



Question time for prospective Thai medics



Testing for potential

Every year, 200–300 people apply to study on the international Medicine course at CICM at Thammasat University in Thailand, which needed to find a fair and accurate way to reduce these down to just 100 interviewees.

For the past three years, the university has used Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing's BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) to identify applicants who will thrive on its Medicine and Dentistry degree courses.

BMAT has been employed by world-leading universities since 2003, helping admissions tutors to make objective selection decisions and allowing students to show their full potential.

Thammasat was the first university in Thailand to use BMAT, to help decide which 30 students to select for the medical course from the 300 applications received every year.

Assistant Professor Peerapong Kitipawong, Managing Director of CICM Admissions and Test Centre, Thammasat University, said the BMAT test score accounts for 50% of a candidate's mark and the interview the other 50%. Applicants have reported finding the written part of the test more difficult than the scientific part, but this accounts for only 10% of their mark, so does not have a huge bearing on a student's selection, he added.



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About Faculty of Medicine, Thammasat University in Thailand

Established in 1990, the Faculty of Medicine, Thammasat University is an institute that nurtures medical practitioners in public health; in particular, graduates in Medicine (doctors), medical scientists and applied Thai traditional therapists.

About BMAT

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) identifies applicants who will thrive on Medicine, Biomedicine and Dentistry degree courses. BMAT has been used by world-leading universities since 2003, helping admissions tutors to make objective selection decisions and allowing students to show their full potential.

About CPSQ

CPSQ assesses applicants' values and behaviours, helping you to make selection decisions for admission to healthcare courses or employment. The assessment can also help you to understand students' or employees' development needs. CPSQ is used by employers, nursing schools and medical and healthcare faculties in the UK and overseas.

About Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing

We are part of the University of Cambridge and have been working with UK and worldwide universities, governments and employers for more than 15 years. Our admissions assessments are a global mark of excellence that set the quality standard. Backed by extensive research, our admissions tests give your applicants the opportunity to prove they have what it takes and help enhance your selection process. We have a global network of centres that spans 150 countries, making it easy to assess applicants wherever they may be.

Kitipawong is very happy with the relationship Thammasat has with Admissions Testing and is proud that it was the first university in the country to use BMAT.

'Nine universities in Thailand now use the test for admission to their medical schools,' said Weerawat Kulachanpises, Country Manager Thailand for Cambridge Assessment English.

'The first thing we did was to increase recognition from the universities; we contacted them regularly and explained how they could use BMAT for their admissions testing. Then we started looking for the right partner to help us deliver the test to candidates.

'We wanted a partner to provide the test outside Bangkok, so we decided to work with Capwise, an educational consultant. We chose them because of their flexibility and good local knowledge and reach. They were also able to offer BMAT to candidates at a more accessible price.

'It's great for students, because they don't have to travel from their province or city to Bangkok. They can take the test in the north and north-east of Thailand, and we are expanding to the south this year.'

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Personal qualities

Thammasat has also started using the Cambridge Personal Styles Questionnaire® (CPSQ), and is the first university in Thailand to trial it. CPSQ assesses applicants' values and behaviours, helping to make selection decisions for admission to healthcare courses or employment. CPSQ is used by employers, nursing schools and medical and healthcare faculties globally.

Working with Kitipawong – who visited Cambridge in October 2018 – Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing provided Thammasat with an international version of the CPSQ that would be appropriate for the Thai market.

The university first used it in January 2019, when 100 candidates for its medical programme were tested. Another 40 went through the assessment in June.

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 admissionstesting.org

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