
USAP Community School Application

The USAP Community School

The USAP Community School is accepting applications from qualified O'level students to begin A'level in January 2020. The two year A'level only boarding school is run by the non-profit organization Education Matters, in service to the fact that 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. The USAP program, which we are transitioning into an A'level school, started in 1999 and has successfully assisted over 400 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 some have continued to post graduate degrees, to prestigious scholarships and fellowships including the Rhodes and Cambridge Gates Fellowships, while others have pursued professions of every description across the world, including many leading transformative 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, computer literacy, college preparation and the mentorship of our growing and active alumni network. Throughout their A'level education, students will 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

To apply to join the USAP Community School, you must be either a current O'level student writing your exams in November 2019, a June 2019 O'level candidate who has already taken exams or a student with strong O level results who has not yet started A level studies for financial reasons. Acceptance to USAP is very competitive; we encourage applicants to consider applying if they have, or are projected to get **mostly As and possibly 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. No qualified student will be turned away for financial reasons.

Deadline for Applications

Please complete this application form; return it together with the required documents listed by SWIFT/FedEx/DHL or in person, to reach our offices at 23 Connaught Road in Avondale, Harare no later than **Monday, October 20, 2019.** Alternatively you can print, complete and scan your application by email to info@edmattersafrica.org or drop it off in person to any of the other locations listed below:

Harare

Education Matters
23 Connaught Rd
Avondale, Harare

Mutare

Attn: Lucy Chiduku
Turner Mem Library
Civic Center, Mutare

Gweru

Attn: Bevan Hungwe
Gweru Memorial Library
8th St and Lobengula, Gweru

Bulawayo

Attn: Noma Mabhena
55 Jason Moyo Ave
Bulawayo

USAP Community School Application

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 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 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** for 2018-19 including Term Two 2019 report. If you wrote any O level subjects in June, please attach a copy of your statement of results.
- 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.

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 Form Four third term school fees (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.

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

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:

"O" Level School Name and Mailing Address:

"O" Level School telephone number(s):

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

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

“O” Level Subjects you are taking. Please circle your favorite subject. Underline the subject you find most challenging.

Circle three of the following A level subjects being offered by the USAP Community School you would you want to take:

Biology

Chemistry

Mathematics

Physics

Are you taking ZIMSEC exams, Cambridge O level exams or both? When are you writing exams (June and/or November 2019)?

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> |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

List all extracurricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at secondary school or in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. Indicate how many hours a week you devote to each. **Though not required, 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?

Short Answer Questions

*Please use lined paper to answer the ten 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 and out of school. If you hold any leadership positions, list them.
2. What is something you would love to learn? Why?
3. Complete these sentences as they best fit you and your uniqueness....
 - a. I can't live without....
 - 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 do you think is an idea that 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. How will you leverage the diverse network of highly qualified individuals that make up the USAP family to make a positive impact?
10. What else do you want us to know about you?

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. **(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 Community School. We look forward to reading and reviewing your application, and we hope you have learned something new about yourself from the process of applying.