

Personal Pathways Programme

(Frequently Asked Questions)

1. What is Personal Pathways (PP) Programme?

The PP programme is an independent student-directed programme option in Years 10 and 11. It offers students the opportunity to explore alternative subject areas beyond the traditional academic curriculum in a framework based on 21st-century skills.

2. Is it a part of the Cambridge IGCSE syllabus?

No, PP takes the place of one of the student options on the timetable, and it is a student-directed course where students have the freedom to choose what they would like to study beyond the traditional curriculum offered. PP is developed by the school and is not an IGCSE.

3. Is it compulsory to take PP?

No, PP is offered as an option subject in Years 10 and 11. Students can choose to opt for PP, but they do not have to.

4. Can students take PP in Year 8 or Year 11?

No, PP is offered to Years 10 and 11 students only.

5. Can students take PP in Term 2 or 3, and how does the timetable work?

PP will be timetabled for students who have opted for it as one of their options. It is timetabled for the same as non-core subjects.

Students in Year 10 will study PP in Term 1, 2, and 3. In Year 11, due to the final term being taken up mostly with the IGCSE exams, students will study PP in Term 1 and 2 only. Any time in Term 3 will be given over to revision for their IGCSE subjects.

6. What is the minimum and maximum number of online courses a student can take within this 2-year programme?

All of the courses have different lengths; some are 4 hours, others are 12 weeks. This would therefore depend on the choices the students make. For example, at the TIS Kuala Lumpur campus, to achieve a Gold Standard portfolio, students are expected to take approximately 6 courses in Year 10 and 4 courses in Year 11.

7. Can PP help in bringing up results scores/marks in core subjects?

PP aims to develop a student's 21st-century skill set. Inevitably, if students are improving these skills, it could help them in other subjects where these skills form part of the subject. In Year 11 Term 3, students can use PP time to revise for their IGCSEs, which may also help.

8. How does PP help students applications to universities?

Students will have the opportunity to accumulate a portfolio of micro-credentials during the PP programme. They will be supported by their teachers in choosing micro-credential programmes that relate to the areas of their interest and the skills they would like to develop. This portfolio is good evidence of self-motivated study above and beyond their IGCSE. This portfolio of micro-credentials will add value to students' applications to college and universities.

9. What is/are the official platform(s) that TIS has signed for PP?

PP uses some aspects of the Unifrog platform, which links to other online course hosting platforms like Coursera and FutureLearn. However, the course will have many offline aspects, like writing and presentations.

10. What is Unifrog?

It is an administration software programme that will enable students to organise and structure the micro-credential programmes they participate in, while also giving access to teachers who will be tracking individual students progress through their participation over the five terms.

11. Is the learning guided by teachers?

Teachers will guide students in the use of the Unifrog, give input lessons for the different 21st century skills, and monitor the students' progress with their portfolios. However, the majority of the time, it will be student-directed.

12. What is the range of courses available, and how do students select the relevant courses?

The Unifrog platform has a MOOC (Mass Online Open Courses) search function. Once students have decided their interests or used the Unifrog skills quizzes to narrow down their field of interest, they can search for key terms in the MOOC and be provided with a vast array of relevant online courses they may be interested in.

13. Do parents have to pay additional fees for the programme?

There are no additional fees for PP. However, if students choose certain online courses, there may be a charge for the certificate of completion. We do not require the certificates; screenshots or the like would suffice, but if students choose to, they can pay a small fee to get the certificates. Payments range from around US\$30 to US\$150+, depending on the course length and provider.