



TWO YEAR PRE-UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA PROGRAM **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Two-Year Pre-University Diploma Program at African Leadership Academy. Please review the details in this document carefully prior to filling in your application. The application and these instructions are available on our website in English, French, Portuguese, and Arabic.

ABOUT ALA

African Leadership Academy (ALA) seeks to transform Africa by developing a powerful network of over 6,000 leaders who will work together to address Africa's greatest challenges, achieve extraordinary social impact and accelerate the continent's growth. ALA identifies young leaders between the ages of 16-19 from across the continent with demonstrated leadership potential, a passion for Africa, an entrepreneurial spirit, and a track record of community service. These young leaders are then brought together for a two-year pre-university program at our world-class boarding institution in Johannesburg, South Africa. ALA continues to cultivate these leaders throughout their lives, in university and beyond, by providing on-going leadership training, supporting their growth through access to internships and careers, and connecting them to high-impact networks of people and capital that will empower them to create transformative change.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Academy admits 125 young leaders from across Africa each year for the two-year pre-university program, anchored on Entrepreneurial Leadership, African Studies, and Writing & Rhetoric. Students also take Cambridge A'level subjects as electives, alongside specialized research classes in the Sciences, Humanities and Creative Arts. The Academy is a boarding school; all students are accommodated and catered for at the Academy's campus in Honeydew, Johannesburg, South Africa for the duration of their studies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

ALA searches for young leaders across the continent between the ages of 16 and 19. Please note that ALA's admissions team does not expect an applicant to be extraordinary in all five criteria; we seek students with a variety of interests, strengths, and backgrounds. Our admissions team will review applicants based on the following criteria:

- **Leadership Potential**

We encourage you to share with us the activities in which you participate and the leadership roles you assume at home, in your school, or in your community, and we hope you will think critically about what "leadership" means to you.

- **Entrepreneurial Spirit**

Do you often think about how you can improve the world around you? Do you act when you see a need in your community? Do you enjoy thinking about new ideas and creating new products? We encourage you to celebrate your entrepreneurial spirit and share your entrepreneurial ideas with us.

- **Commitment to Service**

Are you passionate about uplifting your community? Do you dream of a world in which all people are able to realize their dreams? Have you demonstrated this passion at school or in your community? If so, please share with us how you plan to give back to your community and the world.

- **Passion for Africa**

Do you have an African dream? Are you excited by the idea of spending two years in a community of individuals from a wide range of cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, and religious backgrounds from across the continent? Are you excited about playing a role in making Africa a peaceful and prosperous continent?

- **Academic Achievement**

The Academic environment at ALA is very rigorous and challenging, therefore our selection committee will closely review scores from national examinations and the marks and comments on each applicant's school reports to ensure that applicants are fully prepared to maximize the inter-disciplinary nature of the ALA curriculum.

** All applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, therefore applicants are advised to fill in the applications with the most accurate information and providing as much valuable detail as possible.*



ALA ADMISSIONS FINANCIAL AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Academy makes its admissions decisions on merit and on a needs-blind basis (i.e. we admit you before ever looking at your finances). In accordance with South African law and our values, ALA does not discriminate on the basis of gender (identity or expression), race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, nationality or ethnicity (or tribal affiliation).

We admit young leaders to the Academy irrespective of family financial status and all students are eligible to apply for the Academy's financial assistance package after admission. We highly encourage interested applicants to focus on the application and their reasons for desiring to study at ALA before the finances. Our admissions team works with all admitted students to create fair and personalized tuition fees. We believe that money should not prevent qualified students from attending ALA.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Applications to the Academy typically open in July and close in January each year. The admissions process starts with the completion of an application either online or by emailing the completed form to admissions@africanleadershipacademy.org along with the submission of school reports. Our admissions team then reviews the applications received and shortlists selected applicants for finalist activities or phone interviews (we are unable to travel to every country). Phone interviews in no way disadvantage an applicant's chances for entrance into ALA. At the finalist events, prospective students will participate in group exercises, write an and write an entrance examination. All finalists are expected to submit recommendation letters from their school teachers. After the finalist activities, a final evaluation is done by our admissions team and then a final selection is made.

