

The HPAT:

Applying for Medicine in the Republic of Ireland



What is the purpose of the H-Pat?

The purpose of the HPAT – Ireland is to assess the general skills and abilities developed over the course of your education and life experience that are considered by the universities to be important to the study and practice of medicine. To operate most effectively in this career graduates will need to:

- Be flexible
- Have good thinking skills (critical and analytical)
- Be able to respond quickly to new situations and problems
- Have a well developed ability to understand and respond to patients' needs and individual situations.

You will need to sit the HPAT-Ireland if you are interested in Medicine at any of the following universities:

- National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI GALWAY)
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- University College Cork (UCC)
- University College Dublin (UCD)

How to Register

Before registering for HPAT – Ireland, all applicants must first get their CAO number. You need this number to successfully complete your HPAT – Ireland registration online.

To get a CAO number please apply online at the CAO website. If a paper application is submitted, your CAO number will not be available in time to register for HPAT – Ireland.

You **MUST** also read the information in the HPAT – Ireland Information Booklet and on the HPAT – Ireland website as it contains all the relevant details about the test, deadlines, registration procedures and terms and conditions.

Registrations for HPAT – Ireland 2014 open in early November.

Registration for HPAT – Ireland is available online only. The registration fee for the HPAT – Ireland test in 2014 is €115.00 (all taxes and charges included) per candidate. This fee covers online registration for the test, materials required for the paper test, provision of test results to the candidate and the transfer of results to the CAO. From 2013 this fee is also inclusive of the HPAT – Ireland Practice Test with worked solutions. The practice booklet normally retails at €22.00 but is provided to candidates as part of their registration at a reduced rate. All payments must be made online by credit card.

Please note that late registrations will be accepted up to 17:15 GMT on Friday 1 February 2014 on payment of a late fee of €65 in addition to the registration fee of €115. An exceptional late registration was available until 17:15 GMT on 4 February 2014, on payment of the exceptional late fee of €100 in addition to the registration fee of €115. It will **NOT** be possible to register for HPAT – Ireland 2014 once the online registration system is closed.

Test Centres

HPAT – Ireland will be offered in **Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo** and **Waterford**.

The duration of the test is 2.5 hours and it will take place on the 1st of March 2014.

The results are usually released in late June!!!

How to prepare

HPAT – Ireland is not based on any curriculum or subject areas; therefore you do not need any special knowledge. Intensive preparation is not advisable or necessary, although wide and critical reading may provide helpful preparation for Sections 1 and 2. However, as with any test, some practice in answering questions of a similar type, and under similar time constraints as those found in the real test, is helpful and reassuring to most candidates.

For these reasons HPAT – Ireland has been developed as a test that is not based on learned academic curriculum or study of particular subjects, but as a test of your response to stimulus that will not necessarily be familiar.

The test is carried out as follows:

- **Section 1** tests your *logical reasoning and problem solving skills*. Some questions test your logical and critical thinking skills. Other questions test your ability to solve problems and

interpret data. Overall, this section is designed to test how fast you can interpret information and your ability to think in various ways.

- **Section 2** tests your ability to *understand people*. You will be given various passages or scenarios describing people and interactions between people. You will need to empathise (put yourself in another person's shoes), and understand what they might be thinking or feeling. You may also be asked to explain why a person behaves the way they do.
- **Section 3** tests your *non-verbal reasoning*. This involves finding patterns and trends in a sequence or block of pictures. It tests your ability to think non-verbally.

Note: If you wish to study

Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Radiography and Speech & Language Therapy in the **North of Ireland** you will have to apply through UCAS and register for the HPAT- Ulster. The test usually takes place in February. For other medicine courses in the North and in the UK you will be subject to having to take the UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test).