Discover people who will thrive on medical, dental and biomedical degrees

Giving you the tools to make informed decisions
We are a trusted partner to universities around the world

Here’s a selection of institutions we work with:

- Brighton and Sussex Medical School
- Leiden University Medical Center
- University of Leeds
- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- Lancaster University
- University of Navarra
- Chulalongkorn University
- University of Malaya
- Imperial College London

“BMAT provides a level playing field. Our applicants all take the same paper, in the same year – and we have something that bridges across all the different qualifications.”

Associate Professor Kwek Tong Kiat | Assistant Dean Admissions, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Singapore
BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

BMAT helps you identify applicants’ potential for academically demanding, science-based study. It is used by universities around the world to select applicants for medical, dental and biomedical courses.

BMAT was developed in collaboration with world-leading universities. There is extensive ongoing research to ensure the fairness and validity of the test for university admissions.

BMAT results are typically used alongside other information available to admissions tutors to shortlist applicants for interview and make objective selection decisions.

Universities use BMAT for:

**Fairness and transparency**
We believe all applicants should have an equal opportunity to prove they have what it takes. Wherever in the world your applicants are, no matter what their background, BMAT gives every applicant the opportunity to show their potential.

**International reach**
Our global network of test centres lets applicants take BMAT in their own country. This means your selection procedure is accessible to all applicants, and quick and convenient for your staff.

**Discovering potential**
BMAT is designed to distinguish a range of ability and helps you identify applicants who will thrive on your course. It focuses on skills crucial for success, such as problem solving and the application of subject knowledge to new contexts.

**Widening participation**
BMAT is designed to be accessible to all applicants. It focuses on core subject knowledge covered in school by age 16, to minimise the amount of new learning needed. All applicants have access to comprehensive free test preparation materials.
BMAT is a 2-hour, paper-based test. It has three test sections which are taken consecutively.

**Section 1: Aptitude and Skills**  
*35 multiple-choice questions, 1 hour*

**What it tests:**

- **Problem solving**
  The ability to determine how to encode and process numerical information to solve problems.  
  It requires test-takers to select relevant information, recognise analogous cases, and apply appropriate procedures.

- **Understanding argument**
  The ability to understand a series of logical arguments.  
  It requires test-takers to identify reasons, assumptions and conclusions, detect flaws and draw their own conclusions.

- **Data analysis and inference**
  The ability to use information skills, data interpretation and analysis, and scientific inference and deduction to reach appropriate conclusions.  
  It requires test-takers to reach conclusions from information provided in different forms: textual, statistical and graphical.

**Section 2: Scientific Knowledge and Applications**  
*27 multiple-choice questions, 30 minutes*

**What it tests:**

The ability to apply scientific knowledge, in a way that demonstrates an understanding of the scientific principles underpinning this knowledge. This is designed to distinguish a range of ability within a group of applicants with near-perfect grades in school examinations.

The test focuses on the application of core scientific knowledge, typically covered in school Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Mathematics by the age of 16.

“BMAT gives us an introduction to what medical school is really like. Medical school is not just about studying what’s in the textbook, it’s about interpreting that knowledge and communicating it to the patient.”

---

**Chyanyn | medical student, University College London, UK**
**Section 3: Writing  One essay, 30 minutes**

**What it tests:**

The ability to communicate effectively in writing, organise ideas and present them clearly and concisely.

Test-takers answer one task from a choice of three. Questions are based on topics of general, medical or scientific interest.

Questions provide a short proposition and may require test-takers to:

- explain or discuss the proposition's implications
- suggest a counter proposition or argument
- suggest a (method for) resolution.

The final answer is limited to one A4 page to promote disciplined selection and organisation of ideas, and concise and effective expression.

**Scoring**

Section 1 and Section 2 scores are reported, to one decimal place, on a 9-point BMAT scale.

Section 3 scores are reported for:

- quality of content – on a scale of 1 to 5, reported to half a mark
- quality of English – on a scale from A to E.

Institutions are also provided with a full copy of the applicant's Section 3 response.

Download the BMAT test specification and example tests at: admissiontesting.org/bmat-preparation
Test delivery and costs

Available worldwide
Applicants can take BMAT at authorised test centres around the world. The test can also be administered at your institution.

A choice of test dates
There are several different BMAT test sessions each year. You can choose the best session to fit with your existing admissions procedures.

Fast results
Results are issued 3–4 weeks after a test session and provided directly to universities in electronic format. Applicants can also see their results using our online system.

Affordable
Test fees are paid by the applicant. We ensure test fees are affordable and do not present a barrier to entering university.

Free preparation materials
We provide everything applicants need to prepare for their test, including past papers, worked answers and revision guides. There is no need for applicants to pay for a preparation course or additional materials.

“I didn’t use any preparation course. I just used everything that’s on the website – it’s such a good resource. I went through all the past paper questions, downloaded the answer sheets and practised doing them to time.”

Katie | medical student, Lancaster University, UK
We conduct extensive research to ensure the validity and fairness of BMAT. Our research agenda and our approach to admissions testing are guided by the following key principles.

**Positive impact for test-takers**
BMAT is designed to have a positive impact for test-takers. Any time spent preparing for BMAT helps test-takers develop skills directly beneficial for their future academic studies.

**Application of existing knowledge and skills**
BMAT focuses on knowledge and skills that should already be familiar to applicants. We aim to minimise the amount of new learning or study needed, to ensure that BMAT is accessible to all test-takers.

**Collaborative working**
The universities that use BMAT have input into our research programme and we hold regular meetings with them. We also fund research in partnership with universities to explore the impact of the test in their own admissions contexts.

**Quality assurance and fairness**
We monitor the performance of all our test items to ensure they are of the highest quality. Advanced statistical analyses are used to monitor the performance of different test-taker groups (e.g. gender, school background) to guard against any potential bias.

**A broad view of admissions**
An admissions test is one part of the admissions process and our research covers wider approaches to selection. We look at the broader context such as widening access initiatives, applicants’ perceptions of admissions processes, and the relationship between BMAT scores and other parts of the admissions process.

---

**Key BMAT research points**

- BMAT predicts future performance on biomedical courses.
- BMAT indicates which applicants are most likely to meet their predicted A Level grades.
- BMAT is effective for shortlisting applicants to invite to multiple mini-interview (MMI).
- BMAT has been shown to predict outcomes fairly for test-takers, regardless of gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background.

Download the BMAT research summary at: admissiontesting.org/bmat-research
We are Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, part of the University of Cambridge. Our tests provide a measure of skills and aptitude to help you make informed decisions.

We believe everyone should have a fair opportunity to prove they have what it takes, and you should have the right tools and information to find the people who will thrive.

Contact us
Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing
The Triangle Building
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8EA

admissionstesting@cambridgeassessment.org.uk

All details are correct at the time of going to print in July 2018.