

20th May 2025

University Admissions Tests – 2026 Entry

Many competitive universities require applicants to sit admissions tests as part of the application process. These include the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, and Imperial College London, as well as the majority of medical and dental schools.

Students should carefully check the specific requirements for their chosen courses and institutions to determine whether they need to sit an admissions test and, if so, which one.

Applicants for some courses such as Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, Engineering, and certain Social Sciences at other universities including Durham, Warwick, UCL, and LSE may also be required to take an admissions test.

Most admissions tests will be delivered online through Pearson VUE's established network of test centres. Exceptions include:

- **STEP** (Mathematics at Cambridge), which is taken at school;
- **ESAT, TMUA, and TARA**, which are managed by UAT-UK but administered via Pearson VUE.

In order to book a test, you must first create an account with either Pearson VUE or UAT-UK:

- **Pearson VUE accounts** can be created from **13 May 2025**.
- **UAT-UK accounts** can be created from **2 June 2025**.

Please note that if you require access arrangements (e.g. extra time), these must be requested *before* booking your test, as not all test centres can accommodate all requirements.

Bursary vouchers are available to help cover the cost of test fees for eligible students. Further details can be found on the respective test websites.

Useful links:

Pearson VUE: <https://www.pearsonvue.com/gb/en/test-takers/resources.html>

UAT-UK: <https://esat-tmua.ac.uk/register/>

Key Test Dates – 2026 Entry

University of Oxford

- AHCAAT: Friday 24 October 2025
- BMSAT: Tuesday 21 – Monday 27 October 2025 (multiple sittings)
- CAT: Wednesday 22 – Friday 24 October 2025
- MAT: Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 October 2025
- MLAT: Friday 24 October 2025
- PAT: Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 October 2025
- PhilAT: Friday 24 October 2025
- TSA: Tuesday 21 – Monday 27 October 2025 (multiple sittings)

University of Cambridge, UCL (new for 2026), Imperial College London, and others

- TMUA: Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 October 2025
- ESAT: Thursday 9 & Friday 10 October 2025
<https://esat-tmua.ac.uk/>

Please note that some universities require students to take these tests in the October sitting. A second sitting is available in January 2026, but you must confirm with each university which session is acceptable for your application.

University of Cambridge – STEP (Mathematics)

- Registration is likely in March 2026, with testing in June 2026.
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/students/step-mathematics/key-dates-and-fees/>

Oxford, Cambridge, and other universities – LNAT (Law)

- Testing typically runs from 1 September to mid-October, with registration opening on 1 August.
<https://lnat.ac.uk/what-is-lnat/do-i-need-to-sit-the-test/>

University College London – TARA

- Test dates: Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 October 2025
- A second sitting is available in January 2026. Please confirm with UCL which session is required for your course.

Medicine – UCAT

- Bookings open: 17 June 2025
- Testing window: 7 July – 26 September 2025
<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>
List of universities requiring UCAT:
<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/ucat/ucat-universities/>

If you are considering any of the courses or universities listed above, please act promptly to ensure you are aware of all registration deadlines, test requirements, and access arrangements. If you have any questions, please speak to your tutor or the Sixth Form team.

Kind regards,

Mr Sheehan
Director of Sixth Form

Mrs Byrd
Head of Year 12