
USAP Community School Application - Jan 2026 Entrance

This application is free and never should be sold.

The USAP Community School

The USAP Community School (USAPCS) is accepting applications from qualified current F4 and L6 students to begin A Level as L6 students in January 2026. The two year A Level only boarding school which opened in January 2020 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 bright educational futures. The USAP program, which we have transitioned into this A Level school, started in 1999 and has successfully assisted over 750 students in the last 25 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 research methodologies, computer literacy, college preparation and the mentorship of our growing and active alumni network. We are a Quaker school based on values of integrity, service, equality and curiosity. 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 international university scholarships.**

Eligibility Requirements

We are accepting applications both from current Form 4 students as well as from students **who wrote O level in 2024 and began L6 sciences in 2025** and are willing to start their L6 year again in 2026. Acceptance to USAPCS is **very competitive**; we encourage applicants to consider applying if they have received, or are projected to earn, **mostly all As and possibly some Bs** in their O level exams as reflected in school reports. We are looking for students who match **all** of our four USAP criteria to join the school: **academic excellence, demonstrated leadership potential, a strong ethos of giving and economic disadvantage.**

To be eligible, you must be able to demonstrate financial disadvantage, that your family would not be capable of financing high quality A level education and university application processes on your own. **Financial aid is available on a need basis, and no qualified student will be turned away from USAPCS for financial reasons. If you are sitting for your O levels in 2025, your admission to USAP Community School is conditional upon your O level results. Thus, should you not perform strongly on your O level results, we reserve the right to reverse your admission.**

How to Apply

Please return this paper form together with the required documents listed by SWIFT/FedEx/DHL or in person, to our offices M-F between 9am-3pm at 23 Connaught Road in Avondale in **Harare**, to **Gweru Memorial Library**, or to the **Bulawayo Public Library** at 100 Fort Street Along 8th Avenue, or at the Digital Village at 164 Herbert Chitepo St in Mutare no later than **Monday, September 1, 2025**. You are welcome to attach extra paper to this form as needed. If you have any questions, write to admissions@usapschool.org.

For more information about USAP Community School, visit www.edmattersfrica.org

Application Deadline - Monday, September 1, 2025

USAP Community School Application

We want to get to know you as well as possible. Please answer all questions on this application form fully and honestly, 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 the 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 or late applications - **Due date is Monday, September 1, 2025. Because of the high volume of applications received, we will ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to interview in person as finalists by late October.** Interviews for finalists will take place in a variety of towns and cities around the country.

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 don't send all your reports your application might not be reviewed. (Include L6 first and second term results if you are currently in L6)
- 2) If you have already written **any O level** exams, include a copy of your **results** slip/statement of results.

Demographic information

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

What name do you prefer to be called?

Gender:

Date of birth:

Home location (please give be specific and provide name of the closest town/city to you):

Finalists' interviews happen during the term. Choose from the following: where would you prefer to do the interview. (Gweru, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare, Harare, Marondera and Tongogara Refugee camp):

Contact Information:

1. Email address
2. Phone number (list as many as possible). Indicate by circling the primary phone that we should try out first.
 - a. Applicant:
 - b. Parent/ Guardian (1):
 - c. Parent/ Guardian (2):
 - d. Other (specify who it is):

Academic and School Information

Name of your current school and location

School name	Location

Contact details from your current school and a person from your school we can get a recommendation from:

Title	Name	Phone number	Email (if available)
Headmaster			
Deputy head/ career counselor			
Recommender			
Other(specify below)			

What level are you in 2025?

- ☐ Form 4
☐ Lower 6
☐ Not in school

If you are currently in L6, which subjects are you taking?

When did you write or will write your O levels? And are you writing ZIMSEC or Cambridge?

Year	Zimsec or Cambridge

List O level subjects you took or are taking. If you have already taken them, indicate the symbol you got each.

What is your favourite subject?

Which subjects do you find most challenging?

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

School	Location	Grades/Forms completed	Reason for leaving

At USAPCS all students currently take 3 A level subjects - Mathematics and Chemistry and either Biology or Physics in addition to our own USAP curriculum of Humanities, Research Methods and Computers. We are currently considering adding Economics and Geography as A level offerings as well. In addition to Mathematics, which all students will take, please tick the two additional subjects you would prefer. *Please note that you may be accepted without your first choice of these subjects.*

- ☐ Biology
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ Geography

What do you do when you are not studying? List the extracurricular clubs, sports, activities, work or volunteer service projects that you have participated at your secondary school or in your community and/or church. *If you would like to share with us a sample of a talent, feel free to attach evidence (i.e. a copy of a poem, drawing, musical recording, award certificate etc).* ***We regret we can't return materials - please do not send originals when possible.***

Activity	Hours spent per week you devote to the activity

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 in or out of school?

Financial Information

Parents' current occupation, if living and known (Be specific, even if self employed):

1. Mother:

2. Father:

If parents are deceased or are not your primary guardian, state name, relationship to you, occupation of the person whom you live with:

1. Name:

2. Relationship:

3. Occupation:

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

List other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family:

Name	Relationship to applicant

Most recent school fees paid per term in USD (inclusive of all fees and levies):

Amount	Who pays	Day or Boarding?

- a. If on any bursary, please describe the offer for example how much is covered by the bursary?
- b. If your fees is 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?

Do you have any school fees debt? If yes, tell us how much?

Have you and your siblings ever missed more than three weeks of school because of finances? If so, please explain.

What are your educational plans for 2024 if your application to USAP Community School is unsuccessful?

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)

Short Answer Questions

Please use lined paper to answer the questions below in 100 words or less each and attach them to your application. Number your answers. 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. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

4. Tell us about a time when you expressed an opinion different from those around you or describe a risk you have taken to stand up for something that is important to you?
5. If you could design your ideal school or course, what would it teach and why?
6. Reflecting on a community that you are part of, what values or perspectives have you gained from being in that community?
7. Describe a problem you have solved or would like to solve in your community. Why does it matter to you, and how did (or would) you go about addressing it?
8. What do you expect to gain from the USAP Community School?
9. Complete these sentences as they best fit you and your uniqueness....
 - a. My favorite source of inspiration is....
 - b. My favorite book is....
 - c. I am happiest when
 - d. Something I struggle with is...
 - e. What I think I want to study/major in in college....
 - f. I really laugh when...

Essay Topics

Write one 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, parents and peers. Be truthful, be authentic, be you!

1. “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” - Picasso. What do you understand to be the purpose of your life and why?
2. Discuss an accomplishment, event or realization that sparked a **period of personal growth** and a new understanding of yourself or others.
3. An alien lands in your backyard and asks you to explain what it means to be human. What do you show or tell? What do you hope it understands? What might *you* learn from the encounter?

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, September 1, 2025

With any admission-specific questions, contact admissions@usapschool.org
 For more information about USAP Community School, visit our website - www.usapschool.org