

BMAT



msc Medical
Schools
Council
Selection Alliance

Did you know?

The best preparation is to work through the free past papers, from the BMAT website, under examination conditions. The most successful candidates spend around 21 to 30 hours preparing for the test.

Useful stuff

WHAT DO MEDICAL SCHOOLS WANT TO SEE?

The Biomedical Admissions Test is a paper-based two-hour test for students. The BMAT assesses mathematical and scientific knowledge alongside aptitude. It has separate papers that test:

- Generic skills in problem solving, understanding arguments, and data analysis and inference
- The ability to apply the scientific knowledge typically covered in school science and mathematics by the age of 16
- The ability to select, develop and organise ideas, and to communicate them in writing, concisely and effectively.

Tests are undertaken in school (if it is an authorised test centre) or at one of the centres located across the UK and overseas. Results are automatically fed through to your chosen medical schools. Your BMAT results can be used to:

- Decide whether to invite a student to interview
- Inform whether an offer should be made
- Decide between two equally ranked applicants

Many medical schools may rank your BMAT score, as one element amongst others considered within the admissions process. Every medical school will detail on their website how the tests will be used within the admissions process.

Top facts

- Your score from one year will not affect your chances of re-applying in later years, as each application is considered afresh.
- There is a bursary available to cover costs for students from low income households.

Key dates

Registration for BMAT usually takes place in September with testing in October. Check the BMAT website to find out the registration and test dates.

What you should do...

The most useful preparation you can do for an admissions test is practice. You need to be willing to put in a significant amount of work. However, you don't need to pay for specialist courses and support; BMAT has lots of advice and other materials on its website, including preparation guides and all of the past exam papers. Reading example questions and working through the sample exam papers allows you to become familiar with the format of the questions, and helps you to recognise quickly what questions are actually asking you to do. It is particularly helpful to do some past exam papers under the same time constraints that you will face in the real exam, to get you used to the pace at which you need to answer questions in order to complete on time.

Check that your studies have covered the scientific knowledge that the test will be based on.

The advice from the medical schools is that you do not need to pay for any additional help. All of the necessary support materials are available for free on the BMAT website.

Be aware

The test results are only valid in the year that the test is taken and cannot be carried over to a re-application.

What they say...

"Practice, practice, practice. Make sure you have looked at the sample papers and had a go at them."

Samantha Mills, Year 0 medical student.

More help & advice

To find out more: www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat

Test yourself

Look at the BMAT website and review the preparation guides, past papers and webinar.

Write down:

- Your top five things you have learnt from looking at the resources
- The most surprising thing you have learned about the test
- What your next steps will be to prepare for the test

Other tests used by medical schools are UCAT and the GAMSAT (for graduate entry).

This information is endorsed by all undergraduate medical schools in the UK who are members of the Medical Schools Council. The information relates to UK medical schools only. It is correct and accurate at the time of publication (July 2019), and relates to the 2020 admissions process. It will be updated annually but we advise you to check individual medical school websites.