

GAMSAT Preparation FAQs for International Students

Website-ready content based on the current ACER GAMSAT format and policies.

1. What is the GAMSAT?

The Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) is an admissions examination used by selected graduate-entry programmes in:

- Medicine;
- Dentistry;
- Pharmacy;
- Optometry;
- Podiatric Medicine; and
- certain other health-related disciplines.

GAMSAT is developed and administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

2. Which countries use GAMSAT?

GAMSAT is principally used by participating universities in:

- Australia;
- the United Kingdom; and
- Ireland.

Not every medical school in these countries requires GAMSAT. Applicants must check the requirements of each individual university and course.

3. Do international applicants need to take GAMSAT?

International students must take GAMSAT when it is a compulsory requirement for their intended programme and applicant category.

Some universities have different requirements for:

- domestic and international applicants;
- graduate and non-graduate applicants;
- school leavers and mature applicants; or
- applicants with particular qualifications.

Contact the university directly if the international admission requirements are unclear.

4. Who is eligible to take GAMSAT?

GAMSAT is generally available to candidates who:

- have completed a bachelor's or undergraduate honours degree;

- are currently enrolled in such a degree; or
- will satisfy the academic entry requirements of their intended institution.

Candidates must be genuine prospective applicants to a programme for which GAMSAT is a prerequisite. Certain UK courses may apply alternative eligibility rules. [Official GAMSAT eligibility information](#)

5. Do I need a science degree?

Not necessarily. Graduates from humanities, social sciences and other non-scientific disciplines may be eligible for graduate-entry programmes.

However, success in the Biological and Physical Sciences section requires scientific knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge. Applicants without a science background will normally need a longer and more structured preparation period.

6. What is the current GAMSAT format?

GAMSAT is a computer-based assessment completed across two sittings. It has a total test time of approximately **5 hours and 15 minutes**.

Section	Content	Questions/tasks	Time
Written Communication	Two written responses	2 tasks	Approximately 65 minutes
Humanities and Social Sciences	Reasoning from written and visual material	62 multiple-choice questions	100 minutes
Biological and Physical Sciences	Scientific reasoning and data analysis	75 multiple-choice questions	150 minutes

The Humanities and Biological Sciences components are normally completed at a supervised test venue. Written Communication is commonly delivered through remote proctoring. Applicants should verify the arrangements for their selected test cycle. [Official GAMSAT preparation and format](#)

7. What does Written Communication assess?

Written Communication assesses your ability to generate, organise and communicate ideas in writing.

Candidates complete two responses based on sets of statements or quotations. Strong responses normally demonstrate:

- engagement with the central theme;
- a clear and thoughtful position;
- logical development;
- relevant examples or reflection;
- effective structure; and
- clear written expression.

The section is not simply a test of memorised facts or complicated vocabulary.

8. How should I prepare for Written Communication?

Effective preparation includes:

- analysing previous task themes;
- brainstorming arguments and examples;
- planning before writing;
- practising both argumentative and reflective approaches;
- writing two complete responses within the time limit;
- reviewing structure, clarity and relevance; and
- obtaining constructive feedback.

Candidates should develop original responses. ACER applies plagiarism checks to Written Communication submissions, including checks relating to copied or artificially generated material.

9. What does Humanities and Social Sciences assess?

This section evaluates the interpretation and understanding of ideas in social and cultural contexts.

Stimulus material may include:

- prose;
- poetry;
- quotations;
- cartoons;
- diagrams;
- tables; and
- other written or visual sources.

Candidates must interpret meaning, recognise tone, evaluate arguments, identify assumptions and draw evidence-based conclusions.

10. How should international applicants prepare for Humanities?

International applicants should read a variety of English-language material, including:

- literature;
- essays;
- opinion articles;
- history and social commentary;
- philosophy;
- ethics; and
- public-policy discussions.

After reading, practise identifying the author's argument, tone, assumptions and intended message. Candidates should learn unfamiliar vocabulary in context rather than relying only on memorised word lists.

11. What does Biological and Physical Sciences assess?

This section assesses the ability to understand scientific information, apply knowledge in unfamiliar situations and interpret experimental data.

Preparation may involve:

- Biology;
- Chemistry;
- Organic Chemistry;
- Physics;
- graphs and tables;
- experimental design;
- scientific calculations; and
- problem-solving across different disciplines.

The examination emphasises reasoning and application rather than the simple recall of facts.

