

Admission tests for medical and dental degrees

In Scotland, admission tests are used by some universities as part of the application process for medical and dentistry degrees. The information that follows outlines what these tests are and where you can find more details.

University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

This test is used by universities to assist with choosing applicants for medical and dentistry programmes. It doesn't test academic ability but rather the other aptitudes required for succeeding in these fields of work, such as mental ability, attitude and professionalism. It is also intended to promote greater fairness in the selection process, such as widening the participation of under-represented social groups within these professions.

Test format

The different components of the test are:

- verbal reasoning - critically evaluate written information
- quantitative reasoning - critically evaluate information in numerical form
- abstract reasoning - use convergent and divergent thinking to infer relationships from information
- decision making - make sound decisions and judgements using complex information
- situational judgement - understand real world situations and identify critical factors and behaviour in dealing with them.
- Each section is in multiple choice format and is separately timed.

Important dates

You need to check with the universities you have applied to whether you are required to sit the UCAT. If you do then you need to make sure that you are aware of all the important dates and information. For those sitting the test in 2019 for course entry in 2020, the following dates have been published:

- registration for the test - starts on 1 May and ends on 18 September 2019
- deadline for booking the test - midday 1 October 2019
- sitting the test - starts on 1 July and ends on 2 October 2019
- UCAS application deadline date - 15 October 2019.

The fee for the 2019 test is £65 if sat by 31 August 2019 and £87 if sat between 1 September and 2 October 2019.

Results

Once you have sat the test you are given a copy of the result to take away with you from the test centre. This is just for your information and you do not need to send it to your chosen universities. Once the UCAS application deadline passes, UCAT liaise with UCAS and your chosen universities and pass the test result to them in the first week of November.

More Information

The [UCAT website](#) has more detailed information, including what to do if you:

- want to apply for a bursary to cover the test fee
- have special educational needs and want to apply to sit the UCATSEN test
- need to cancel or reschedule a test date
- would like help preparing for the test.

Scottish Graduate Entry Medical Programme (ScotGEM)

This course is offered by the University of Dundee and University of St Andrews and has different admissions tests than other medical degree programmes. You are required to sit:

- the Situational Judgment Test for Admissions to Clinical Education (SJTace), which is managed by UKCAT
- the Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT).

SJTace

This test is used by universities to assist them with the selection of applicants with the most appropriate professional behaviours required to be a successful doctor.

It is a computer based test that is 27 minutes in duration. It consists of two sets of questions, which are a series of scenarios with possible actions and considerations. In the first set of questions, you are asked to rate the importance of a series of options in response to the given scenario. In the second set of questions, you are asked to rate the appropriateness of a series of options in response to the given scenario.

After the test you are given a score report and UCAT pass your results directly to your chosen university.

For places on the course for entry in 2020, the following key dates are:

- registration and booking for the test opens - 1 May 2019
- registration and online booking closes - 18 September 2019
- test must be booked by - 1 October 2019
- test can be taken - 1 July to 2 October 2019.

The fee is £40.

You can find more information on the [UCAT](#) website.

GAMSAT

The purpose of GAMSAT is to assess the ability to understand and analyse written and graphically presented material. It also measures the ability to reason, make logical conclusions and form judgements.

The test takes place over a full day. It is split into 3 sections and consists of 5.5 hours testing time, 25 minutes of reading time and 1 hour of break time. Section 1 is reasoning in humanities and social sciences, section 2 is

written communication and section 3 is reasoning in biological and physical sciences.

The test is offered twice a year, in March and September. The fee is £262.

You receive an email when your results are ready and these are sent directly to your universities of choice.

For detailed information, see the [GAMSAT](#) website.