



IMAT ensures language is no barrier to success



Test of logic and knowledge

When Italy's Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) wanted an English-language equivalent to its medical schools admissions test, it turned to Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing.



Together, and in collaboration with prestigious Italian universities, they devised the International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT) – a test consisting of multiple-choice questions that test a candidate's logic and general knowledge, as well as their ability to apply knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics.

Italian universities offer English-language undergraduate courses that are open to applicants from within and outside of the country, including those who wish to study medicine and surgery.

In April 2011, MIUR approached Admissions Testing to develop an English-language medical admissions test and, in September 2011, the first live IMAT was delivered.

The universities of Sapienza Rome, Milan and Pavia used it for entry to their medicine and surgery courses.

“ We have developed IMAT to help universities select the best students from all over the world. ”

Contact us

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About the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research

Italy's Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca (MIUR) is the government department for the national education system, universities and research agencies.

It supervises, finances and evaluates university activities in teaching and research.

About IMAT

Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing is working with MIUR to develop and deliver the International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT). IMAT is in English and is for applicants to medicine, surgery and dentistry courses. These courses are taught in English, with places open to home and international students.

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.

Around 2,000 candidates took the test at six Italian universities and at secure test centres in five other countries. Answer sheets were processed in Cambridge and Bologna within 48 hours, and the results given to the universities in less than one week.

In 2019, 13 universities used IMAT to select students for their English-language courses, with around 8,000 candidates – featuring 100 nationalities – sitting the test in 34 test centres in 21 countries, across five continents.

Admissions Testing has extensive experience of designing and delivering admissions tests for medicine: the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) – used by medical schools around the world, including the UK, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the Netherlands – has been in operation since 2003.

IMAT has a broad reach and is highly accessible. Rigorous and robust development of it continues, with multiple quality checks by experienced item writers, and software to generate randomised paper-based tests for improved security.

"Italian universities are recognised as an attractive alternative for students around the world who seek a high-quality education in a congenial environment," said Nick Beer, Cambridge Assessment English's Regional Commercial Head, Europe. "Along with many other universities that offer courses in medicine in English, we have developed IMAT to help them select the best students from all over the world."

Daniele Livon, Director General at MIUR, added: "We are pleased to be working with Admissions Testing and will ensure that our joint efforts continue to deliver useful information for the universities involved."

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Find out more

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