12. How advanced is the science content?

Candidates need a sound foundation in Biology and Chemistry and sufficient understanding of Physics to interpret and solve the questions presented.

The most effective preparation combines:

1. reviewing fundamental scientific concepts;
2. learning how concepts connect;
3. interpreting experiments and data;
4. practising unfamiliar scientific scenarios; and
5. completing timed reasoning questions.

Applicants from non-science degrees may benefit from foundation tuition before beginning full GAMSAT practice.

13. Is a calculator permitted?

No. Calculators are prohibited during the Humanities and Biological Sciences test-centre session. Candidates should practise:

- mental arithmetic;
- estimation;
- scientific notation;
- ratios and percentages;
- rearranging equations; and
- interpreting graphs without electronic assistance.

The examination is designed to test reasoning, so lengthy calculations are not normally the main objective.

14. How is GAMSAT scored?

Candidates receive:

- a Humanities and Social Sciences score;
- a Written Communication score;
- a Biological and Physical Sciences score; and
- an Overall Score.

Each score is reported on a scale from **0 to 100**, but these figures are not percentage marks.

The standard Overall Score is calculated as:

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Overall Score} = \\ \frac{\text{Humanities} + \text{Written Communication} + \\ 2(\text{Biological Sciences})}{4} \end{array} \right]$$

This means the Biological and Physical Sciences section normally has double weighting. Some universities may calculate or consider scores differently. [Official GAMSAT scoring guidance](#)

15. Is there a pass mark for GAMSAT?

There is no universal pass mark. Each university determines how it uses GAMSAT and may establish:

- a minimum Overall Score;
- minimum section scores;
- a competitive cut-off;
- an unweighted average;
- ranking against other applicants; or
- a combination of GAMSAT, academic results and interview performance.

Meeting a published minimum does not necessarily make an applicant competitive.

16. What is a good GAMSAT score?

A good score depends on the country, university, programme, applicant category and level of competition in that admissions cycle.

Applicants should examine:

- the university's minimum requirements;
- previous competitive scores, where published;

- whether each section has a minimum;
- how the Overall Score is calculated; and
- whether international applicants are assessed separately.

Selecting universities solely on one historical cut-off is risky because selection thresholds can change annually.

17. How long should I prepare for GAMSAT?

Many candidates should allow approximately **three to six months** of structured preparation. Longer preparation may be necessary for applicants who:

- have no recent science education;
- use English as an additional language;
- work or study full-time;
- need substantial improvement across several sections; or
- are unfamiliar with timed admissions examinations.

Preparation time should be based on a diagnostic assessment rather than a standard plan for every candidate.

18. How should I begin preparing?

A suitable preparation process is:

1. Identify the universities and programmes requiring GAMSAT.
2. Confirm your academic and international-applicant eligibility.
3. Review the current examination format.
4. Complete a diagnostic assessment.
5. Identify gaps in science, reading, reasoning and writing.
6. Create section-specific study targets.
7. Begin with concepts and untimed practice.
8. Progress to timed questions and full simulations.
9. Review mistakes and adjust the plan regularly.

19. What is an effective weekly study plan?

Study session	Suggested focus
Session 1	Biology and experimental interpretation
Session 2	General and organic Chemistry
Session 3	Physics and mathematical reasoning
Session 4	Humanities and critical reading
Session 5	Written Communication
Session 6	Timed mixed questions
Session 7	Error analysis, revision or rest

Candidates should adapt the schedule according to their diagnostic results. Non-science graduates will normally need additional science sessions.

20. What preparation materials should I use?

Begin with official ACER resources. Registration currently includes access to Practice Test A, while other practice materials may be purchased separately.

Official resources include:

- practice tests;
- Humanities and Social Sciences questions;
- Biological and Physical Sciences questions;
- Written Communication tasks;
- an online platform demonstration;
- preparation videos; and
- interactive practice materials.

Candidates should use the [official GAMSAT preparation page](#) to confirm which materials are included or available.

21. Should I memorise large amounts of information?

Some foundational knowledge is necessary, particularly for science. However, memorisation alone is insufficient.

GAMSAT questions frequently present unfamiliar information and ask candidates to:

- identify relationships;
- apply principles;
- interpret evidence;
- eliminate unsupported conclusions; and
- solve a problem using the information provided.

Preparation should therefore balance subject knowledge with reasoning practice.

22. What is the best way to improve time management?

Candidates should:

- establish timing checkpoints;
- avoid spending too long on one question;
- identify and complete more accessible questions efficiently;
- make an informed selection when uncertain;
- practise full sections under examination conditions; and
- develop the concentration required for a long testing session.

