UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

What is it?

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) is used in the selection process by a consortium of UK university medical and dental schools. It focuses on exploring the cognitive powers of candidates and other attributes considered to be valuable for health care professionals.

It is a two hour on-screen test which consists solely of multiple choice questions. Candidates sit the test in their local Pearson VUE test centre.

To find your nearest Pearson VUE test centre, go to http://www.pearsonvue.com/vtclocator/
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Who has to take the UKCAT?
The UKCAT may be needed for entry to medical and dental courses at the following institutions:

- University of Aberdeen
- Brighton and Sussex Medical School
- Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Cardiff University
- University of Dundee
- University of Durham
- University of East Anglia
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- Hull York Medical School
- Keele University
- King’s College London
- Imperial College London Graduate Entry
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Manchester
- University of Newcastle
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford Graduate Entry
- Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry
- Queen’s University Belfast
- Queen Mary, University of London
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- St George’s, University of London
- Warwick University Graduate Entry

If you have any doubt whether you are required to take the UKCAT, please contact the universities to which you are applying. Neither the UKCAT Consortium nor Pearson VUE can make rulings or give advice on who must take the test.

How can I prepare?
The test will not contain any curriculum or science content and so cannot be revised for. Candidates should familiarise themselves with the style and layout of the questions in each of the five sections, through the ‘Preparation’ section on the website, but the UKCAT consortium does not endorse any commercially-available course.

How are the results used?
The UKCAT provides scaled scores, which will enable universities to rank applicants in a meaningful, valid and reliable way. University admissions tutors use the UKCAT results to complement and augment existing sources of information such as academic results, including A-Level predictions, personal statements, and performance at interview to decide which applicants to offer places. Candidates receive their results at the test centre immediately after completing the test.

At The University of Nottingham, we consider the candidate’s GCSE grades and predicted A level grades initially. If candidates meet our minimum requirements, we then look at the individual components of the UKCAT and mark them along with the applicant’s personal statement, answers to our online questionnaire and their GCSEs. The total combination of these marks is the basis on which we select candidates for interview.

Registering for the UKCAT
Registration for the UKCAT is only available online at www.ukcat.ac.uk.

Currently the registration fee is £65 for candidates taking the test in the European Union before 31 August and is £80 for tests between 1 September and 7 October. The cost is £100 for candidates taking the test outside of the EU. Bursaries are available in cases of real hardship and further information is available on the UKCAT website. Special provision is also available for students with disabilities and requiring extra time.

Candidates can register to take the UKCAT from 1 May and testing begins from 3 July. All candidates wishing to be considered in the current application cycle should sit the test by 5 October. Be aware that dates at popular test centres can get reserved quickly, so you should book early to avoid disappointment.

The UKCAT test must be taken in the same year that you apply, even if you are deferring your entry until the following year. If you do not take the test by the necessary deadline, your application cannot be considered. The results are only valid within that application cycle so if you reapply for a UKCAT medical course the next year, you will have to take the test again.