



SELECTION CRITERIA FOR

Undergraduate Entry to Medicine

FOR EU APPLICANTS 2010



Undergraduate Entry to Medicine 2010

This brochure provides details of the selection criteria for EU applicants to Medicine in NUI Galway, RCSI, TCD, UCC and UCD.

In 2010, undergraduate entry to medicine for school leavers will be based on *both*:

- achieving a minimum of 480 points and meeting the minimum entry requirements for the programme in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent*)
- and*
- completing the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) within the 2 year period immediately preceding admission to the medicine programme

Minimum Entry Requirements

School Leavers:

In order for school leavers to be eligible to compete for entry to undergraduate medicine, they must **both** (a) achieve a minimum of 480 points **and** (b) meet the minimum entry requirements[#] for each medical school for which they have applied and these must both be achieved in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent* (see table 1 for details of requirements for each medical programme).

Table 1: Summary of minimum entry requirements for EU admissions for each Medical School #

Medical programmes			Minimum SUBJECT Requirements #						Minimum Points Requirement
Institution Name	CAO CODE	Duration	Minimum Number of subjects	English	Irish	Third Language	Mathematics	Science	
National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI GALWAY)	GY501	6 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	480 points from the same sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination (or equivalent*). This means that students must achieve both the required subjects and the points in the same sitting.
		5 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	HC3 in two of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)	RC001	6 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
		5 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	HC3 Chemistry and HC3 in either Biology or Physics	
Trinity College Dublin (TCD)	TR051	5 Years	3 x HC3 and 3 x OD3	OD3	OD3 in a language other than English		OD3 or OC3/HD3 if no Physics	HB3 and a HC3 from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
University College Cork (UCC)	CK701	5 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	HC3 Chemistry and HC3 in either Biology or Physics	
University College Dublin (UCD)	DN002	6 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
		5 Years	2 x HC3 and 4 x OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	OD3	HC3 in Chemistry	

In addition all students will be required to satisfy the Garda Vetting and Medical Clearance requirements as outlined in each University/RCSI Prospectus. #

* For EU students presenting qualifications other than the Irish Leaving Certificate equivalent qualifications are required. For details please consult the website of the relevant University/RCSI.

Students are advised to check the website of the relevant University/RCSI for full details of all entry requirements.

Mature Applicants (23 years or over by 1 January of 2010):

For those applying for a place on grounds of mature years the minimum educational requirements and places available for mature students are outlined in the prospectus for each University/RCSI. In all cases the medical admissions test, **HPAT-Ireland, is required**. As HPAT-Ireland results form part of the selection procedure for mature applicants results will be sent to the universities for short-listing purposes prior to the official release of results.

The Admissions Test: HPAT-Ireland

The admissions test is called **HPAT-Ireland** (Health Professions Admission Test-Ireland). This test is independently administered by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research).

The HPAT-Ireland test measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people. It does not test academic knowledge and candidates do not require special understanding of any academic discipline. However, some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT-Ireland would be an advantage and therefore sample questions are available at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au. Information about how to purchase further HPAT-Ireland Practice Materials is also available on the HPAT-Ireland website. The test results will complement the Leaving Certificate Examination assessment for selecting applicants for admission to an undergraduate Medical School programme.

HPAT-Ireland

Format of test:

The HPAT-Ireland test is a 2½ hour paper-based test consisting of three modules or sections:

- (i) Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving
- (ii) Interpersonal Understanding
- (iii) Non-Verbal Reasoning

All questions are in multiple choice format with 4 or 5 possible responses, from which the candidate is asked to choose the most appropriate response. There is only one correct response. Further details regarding the test, including the approximate number of questions in each section, can be found at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with a physical and/or specific learning disability.

Scoring of test:

Each of the three sections of the test is given equal weight. The maximum score a candidate can receive is 300. In addition to their overall score HPAT-Ireland candidates will also receive an overall percentile rank to give them an indication of how well they performed against other HPAT-Ireland candidates.

Application procedure and cost:

In addition to their application to the CAO www.cao.ie students must also apply directly to ACER to complete the HPAT-Ireland test. Applicants for the test will apply on-line to ACER at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au (see Table 2 for details). The cost of applying to the HPAT-Ireland test in 2010 will be €95.00 per candidate. This fee will cover on-line 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. Only bona-fide applicants may apply to sit the test i.e. current or past school leavers. A more detailed definition of a bona-fide candidate is available on the HPAT-Ireland website.