There is no benefit in allowing one difficult question to prevent completion of several later questions.

23. When is GAMSAT offered?

GAMSAT generally has two annual testing cycles:

- March; and
- September.

Availability, registration periods and venues differ between cycles. As of August 2026, registration for September 2026 has closed, and registration for March 2027 is expected to open in November 2026. Check the [official registration page](#) before planning an application.

24. Where can international applicants take GAMSAT?

The Humanities and Biological Sciences sections are delivered at selected centres in:

- Australia;
- the United Kingdom;
- Ireland;
- New Zealand; and
- Singapore.

“Rest of World” arrangements may be available depending on the cycle and delivery conditions. Venue availability is limited, and not every location operates on every test date.

25. How much does GAMSAT cost?

Current registration fees are:

Testing region	Fee
Australia	AUD\$568
Ireland	€378
United Kingdom	£296

An additional overseas levy applies to testing in Singapore. Late registration, deferral or location-change fees may also apply. Fees can change between testing cycles, so applicants should confirm the current amount before registering.

26. How do I register?

Applicants must:

1. Create an ACER account.
2. Select the appropriate GAMSAT test cycle.
3. Complete the registration details accurately.
4. Select an available location and session.
5. Pay the registration fee online.
6. Arrange the Written Communication session as instructed.
7. Retain all confirmations and monitor the ACER account.

Registering for GAMSAT does not constitute an application to a medical school. The university application must be completed separately.

27. What identification is required?

Candidates must present the identification specified by ACER for their test cycle and location. The personal details in the ACER account should match the identification document.

International students should review the current information booklet carefully and resolve any name or identification discrepancy well before test day.

28. Can students receive reasonable adjustments?

Candidates with a disability, medical condition or other eligible need may apply for reasonable adjustments.

Possible arrangements include:

- extended testing time;
- rest breaks;
- enlarged display or accessibility support;
- permission for necessary medication or medical devices;
- assistance for hearing or visual needs; and
- appropriate nursing arrangements.

Applications require supporting evidence and must be submitted by the published deadline. A new request is normally required for each sitting.

29. When are results released?

Results are released through the candidate's online ACER account. For the 2026 cycles:

- March results were scheduled for late May 2026;
- September results are scheduled for mid-November 2026.

Candidates receive an email when results become available. ACER does not offer score remarks for individual components.

30. How long are GAMSAT results valid?

Validity differs between countries, institutions and admission cycles. Candidates must check which sittings are accepted for their intended year of entry.

For example, UK programmes accepting applications in 2026 for 2027 entry currently accept specified March and September results from 2025 and 2026. Australian and Irish rules follow their own admissions cycles. Do not assume that one universal validity period applies everywhere.

31. Can I take GAMSAT more than once?

Yes. ACER does not currently impose a limit on the number of GAMSAT attempts. Candidates may sit both March and September sessions where permitted.

Before retaking, candidates should analyse their section scores and change their preparation plan. Repeating the test without addressing the causes of the previous result may offer limited improvement.

32. Does GAMSAT replace IELTS or another English test?

No. GAMSAT assesses reasoning, writing and scientific problem-solving. IELTS, TOEFL, PTE and similar examinations demonstrate English-language proficiency.

International applicants may need to satisfy both GAMSAT and English-language requirements unless the university grants an exemption.

33. Does a high GAMSAT score guarantee admission?

No. Universities may also consider:

- bachelor's degree results;
- prerequisite subjects;
- GPA;
- interview performance;
- personal statements or portfolios;
- situational judgement assessments;
- English-language proficiency; and
- international-student eligibility.

GAMSAT is one important part of a competitive selection process.

34. How can IEC support GAMSAT applicants?

IEC Edu Consultancy can provide:

- initial eligibility and diagnostic assessment;
- personalised GAMSAT study planning;
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics foundation support;
- Humanities and critical-reasoning preparation;
- Written Communication guidance;
- mock examinations and performance analysis;
- graduate-entry medical-school selection;
- application and interview guidance;
- English-language preparation; and
- visa and pre-departure support.

Call to action:

Planning to apply for graduate-entry Medicine? Book an initial assessment with IEC Edu Consultancy to evaluate your academic eligibility, identify your GAMSAT target and develop a personalised examination and application plan.

Important: GAMSAT dates, fees, delivery arrangements and university requirements may change. Applicants should verify current information with ACER and their intended universities before registering.