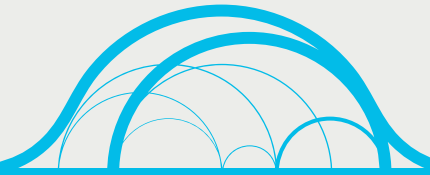




## Extending the reach of a Spanish medical school



### The key to consistency

Each year, the Universidad de Navarra, Facultad de Medicina, welcomes 200 students, 20 of whom are international. Because of this, the school was keen to introduce a standardised test suitable for recruiting potential medics from abroad.



Situated in the Spanish city of Pamplona, the private university's School of Medicine teaches in English with clinical practice in Spanish.

The school has been using the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) since 2015, after looking for a tool that would enable it to reach more international candidates.

BMAT has been employed by world-leading universities since 2003 to identify applicants who will thrive on Medicine, Biomedicine and Dentistry degree courses, helping admissions tutors make objective selection decisions, and allowing students to show their full potential.

It was developed by Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, part of the University of Cambridge, which has worked with universities, governments and employers around the world to provide assessments that are a global mark of excellence.

International Project Manager John L Oliver explained that although the school has an in-house test that can be taken in Pamplona, BMAT has helped its overseas reach enormously.

“ It doesn't matter where the candidates come from – if they get a score we're looking for on BMAT, we can pretty much guarantee that they're going to be a good medical student. ”

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## About Universidad de Navarra, Facultad de Medicina

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The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Navarra offers its students the possibility of completing their training in a degree in Medicine or in a degree in Medicine plus an International Program with the Diploma in Biomedical Research or with the Diploma in Surgery. Each year the faculty welcomes 200 students, 20 of whom are international.

## About BMAT

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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 Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing

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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.

For language reasons, it is currently recruiting from Latin America, and potential students can take the test at centres in countries such as Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Colombia. The school is keen to look at the German market, as students there often look to study abroad.

Oliver said: 'The element of BMAT that we value the most is consistency.

'It doesn't matter where the candidates come from – if that candidate gets a score that we're looking for on BMAT, we can pretty much guarantee that they're going to be a good medical student and successfully complete our programme.'

The fact that the test is in English is significant, he said. 'This also allows us to recruit non-Spanish-speaking candidates. At our medical school, we have an International Program for which English is required, so this is already like a pre-filter for those candidates.'

## Customer service

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International students are interviewed via Skype – or the university has a network of representatives around the world who can conduct interviews locally.

The reputation of Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is also important, according to Oliver. He said that the website reassures potential students, explaining why they have to sit BMAT and offering all the resources they need to prepare for the test.

All test administration is handled by Admissions Testing, a factor that Oliver says is crucial.

'Once the test is completed, if you're a test centre, you just have to email the answer sheets through an FTP portal and everything is taken care of – and this definitely helps us.

'It is one less thing that we have to deal with, and it makes the process very streamlined to get the answers and to review the candidates,' he said. 'It's a very easy process.'

And he added: 'What I value the most about working with Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is the customer service that they provide. If I ever have any kind of difficulty or need to contact somebody, I have a direct number to a manager, and my emails are answered in a timely manner.'

In 2017, 88 students took BMAT and successfully completed the online admissions process, followed by 84 in 2018 and 95 in 2019.

“ Once the test is completed, you just have to email the answer sheets through an FTP portal and everything is taken care of – it's a very easy process. ”

## Find out more

 [admissionstesting.org](https://admissionstesting.org)

 [admissions-testing](https://www.linkedin.com/company/admissions-testing)

 [/admissionstesting](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCadmissionstesting)

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