Test date:

The only sitting of the HPAT-Ireland test in 2010 will take place on 27 February 2010. There will be **no** alternative test date for HPAT-Ireland. If, for any reason, a candidate is unable to sit the test on 27 February, 2010, the only option available will be to sit the test in 2011 or later. HPAT-Ireland results can be used for application to a medical school for 2 years, therefore if a candidate takes the test in 2010, the result can be used for admission in 2010 and 2011 only.

Test centres:

Test centres will be located in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo and Waterford. Every effort will be made to accommodate applicants in their preferred test centre. However, as capacity in some test centres may be limited, places in those venues will be allocated on a first-come basis. Early application for the test is advised.

Table 2: Important Dates

CAO application www.cao.ie	From 3 November 2009 but no later than 1 February 2010 at 17:15hrs (NB: All medical programmes have the restricted entry final closing date of 1 February)
HPAT-Ireland test registration period www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au	4 November 2009 until 18 January 2010 . You will require a 2010 CAO application number to apply for HPAT-Ireland
Late HPAT-Ireland test registration period. Supplementary fee payable.	23:59hrs on 1 February 2010 (to allow some time after CAO closing date). No registration after this deadline.
Date of HPAT-Ireland test	Saturday 27 February 2010
HPAT-Ireland test result to candidates	28 June (after the Leaving Certificate Examination finishes)
Collation of HPAT-Ireland test score and school-leaving results	18 to 22 August 2010 (provisional)
Round 1 CAO offers	Monday 23 August 2010 (provisional)

Allocation of places based on the combination of Leaving Certificate Examination results and the HPAT-Ireland score

For school-leaving applicants who meet the minimum subject entry requirements **and** the 480 points criterion in the same sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination, allocation of places for Medicine will be determined on the basis of a combination of that Leaving Certificate Examination (LCE) score and the HPAT-Ireland score. The sole competitive selection criterion for entry to medicine will be on the basis of the weighted combination of the LCE and HPAT-Ireland scores. The weighting will be a 2:1 ratio where the LCE = 2 and HPAT-Ireland =1 up to 550 points and moderated thereafter. Before the scores are combined, Leaving Certificate Examination scores above 550 points will be adjusted, to a maximum score of 560 points (see table 3 below). This is to strike an appropriate balance between the perceived pressures on students to achieve maximum grades in the Leaving Certificate Examination while at the same time recognising excellence when it has been achieved.

Table 3: Adjusted Leaving Certificate points from 550 points

Normal LCE points	Adjusted LCE points before 2:1 ratio is applied
550	550
555	551
560	552
565	553
570	554
575	555
580	556
585	557
590	558
600	560

2009 Minimum Entry Requirements	
CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level
CK701	715
DN002	719
GY501	712*
RC001	715*
TR051	724*

* random selection applied.

For CAO applicants to medicine the maximum achievable score will be 860:

560 as the maximum score based on the Leaving Certificate Examination (after adjustment)

and

300 as the maximum score based on the HPAT-Ireland test.

For example:

- If you achieve 600 points in the LCE this will become 560 adjusted LCE points and if you achieve a score of 155 in the HPAT-Ireland test, your overall score will be 715.
- Similarly if you achieve 540 points in the LCE, and then get a HPAT-Ireland score of 175, your overall score will be 715.
- Or if you achieve 480 points in the LCE and then 235 in HPAT-Ireland, your overall score will be 715.

Table 4 overleaf shows samples of how the LCE and HPAT-Ireland scores will be combined and recorded as a special CAO points score in the case of medicine programmes.

The combined score will then be used to offer a place to an applicant for the highest of their programme choices to which they are entitled (if any), in line with standard CAO procedures www.cao.ie

As for all CAO offers, where there is a tie on points for the last remaining places, random selection will apply.



Table 4: Sample of CAO points scores that eligible medical applicants would receive when their Leaving Certificate Examination Points and their HPAT-Ireland score are combined using different score combinations. (This table is for indicative purposes only.)

