

# The Admissions Testing Service

*Measuring Potential*



A brief guide





## Who we are and what we do

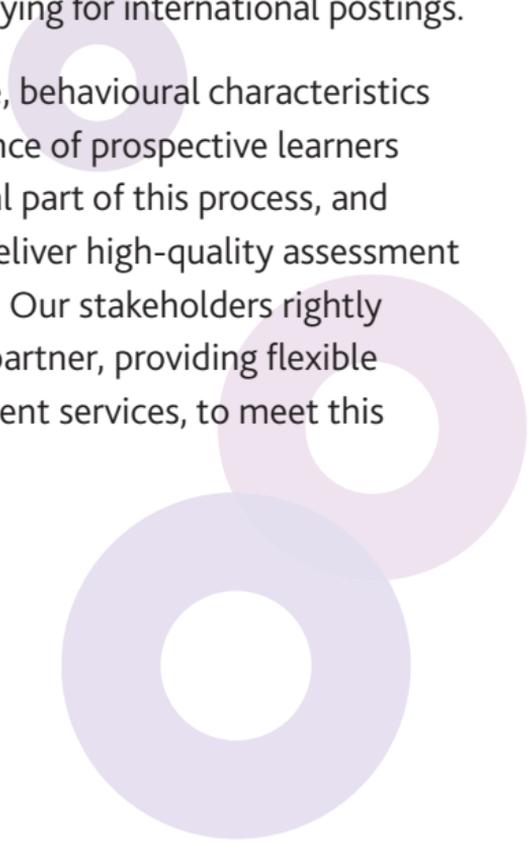
The Admissions Testing Service offers a range of tests and tailored assessment services to support selection and recruitment for educational institutions, professional organisations and governments around the world. Underpinned by robust and rigorous research, our services include:

- assessments in thinking skills
- admissions tests for medicine and healthcare
- behavioural styles assessment
- subject-specific aptitude tests.

## Background to our services

Selection for education and employment is increasingly taking place in an international context, whether for educational institutions selecting from an international pool of applicants, or for professional healthcare workers applying for international postings.

Identifying the aptitude, behavioural characteristics and language competence of prospective learners or employees is a crucial part of this process, and requires the ability to deliver high-quality assessment services internationally. Our stakeholders rightly expect a collaborative partner, providing flexible and innovative assessment services, to meet this growing need.



# Why the Admissions Testing Service?

## An organisation you can trust

The Admissions Testing Service is a department of Cambridge English Language Assessment, which is part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge.

Cambridge English Language Assessment offers the world's leading qualifications for learners and teachers of the English language. Over 4 million people from 130 countries take Cambridge English exams every year.

## Solid expertise in test development

We have been assisting the higher education selection process for over 10 years and work with world-leading universities.

## High-quality, fair tests

Our admissions tests are constructed using rigorous research, validation and testing procedures that ensure quality and fairness. As we are leaders in the field of assessment, all our tests are specifically designed to be fair to all test takers, whatever their age, gender, nationality, culture or ethnic background.

## Bespoke services

We tailor our tests to the specific needs of ministries of education and universities, by integrating our assessment services with existing university admissions processes. For example, we can develop tests in languages other than English, for entry to courses that are not taught in English.

## Global centre network

Students can take our admissions tests at authorised test centres all over the world, with access to nearly 3,000 test centres in 130 countries. We are able to open new centres to cater for specific locations, if required.

## Outstanding assessment and administration systems

We can work with you to ensure high-quality test development, administration, operations, assessment, results processing, and exam review and evaluation.



The image shows a banner for the QS World University Rankings in the Life Sciences & Medicine category. The banner features a blue background with a pipette and test tubes. The QS logo and 'WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS' are visible in the top right corner. Below the banner is a table listing the top 10 universities in this field.

Rank	School	AR	ER	OPF	Score
1	Harvard University United States	★★★★★	100	100	100
2	University of Oxford United Kingdom	★★★★★	93.3	93.9	93.4
3	University of Cambridge United Kingdom	★★★★★	93.2	93.6	93.9
4	Stanford University United States	★★★★★	92.3	92.7	93.0
5	Yale University United States	★★★★★	91.7	92.2	92.9
6	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) United States	★★★★★	88.9	90.1	89.5
7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) United States	★★★★★	89.0	89.4	89.2
8	Jefferson Hopkins University United States	★★★★★	83.2	83.9	83.5
9	Imperial College London United Kingdom	★★★★★	81.3	81.9	81.6
10	Columbia University United States	★★★★★	81.1	81.7	81.4

*We work with world-leading universities.*

Source: QS World University Rankings.

## Our admissions tests

Our tests can be grouped into:

- Medicine and healthcare tests
- Subject-specific tests
- Thinking skills assessment
- Behavioural styles assessment.





## Admissions tests for medicine and healthcare

We offer a number of medicine and healthcare-related tests for entry to undergraduate/graduate courses and at occupational level, working with institutions in the UK and overseas.

### BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

This test is for applicants to medicine, veterinary medicine and biomedical science courses at certain universities, where the majority of candidates have followed a predominantly UK-based school science curriculum. It is used by universities in the UK and overseas, and is taken in November for admission the following October.

