

ITE upgraders to polytechnic from AY2027: net GPA 2.5 needed, and a raw 3.5 guarantees a place

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If you are finishing a Higher Nitec and eyeing a polytechnic diploma, the rules for ITE upgraders to polytechnic in 2027 are not the same as they were for your seniors. From the AY2027 polytechnic intake, the minimum entry bar for Higher Nitec graduates rises from a net GPA of 2.0 to 2.5. At the other end, a raw GPA of 3.5 now comes with a guaranteed place.

The change was set out by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in 2023, and polytechnic admissions pages now carry it as a live rule. Here is what it means in practice.

The ITE upgraders to polytechnic changes at a glance

- Higher Nitec graduates need a final net GPA of 2.5 or better to qualify for the Joint Polytechnic Admissions Exercise (JPAE), up from 2.0.
- Nitec and NTC Grade 2 holders still need a net GPA of 3.5 or better.
- Higher Nitec students with a raw GPA of 3.5 or above are guaranteed a place in a polytechnic course mapped to their ITE course.
- MOE expects the guarantee to cover about 1,000 students, roughly the top 10 per cent of Higher Nitec graduates.
- The Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) stops from the AY2028 ITE intake, as stream labels go under Full Subject-Based Banding.

MOEâ??s reason for raising the bar was that most Higher Nitec students already admitted to polytechnics have a net GPA of 2.5 and above, so it expects the number of ITE progressors to stay stable.



Source: ITE

Net GPA versus raw GPA: how your number is worked out

Your final net GPA is your final raw GPA plus a bonus for your CCA grade. The bonus is small: 0.2 for Platinum (A), 0.15 for Gold (B), 0.1 for Silver (C) and 0.05 for Bronze (D). Do not count on it to rescue a weak semester, but it can tip a 2.35 raw into the 2.5 net you now need.

The guarantee works differently. It looks at the raw GPA of 3.5, with no CCA points added, and the course must be mapped to your ITE course. Check the mapping on your target polytechnicâ??s admissions page before you assume a place in a different field.

Some courses also ask for medical checks or aptitude tests on top of the GPA. Republic Polytechnic, for example, publishes a list of these requirements for its diplomas.

Direct Year 2 entry for strong Higher Nitec graduates

A raw GPA of 3.5 or above can also open the door to Year 2 of selected diploma courses, with module exemptions. Republic Polytechnicâ??s ITE admissions page splits this into DPP and non-DPP Higher Nitec graduates, with separate course lists for each. Other polytechnics run their own versions, so look at each schoolâ??s list rather than assuming they match.

Skipping Year 1 saves a year of fees and a year of time, which is a real lobang if your GPA allows it.

How and when to apply

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There are three main routes to a polytechnic for ITE students:

1. Early Admissions Exercise (EAE), where talents and interests can earn a conditional offer before your ITE final exams.
2. JPAE, run once a year for final-semester students and graduates, with up to 8 course choices.
3. Direct Admissions Exercise (DAE), for those who are not eligible for JPAE or EAE, or who did not take up an EAE offer.

For reference, the last JPAE window ran from 23 February to 27 February 2026, with posting results on 9 April 2026. The 2027 dates were not yet on the polytechnic pages we checked, so watch the JPAE site and your ITE college notices rather than relying on last yearâ??s calendar.



Source: ITE

If the GPA bar looks tight: ITEâ??s own diplomas

ITE now offers its own diplomas, and MOE treats both as equivalent to a polytechnic diploma. The Work-Study Diploma is a 2.5 to 3-year apprenticeship-style programme where you earn a salary. The Technical Diploma is a 2 to 2.5-year full-time course with overseas learning in France, Germany, Hong Kong or Switzerland, depending on the course.

ITEâ??s promotional poster lists the Technical Diploma application period as 2 November 2026 to 29 January 2027. Eligible ITE graduates aged 30 and below can also get the ITE Progression Award for a

diploma from an MOE-funded institution. We broke that scheme down in our ITE Progression Award explainer, and our guide to the ITE Work-Study Diploma 2027 intake covers the apply-by date.

What to do this month

- Check your current net GPA and compare it with the 2.5 line.
- Look up your ITE course on the polytechnic course-mapping pages for the diplomas you want.
- If your raw GPA is near 3.5, find out whether Year 2 entry applies to your target course.
- Keep a second option, such as the Technical Diploma or Work-Study Diploma, in case the polytechnic route falls short.

Your ITE college career guidance team can walk you through the numbers. Always confirm the final requirements on the MOE and polytechnic sites before you apply.

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