper Sixth student currently in your final year of high school and who will write "A" level examinations in 2018. You will be disqualified if you wrote your A Level exams in 2017 or earlier. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record, be actively involved in co-curricular and leadership activities and have a proven ethos of community involvement. You must also demonstrate financial disadvantage; that your family would not be capable of financing university application processes on your own. Please complete this application form; return it together with the required documents listed by SWIFT/FedEx/DHL, email, or in person, to reach our offices at 23 Connaught Road in Avondale, Harare no later than **Monday, February 26, 2018**. Alternatively you can return your application by email to info@edmattersafrica.org or in person to any of the other locations listed below:

Harare
Education Matters
23 Connaught Avenue
Avondale, Harare

Gweru
American Center
Gweru Memorial Library
8th St and Lobengula, Gweru

Bulawayo
American Space
55 Jason Moyo Ave
Bulawayo

Any qualified U6 student is welcome to apply. 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 dreams and ambitions, your family background and your academic and co-curricular record. 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 can ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to participate in the program.**

Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach all documents listed below to your application. Please do not send originals of certificates or 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 your "O" level ZIMSEC and/or Cambridge IGCSE results slip(s) stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge AS results if you wrote them.
- 2) A **letter of recommendation** attesting to your character, talent and skills completed by a teacher, school administrator, priest/pastor or NGO or community leader who knows you well, either typed or handwritten on letterhead from your school or the relevant organization. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.
- 3) A clear photocopy of **all L6 level school** reports from 2017 (required) and **Form 3-4 reports** for 2015-16 (recommended).

DO NOT ATTACH ORIGINAL COPIES OF YOUR CERTIFICATES.

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Personal Information:

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 (Be specific, even if self-employed):

Father's current occupation and workplace, if living (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 your "A" level school fees (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees) for first term in 2018:

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 a week or two of school because of finances? IF so, please explain.

If you are a finalist for USAP, where would you like to interview: Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare, Rusape, Gweru?

If you live far from Harare, do you have someone you can stay with in Harare during school holidays when you are attending USAP meetings, SAT exams and courses? Please state person's name, relationship to you, address and contact telephone number:

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 use extra paper as necessary and take your time to answer thoroughly)

Academic and School Information:

"A" Level School Name and Mailing Address:

"A" Level School telephone number(s):

Headmaster/Headmistress' name, cell number and email address:

Deputy Headmaster/Headmistress' name, cell number and email address:

Guidance Counselor's name, cell number and email address:

"A" Level Subjects you are taking. Please circle your favorite subject. Underline the subject you find most challenging.

Which subject that you dropped after O Level do you miss the most? Why?

Are you taking ZIMSEC exams, Cambridge exams or both? When are you writing exams (June and/or November 2016)?

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

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grades/Forms Completed</u>	<u>Reason for leaving the school</u>
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List all extracurricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at high school, in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. Indicate how many hours a week you devote to each. **If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (ie copy of award, photo, poem, drawing, musical recording, 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?

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership in and out of school. If you hold any leadership positions, list them.

Short Answer Questions:

Please use lined paper to answer the ten questions below in 100 words or less. 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. What is something you would love to learn? Why?
2. What drives you to get up each day or what keeps you up at night?
3. Complete these sentences as they best fit you and your uniqueness....
 - a. I can't live without....
 - b. USAP is a family. I want my USAP siblings to know that....
 - 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 do you think is important but under-discussed?
7. Using the USAP network you will develop, how will you contribute to the new Zimbabwe?
8. If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, real or imagined, who would it be and why?
9. Take a moment to read through your USAP application. What do you think is the tiny spark that will ignite your acceptance/birth into the USAP family?
10. What else do you want us to know about you?

Essays

Write two essays, one from Section A and one from Section B, **each of about 400 – 600 words**:

*Colleges and universities in the United States want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom and select students through a holistic process. Use these essays as an opportunity to let us get to know you personally: how you think and what's important to you. Whether you are studying science, commercial or arts subjects at A level, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please demonstrate your intellectual strengths and curiosity. 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 related in these essays be a **true and accurate** depiction of your life and that you write them yourself without the aid of teachers or peers.*

Section A – Required Question

The USAP program seeks to assist students with leadership potential and the desire to make positive change where they come from, but who lack financial resources to access pertinent education to effect that change. 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? How will you leverage the diverse network of highly qualified individuals that make up the USAP family to make a positive impact?

Section B – Choose One Essay Question from the list below. These are essay prompts taken from an actual current U.S. university application (Credit: Dartmouth College, Common Application)

1. In *Love Medicine*, author Louise Erdrich '76 writes, "Society is like this card game here, cousin. We got dealt our hand before we were even born, and as we grow we have to play as best as we can." **Describe your "hand" and reflect on how you have played it.**
2. During the 2016 Olympic Games, American runner Abbey D'Agostino '14 collided with another athlete in the first round of the 5,000-meter event. Both fell to the track. Although injured, Abbey's first instinct was to help the other fallen athlete so they could continue the race together. Their selflessness was widely praised as the embodiment of the Olympic ideal of sportsmanship. **Share a moment when kindness guided your actions.**
3. Twenty years ago, the world met Harry Potter and his companions. One of the more memorable lines from the J.K. Rowling series was spoken by Albus Dumbledore: "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." **What ideas or experiences bring you joy?**
4. "Dreams are lovely. But they are just dreams," television producer Shonda Rhimes '91 told graduating seniors during her 2014 Commencement address. "It's hard work that makes things happen. It's hard work that creates change." **What inspires your hard work? What matters to you and how do you "make things happen" to create change?**

Thank you for applying for the USAP program. We look forward to reading and reviewing your application and we hope you have learned something new about yourself from the process of applying.