Leaving Certificate scored to a maximum of 600		HPAT scored to a maximum of 300 (sample scores for illustrative purposes)													
Current LC Points Score	LC points adjusted from 550 (+1 for each 5 pts)	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	280	300
600	560	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	800	810	820	840	860
590	558	708	718	728	738	748	758	768	778	788	798	808	818	838	858
585	557	707	717	727	737	747	757	767	777	787	797	807	817	837	857
580	556	706	716	726	736	746	756	766	776	786	796	806	816	836	856
575	555	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805	815	835	855
570	554	704	714	724	734	744	754	764	774	784	794	804	814	834	854
565	553	703	713	723	733	743	753	763	773	783	793	803	813	833	853
560	552	702	712	722	732	742	752	762	772	782	792	802	812	832	852
555	551	701	711	721	731	741	751	761	771	781	791	801	811	831	851
550	550	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	800	810	830	850
545	545	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805	825	845
540	540	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	800	820	840
535	535	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	815	835
530	530	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	810	830
525	525	675	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	805	825
520	520	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	800	820
515	515	665	675	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	795	815
510	510	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	790	810
505	505	655	665	675	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	785	805
500	500	650	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	780	800
495	495	645	655	665	675	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	755	775	795
490	490	640	650	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	770	790
485	485	635	645	655	665	675	685	695	705	715	725	735	745	765	785
480	480	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	760	780

RED: Some illustrative combination of scores if the minimum cut-off score was 715.

Note: In 2009 LCE scores ranged from 520 to 600 and HPAT-Ireland scores ranged from 153 to 225.

Tips from ACER for the Day of the Test

1. **Admissions Ticket:** These are emailed to all candidates approximately two weeks prior to the test. Details of your Test Centre are given on this ticket. Candidates should note that there may be more than one examination room at the venue. It is important to check the ticket carefully so that you know exactly where you should be. No latecomers will be admitted once the test has started.
2. **Arrival at the Test Centre:** Reporting time is indicated on the Admission Ticket and the test will commence as soon as the check-in process is complete. Please ensure that you give yourself plenty of time to check in and find your desk before the test begins. Keep in mind that at large Test Centres it may take some time before all IDs and Admission Tickets are checked and candidates are seated.
3. **Identification:** On the day of the test you will be required to present an original photo-bearing identification document (in which the photograph is recognisable as a likeness of you as you are on the day). Candidates should note that the name on the identification document must match the name on your CAO and HPAT applications. The only acceptable identification documents are:
 - a. a valid passport, or
 - b. a current driver's licence (if this includes an embedded photograph), or
 - c. a certified letter of identification. **This letter must be on official institution (school or workplace) letterhead and contain your name, date of birth, a passport photo glued to the letter with the institution stamp overlapping and the signature, printed name and title of the official verifying the identification as well as your signature. Examples of the appropriate ID can be found on the HPAT-Ireland website.**

If you do not present one of the above approved identification documents, in addition to your Admission Ticket, you will not be able to sit HPAT-Ireland and will be turned away from the Test Centre.
4. **Duration of the test:** The duration of the test is 2½ hours. However candidates should note when making transport arrangements that they will be in the Test Centre until approximately 1.30pm. Candidates may not leave the Test Centre before the test has finished.
5. **Dress comfortably:** Some Test Centres are warmer or cooler on weekends than during the week. Consider dressing in layers, so you will be comfortable irrespective of the room conditions.
6. **Food:** Do not forget to eat before the test. As you will be in the Test Centre for a number of hours it is important that you have eaten something before going into the test centre as no food is permitted in the test room (unless permission has been granted by the HPAT-Ireland Office prior to the test. e.g. in the case of diabetes, etc.). All students are permitted to take bottled water into the test room.

Further information is available from the HPAT-Ireland website www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au

Further Information and Contact Details

National University of Ireland, Galway

Admissions Office
Tel. 091 524411
Email: admissions@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie

University College Cork

Admissions Office
Tel. 021 4903571
Email: admissions@ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Admissions Office
Dublin 2
Tel. 01 402 2228
Email: admissions@rcsi.ie
www.rcsi.ie

University College Dublin

Admissions Office
Dublin 4
Tel. 01 716 1555
Email: admissions@ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie

Trinity College Dublin

Admissions Office
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www.tcd.ie/admissions

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