

HIGHER EDUCATION APPLICATIONS

ADMISSIONS TESTS

WHAT ARE ADMISSIONS TESTS?

Some universities and colleges require you to sit one or more exams, called 'admissions tests', as part of their course application process. They use the results of these admissions tests alongside...

- The qualifications you are studying and/or have studied
- Your personal statement

... to decide whether to offer you a place on the course you have applied for.

Admissions tests take two forms:

1. **'Pre-interview'**: these must be sat before a university will interview you for a course
2. **'At Interview'**: these will take place as part of your interview (either before or after)*Research the admissions website to plan, prepare and know what to expect in advance

WHAT DO ADMISSIONS TESTS INVOLVE?

Admissions tests are most commonly pen-and-paper-based and sat under exam conditions. They assess the abilities you will require in order to be successful on the course, which may include:

- Reading formal English
- Following written instructions
- Performing mental arithmetic
- Understanding the meaning of and making inferences from text/data
- Applying your knowledge to a novel topic
- Communicating complex information in a clear manner
- Explaining your ideas using clear and concise written English and/or with diagrams
- Writing structured, academic essays under exam conditions
- Using a critical and/or problem-solving approach
- Considering alternative arguments
- Using evidence to come to a decision
- Judging a situation and identifying appropriate ways to behave
- Managing your time appropriately

DO I HAVE TO PAY TO SIT AN ADMISSIONS TEST?

Some admissions tests may incur a **charge**, the price of which can depend on **where** you are sitting the test and/or the **time of year** you are sitting it.

If you think you may struggle to cover the costs of sitting an admissions test, speak to **the Student Finance** team at college as they may be able to help with this

WHAT EXTRA SUPPORT CAN I GET IF I HAVE A LEARNING DIFFICULTY/DISABILITY?

Depending on your personal circumstances and the type of admissions tests, it may be possible to access arrangements such as:

- Extra time
- Rest breaks
- Access to comforts aids (e.g. medicines plus medical and mobility devices)
- Wheelchair access
- Adjustable height desk
- Changes to the test colour scheme and/or font size
- Coloured overlays

You can find out what access arrangements you may be entitled to receive and make an application for these on the relevant admissions testing service's website.

PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TESTS (CONT.)

DO I NEED TO SIT A PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TEST? (CONT.)

Some other universities also include pre-interview admissions tests as part of their course application process for certain subjects, such as:

LAW
Law Aptitude Test (LNAT)

MATHEMATICS
Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT)
Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP)

MEDICINE/BIOMEDICINE
Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)
Health Professions Admissions Test – Ulster (HPAT – Ulster)
University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

You can find out whether the course you would like to apply requires an admissions test by looking under the 'entry requirements' section of its UCAS course page and for a summary here [University Admissions Tests | UCAS | UKCAT, BMAT, LNAT And More](#)

WHERE CAN I BOOK A PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TEST?

You can book a pre-interview admissions test online via the relevant admissions testing service's website.

WHEN DO I NEED TO SIT A PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TEST?

Most pre-interview admissions tests are sat between August and November the year before you are due to start your studies.

There are different deadlines to sign up for different pre-interview admissions tests, which can be identified on the relevant admissions testing service's website. Make sure you do not miss your sign-up deadline(s) by booking your admissions test(s) as soon as possible.

WHERE DO I SIT A PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TEST?

Please contact the **exams office at your college** in order to find out whether you can sit your admissions test at the college. If this isn't possible, you can find **local test centres** on the relevant admissions testing service's website.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR AN ADMISSIONS TEST?

There are a number of things you can do to help prepare for an admissions test, including:

- Becoming familiar with the style of questions you may be asked and how to answer them
- Identifying the time available for each section of the test
- Sitting at least one past/practice paper under timed conditions
- Checking the test specification to help you understand what competencies you are being assessed for
- Practicing your ability to handwrite structured, academic essays (with an introduction, main body and conclusion)
- Revising and understanding the relevant subject material from your current college studies (as you will be required to draw upon this in the test)
- Undertaking wider reading around the chosen degree, including current affairs

Test information (e.g. specification) alongside practice and past papers can be accessed via the relevant admission testing service's website.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADMISSIONS TESTING SERVICE WEBSITES?



admissionstesting.org



[Admissions tests | University of Oxford](#)



lnat.ac.uk



ucat.ac.uk