



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Admissions system for applicants attending schools in Asia

Winchester College is one of the country's most distinguished schools. We pride ourselves on a unique admissions system, and the substantial financial assistance which we are able to offer to deserving pupils each year.

We have recently reviewed our admissions process. Our aim is happiness: we want the right boy to get to the right school, with minimum anxiety before his acceptance, and maximum enjoyment after it.

Our process is therefore human and personalised; focused on potential, not merely prior attainment; and designed to fashion an accessible, balanced and harmonious community. It has its origins in systems designed by top universities and depends substantially on interview. It is designed to offer maximum interaction with the school at all times.

There are 3 simple stages:

Stage 1: Choosing the School (Year 4 and 5)

We encourage applicants to learn more about the school by using our website, requesting a Prospectus and returning a Registration Form to the Admissions Office by 3 July in Year 5.

Stage 2: Assessment and Preparation (Year 6 and 7)

All applicants to Winchester will be able to take the ISEB Common Pre-test at their school or at an approved centre, in October or November of Year 6. A report will additionally have been commissioned from the candidate's school. Common Pre-test results are released in December.

Successful candidates are invited to Winchester for an Open Day in late January. This will include a tour of the school and a boarding house with a senior boy, followed by a Q and A session with the Headmaster and senior staff. There will also be opportunities for exceptional music or sport candidates to meet the Heads of Music and Sport.

Boys are invited for interview in February of Year 6. Interviews take place in Hong Kong and consist of a 45 minute discussion and a short maths test. Results are available in April and you will receive either:

A General Place. The offer of a place at the school. The House will be finalised later after discussion with the Registrar. The offer is subject to a satisfactory performance in the Election or Entrance exams.

A Reserve List place. We see the candidate has potential and we are keen to maintain dialogue with the Prep School and parents. Boys can be promoted from the Reserve List to a General Place by the

Registrar at any time depending on the number of vacancies. Patient faithfulness brings dividends, as vacancies tend to occur late – sometimes March to May of the year of entry.

A rejection (with our apologies)

Offers of a General Place must be accepted by 1 September in Year 7. This is also the deadline to apply for bursarial assistance.

In January and February of Year 7, we invite boys and their parents to Winchester for Our Journey Together. This is a conference with dedicated talks on how to prepare for Winchester. It also features the opportunity to take part in activities typical of Winchester life, including a lesson of Div.

Stage 3: Final Exams: Election or Entrance (Year 8)

As in most other schools, the place is finally confirmed after the Scholarship (Election) or Winchester Entrance exams in the summer of Year 8. However, places are only offered to those expected to pass these exams and failure at this stage is, as a consequence, rare. These two exams occur in the same week in early May.

The school offers means tested bursaries to those unable to afford the full fee, and scholarships for those particularly gifted in academic work, music or sport.

Academic Awards

Academic awards have existed at Winchester since its foundation. The original awards are called Scholarships. The boys who hold them still live in the original boarding accommodation known as College.

All academic awards are made on the basis of an exam called Election, taken in the summer of Year 8 at Winchester. The majority of boys who sit Election have gone through the process set out above and have therefore already secured a place in a House. If successful, they win either a **Scholarship**, and with it a place in College; or an **Exhibition**, which ensures a place in one of the other Houses.

In addition, and by special arrangement and as part of the school's access arrangements, boys who for any reason have not already been part of the admissions process and who possess in the opinion of their current school, whether maintained or independent, exceptional talent, may sit Election on the basis of a Winchester College **Headmaster's Nomination**. This will also, in some cases, bring with it exemption from some papers. For successful Headmaster's Nomination candidates, Election will result in one of the following:

1. A Scholarship, and with it a place in College
2. An Exhibition, and with it a place in a House allocated by the Headmaster
3. A General Place in the school, in a House awarded by the Headmaster

In considering the allocation of bursaries, those who hold Academic Awards are considered first.

Admissions Timeline

Year 4 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request an Information Pack from admissions@wincoll.ac.uk• Register by 3rd July in Year 5
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bespoke Prep School Reference: October• Common Pre-Test: October-November• Open Day in Winchester for invited candidates: late January• Interview and assessment: February in Hong Kong• Results: April
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Journey Together. Parent and pupil conference in January and February
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys invited back to House: October-December• Election/Entrance exams. Simultaneous in May• New Men's Day: June