

UCAT FAQs for International Medicine Applicants

Updated for the 2026 UCAT test cycle and 2027 university entry.

1. What is the UCAT?

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is a computer-based admissions test used by many universities when selecting students for Medicine and Dentistry. It assesses reasoning, decision-making, numerical skills and professional judgement rather than knowledge of Biology, Chemistry or other school subjects.

2. Do international applicants need to take the UCAT?

Yes, if the medical course you are applying to lists UCAT as an admission requirement. International applicants are normally subject to the same UCAT requirement as UK applicants, but each university has its own selection policy. Always check the requirements of every medical school before registering. The official [UCAT university list](#) identifies participating institutions.

3. Which test should I take: UCAT or UCAT ANZ?

- Take the **UCAT** if you are applying only to universities in the UK or participating international partner universities.
- Take **UCAT ANZ** if you are applying to universities in Australia or New Zealand, including applicants who are also applying to the UK.

You cannot sit both UCAT and UCAT ANZ during the same test year. Doing so may be treated as candidate misconduct. [Official UCAT eligibility guidance](#)

4. Can I take the UCAT outside the UK?

Yes. UCAT is delivered through Pearson test centres in more than 130 countries. International applicants can use the official test-centre locator when booking. Limited online-proctored testing may be available where reaching a centre is exceptionally difficult because of distance, conflict, civil unrest, natural disaster or certain medical circumstances.

5. When should I take the UCAT?

You must sit the UCAT in the same year that you submit your UCAS medicine application. For example, applicants seeking entry in 2027—or deferred entry in 2028—must take UCAT 2026.

The 2026 UK UCAT schedule is:

Stage	Date
Registration opens	20 May 2026
Test booking opens	23 June 2026
Testing begins	13 July 2026

Stage	Date
Access-arrangement deadline	10 September 2026
Booking and registration close	16 September 2026
Final test day	24 September 2026
UCAS medicine deadline	15 October 2026

Times and subsequent changes should be checked on the official [UCAT test dates page](#).

6. How do I register and book the UCAT?

Applicants must:

1. Create their own UCAT account.
2. Complete the registration information accurately.
3. Wait until test booking opens.
4. Select a country, Pearson test centre, date and time.
5. Pay the test fee and retain the confirmation email.

Register early because convenient dates and test centres may become fully booked.

7. How much does the UCAT cost?

For the 2026 cycle, the fee is:

- **£70** when taking the test in the UK
- **£115** when taking the test outside the UK

Payment is made when booking. The UCAT bursary is restricted to eligible UK candidates, so most international applicants should expect to pay the full test fee. [Official booking and fee information](#)

8. What is the UCAT format?

The standard UCAT contains four separately timed, multiple-choice sections:

Section	Questions	Test time	Score
Verbal Reasoning	44	22 minutes	300–900
Decision Making	35	37 minutes	300–900
Quantitative Reasoning	36	26 minutes	300–900
Situational Judgement	69	26 minutes	Band 1–4

The cognitive sections produce a combined score between **900 and 2700**. Situational Judgement is reported separately as a band. There is no negative marking for incorrect answers. [Official test format and scoring](#)

9. Is there a pass mark for the UCAT?

There is no universal pass mark. Each medical school uses UCAT results differently. A university may:

- apply a minimum cut-off;
- rank applicants by total score;
- assess individual section scores;
- consider the Situational Judgement band;
- combine UCAT with academic grades, personal information and interview performance.

A score that is competitive at one university may not be competitive at another. Applicants should select universities strategically after receiving their results. [How universities use UCAT](#)

10. How many times can I take the UCAT?

You may take the test only **once in each annual test cycle**. You may take it again in a future year if you reapply, but you must create the required account and make a new booking for that cycle.

11. How long is my UCAT result valid?

A UCAT score is valid only for the relevant admissions cycle. UCAT 2026 results are valid for the 2027 UCAS admissions cycle, including applicants requesting deferred entry in 2028. Older scores cannot normally be reused.

12. When will I receive my result?

Candidates taking the test at a Pearson centre receive a score report before leaving. The result is also uploaded to the candidate's UCAT account, normally within approximately 24 hours.

For UK applications, UCAT matches candidates with their UCAS choices and sends results directly to participating universities. Applicants do not normally enter their UCAT score on the UCAS form. [Official UCAT results guidance](#)

13. What identification must international applicants bring?

You must bring one acceptable, original and unexpired form of photographic identification. The name must match the name on your UCAT account and booking confirmation exactly. A valid passport is generally the most suitable option for international candidates.

Applicants without acceptable identification may be refused admission to the test and lose their fee. Check the detailed [UCAT identification policy](#) well before test day.

14. Can applicants receive extra time or other accommodations?

Yes. Candidates with disabilities or medical conditions may apply for arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks or other approved accommodations. Supporting evidence is required,

and approval must normally be obtained **before booking the test**. Accommodations cannot simply be added to an existing standard appointment. [Access-arrangement guidance](#)

15. How should I prepare for the UCAT?

A structured preparation plan should include:

- learning the format and timing of every section;
- completing untimed questions to develop accuracy;
- practising under strict timed conditions;
- reviewing mistakes and identifying recurring weaknesses;
- using full mock examinations near the test date;
- becoming familiar with the on-screen calculator and test interface.

The UCAT Consortium provides free [official question banks and practice tests](#). Applicants should use current materials because the format and scoring can change.

16. Does a high UCAT score guarantee admission to Medicine?

No. Medical schools also assess academic qualifications, English-language proficiency, work experience or relevant exposure, references, interviews and other course-specific criteria. International applicants must additionally satisfy tuition-fee, financial and visa requirements.

17. Can IEC help with UCAT preparation and medical-school applications?

Yes. IEC Edu Consultancy can support applicants with:

- initial academic and UCAT assessment;
- personalised UCAT preparation planning;
- medical-school selection based on academic profile and UCAT result;
- UCAS application guidance;
- interview preparation;
- document and visa guidance;
- pre-departure and accommodation support.

Call to action:

Planning to study Medicine? Book an initial assessment with IEC Edu Consultancy to evaluate your eligibility, choose suitable medical schools and develop your UCAT preparation strategy.

Important: UCAT dates, fees and university policies may change. Applicants should verify the latest requirements on the official UCAT and university websites before applying.