The admission cycle for the Class of 2018 will be as follows:

Period	Activity
July 1, 2017	Applications open
August 30, 2017	Early decision 1 applications close
September - October 2017	Early decision 1 finalist activities (finalist decisions will be communicated on a rolling basis – country by country)
October 31, 2017	Notification of final Early decision 1 Admit selections
October 31, 2017	Early decision 2 applications close
December, 2017	Early decision 2 finalist activities (finalist decisions will be communicated on a rolling basis)
January 12, 2018	Notification of final Early decision 2 Admit selections
January 12, 2018	Regular decision applications close
January – March 2018	Regular decision Finalist activities (finalist decisions will be communicated on a rolling basis)
April 17, 2018	Notification of final regular decision selections

OPTIONAL ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

African Leadership Academy gives the option of completing our application through internet-based application portal. Applications may also be submitted by post or email. All submitted applications are considered equally regardless of the mode of submission. To complete an online application, please visit www.africanleadershipacademy.org/apply Applications can also be downloaded from our [website](#) and submitted either by email to admissions@africanleadershipacademy.org or by express post such as DHL, FedEx or UPS (regular post should be a last resort).

The following instructions apply for the online application:

- All applicants will need access to a computer and the internet to complete the application online. We realize that not everyone owns a computer, therefore we suggest that you write the essay questions at home and



type them up when you have internet access. This will allow you to think through the questions and minimize your internet/computer rental costs.

- The application can be completed in English, French, and Portuguese. The application form is available in Arabic as a download on the website: www.africanleadershipacademy.org/apply
- Applicants do not need to complete the application in one sitting. Once registered on the system, applicants can save their progress on the portal and return to complete the application at their convenience. There is no limit to the number of times you can access the system
- All sections marked with a red asterisk (*) must be answered
- Applicants can review their information for accuracy before final submission
- Remember to click “Save Draft” at the bottom of the screen each time you leave the portal. Once you have completed the application online, please click on “Submit” at the bottom of the page. Should you need to add any information to your application before the application deadline you may email us at admissions@africanleadershipacademy.org

Before You Start

You will be required to provide electronic copies of your school reports for the last two years and national examination results as you complete this application. They can be uploaded in the following formats: doc; .pdf; .txt; .xls; .jpeg.

Application Sections

Personal Information

This section aims to capture personal biodata from each applicant. Each applicant should include accurate data as it appears in their international passport or other official documents.

Academic Information

In this section, the questions asked relate to a student’s current or previous educational experience, particularly the school where the student currently studies or previously studied, and contact information for the school’s principal. Applicants can provide as much details as they have.

School Reports

In this section, applicants will be required to attach copies of all school reports from the past two years of schooling and national examination results. The reports can be submitted in PDF, Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel formats.

Family Information

The family information captured in this section does not influence admissions decisions in any way; some of the data requested is relevant for visa evaluation processes, while some other data are collected as part of ALA’s participation in a long-term study evaluating the impact of family background in students’ educational choices. Applicants who do not feel comfortable answering those questions can ignore them.

Essay Questions

In this section, applicants will be required to answer these essay questions

1. What aspect of an education at African Leadership Academy (ALA) most excites you? How will you contribute to it? (Word Maximum 150)
2. Please describe the activity in which you participate that is most meaningful or important to you. Why is this activity so important to you? (Word Maximum 200, Minimum 100)
[Students in the past have talked about activities such as charity work, writing, dancing, fund raising, cleaning, travelling, singing, or sports]
3. In this section we would like you to describe a time when you identified a need in your community (this can be your family, school, village, town, civil society organization, workplace or religious community, etc.) and took action. Please discuss a need that you addressed in the last 3 years:
 - a. What need did you identify? Please describe it. (Word Maximum 100, Minimum 20)
 - b. How did you address this need? What actions did you take? What exact role did you play? (Word Maximum 250, Minimum 60)
 - c. What difficulties did you encounter? What was the source of these challenges?



(Word Maximum 150, Minimum 30)

- d. What was the outcome? If the project/activity is unfinished, what actions do you still plan to take? What lessons can you draw from your experience? (Word Maximum 200, Minimum 40)

Activities

In this section, applicants will be asked to provide information about various leadership and extra-curricular activities in which they have participated. Some applicants might provide details about their involvement in community service, school leadership, entrepreneurial activities, sports, athletics, music and the arts, conferences, competitions or other special programs. Applicants should only include information that is accurate, and focus on providing detail about each activity, rather than listing multiple activities.

Awards, Certificates, Recognitions

Here, applicants have the opportunity to list up to 4 awards, certificates, or recognitions that they have received in the last 2 years. Examples: top math student in class, Yale Young Global Scholars attendee, etc. You may send awards, certificates, or recognitions as proof. We have also provided space for you to share an online portfolio or recognition of your leadership efforts in your community or at school.

Should you have any questions, please contact the ALA admissions department using the details below:

Email: apply@africanleadershipacademy.org

Tel: +27 11 699 3000