### International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT)

This test is for applicants to English-taught medicine and surgery and related degree courses, at universities whose applicants are from a range of educational backgrounds. It is used by universities overseas, and is taken in April for admission in October.

### Occupational English Test (OET)

This is a language test for health practitioners who have qualified to practise in one country, and wish to register to practise their profession in an English-speaking context in another country. The OET assesses English language proficiency as it is used in medical and health professional settings. For further details, go to [www.occupationalenglishtest.org](http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org)

You can find case studies outlining how we have worked with institutions on both the BMAT and the IMAT at:

[www.admissionstestingservice.org/casestudies](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/casestudies)



## Subject-specific admissions tests

Our subject-specific tests assess candidates' potential for success in their chosen subject.

For example:

### Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) Mathematics

This test is for applicants to Mathematics courses at the University of Cambridge and the University of Warwick.

### Managing universities' own admissions tests

We also work in collaboration with higher education institutions, such as the University of Oxford, on the administration of their own admissions tests. To read a case study outlining how we have worked with Oxford on their tests go to:

[www.admissionstesting.org/casestudies](http://www.admissionstesting.org/casestudies)





## Thinking skills assessment

The Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) helps tutors to assess whether applicants have the skills and aptitudes that are required for academic study. The TSA tests generic skills in problem solving and critical thinking that are important for success in higher education.

The TSA is currently used for entry to a wide range of university courses, ranging from Geography, Politics and Economics, to Engineering, Philosophy and Psychology.

## Thinking skills for young learners

The Thinking Skills for Young Learners assessment tests children's reasoning ability. It features verbal categorical and analogical reasoning components, administered on computer. The verbal items are chosen to be as culture-fair as possible, incorporating words and concepts familiar to children up to two years younger than those taking the test. They do not require the child to be able to read well, as they hear all test instructions and verbal stimuli through personal headphones as they appear on screen.

There are two versions of the test, for children aged 7–8 and 10–13. Schools receive age-standardised scores for individual pupils and information about the performance of the year group as a whole. The Thinking Skills for Young Learners test can be used in conjunction with a school's own measures of academic attainment, to identify children who may not be reaching their learning potential.

Following extensive development the test will be available in 2013.



## Behavioural styles assessment

We are developing an online behavioural styles assessment for launch in 2013. It is designed to capture information on a range of behavioural or personal styles, which are relevant to candidate suitability and their potential for success in higher education and employment.

Some of the key styles assessed are:

- thinking and learning
- motivation
- self-management
- resilience
- interpersonal values and attitudes.

The behavioural styles approach offers a way to standardise and rigorously assess personal qualities in education. Over three years' worth of research and trialling has gone into developing an assessment tool which works well with diverse student groups, whether studying at school or participating in higher education.





## Research: at the heart of everything we do

We believe we have a role and a responsibility to provide evidence-based assessment and consultancy services to support selection and recruitment in education and employment.

The key aim of our research activity is to gather evidence to demonstrate that our tests make a useful and fair contribution to the admissions process.

To be certain of both quality and fairness, we have to accurately measure how our tests perform, and work with the institutions that use our tests to evaluate the use of test scores. Both of these require extensive research. Our Research and Validation department is the largest dedicated research team of its kind and provides a powerful resource to help us deliver on this commitment.

All of our published research reports are available at:

[www.admissionstesting.org/research](http://www.admissionstesting.org/research)



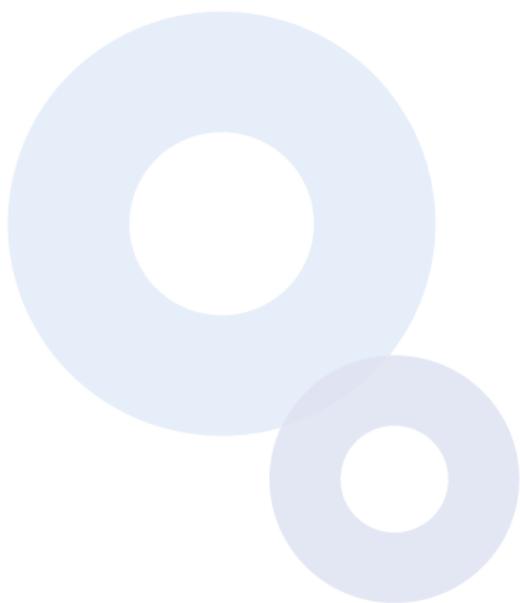


## Bespoke services

We work with individual universities, as well as national and international organisations, on bespoke assessment projects. We have gained valuable insights into how to deliver effective assessment services, which meet the divergent needs of our stakeholders.

Examples of bespoke projects include:

- working with stakeholders to adapt and modify content, to ensure it is relevant and able to support their educational objectives
- working with national assessment agencies, to use their logistics operations for local administration of tests
- developing robust quality assurance procedures to translate admissions tests into other languages.





## Find out more

Visit our website

[www.admissionstestingservice.org](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org)

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**CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH**  
Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

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