



NEW SELECTION CRITERIA FOR  
**Undergraduate Entry to Medicine**  
FOR EU APPLICANTS 2009

# Undergraduate Entry to Medicine 2009

Following from the recommendations of the Fottrell Report *Medical Education in Ireland: A New Direction, Report of the Working Group on Undergraduate Medical Education and Training* (2006), and subsequent national announcements in relation to changes to the selection criteria for undergraduate entry to medicine, this brochure now provides details of how these changes will operate from 2009 for applicants to Medicine in NUI Galway, RCSI, TCD, UCC and UCD.

**In 2009, 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<sup>#</sup> 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 2009):

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 new medical admissions test, **HPAT-Ireland, will be required** and the score will be a mandatory criterion to be used as part of the selection process.

## The Admissions Test: HPAT-Ireland

The admissions test selected by the Irish Medical Schools is called **HPAT-Ireland** (Health Professions Admission Test-Ireland). This test is independently administered by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research). ACER has an excellent international reputation and a track record in the development, management and research of selection tests for undergraduate medical and health related programmes.

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 will be available at [www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au](http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au) from September 2008. 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](http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au) from September 2008. 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](http://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](http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au) (see Table 2 for details). The cost of applying to the HPAT-Ireland test in 2009 will be approximately €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.

\*\* Reduced HPAT-Ireland test application fee may be available. Further details, if applicable, will be available in September 2008.

### Test date:

The only sitting of the HPAT-Ireland test in 2009 will take place on 14 February 2009. There will be **no** alternative test date for HPAT-Ireland. If, for any reason, a candidate is unable to sit the test on 14 February, 2009, the only option available will be to sit the test in 2010 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 2009, the result can be used for admission in 2009 and 2010 only.

### Test centres:

Test centres will be located in Cork, Dublin, Galway, the North-West and the South-East (details to be confirmed). 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<br><a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>   | From mid-November but no later than <b>1 February 2009</b> at 17:15hrs<br>(NB: All medical programmes will now have this restricted entry final closing date of 1 February) |
| HPAT-Ireland test registration period<br><a href="http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au">www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au</a> | Mid-November until <b>20 January 2009</b>   |
| Late HPAT-Ireland test registration period.<br>Supplementary fee payable.   | 23:59hrs on 1 February (to allow some time after CAO closing date).<br>No registration after this deadline.   |
| Date of HPAT-Ireland test   | <b>Saturday 14 February 2009</b>  |
| HPAT-Ireland test result to candidates  | 22 June (after the Leaving Certificate Examination finishes)  |
| Collation of HPAT-Ireland test score<br>and school-leaving results  | 12 to 16 August 2009 (provisional)  |
| Round 1 CAO offers  | <b>Monday 17 August 2009 (provisional)</b>  |

## 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   |

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 210 in the HPAT-Ireland test, your overall score will be 770.
- Similarly if you achieve 540 points in the LCE, and then get a HPAT-Ireland score of 230, your overall score will be 770.
- Or if you achieve 480 points in the LCE and then 290 in HPAT-Ireland, your overall score will be 770.

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](http://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 shown at intervals of 10 from 170 upwards |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|--|--|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Current LC Points Score                        | LC points adjusted from 550 (+1 for each 5 points) | 170   | 180 | 190 | 200 | 210 | 220 | 230 | 240 | 250 | 260 | 270 | 280 | 290 | 300 |  |  |
| 600  | 560  | 730   | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 820 | 830 | 840 | 850 | 860 |  |  |
| 590  | 558  | 728   | 738 | 748 | 758 | 768 | 778 | 788 | 798 | 808 | 818 | 828 | 838 | 848 | 858 |  |  |
| 585  | 557  | 727   | 737 | 747 | 757 | 767 | 777 | 787 | 797 | 807 | 817 | 827 | 837 | 847 | 857 |  |  |
| 580  | 556  | 726   | 736 | 746 | 756 | 766 | 776 | 786 | 796 | 806 | 816 | 826 | 836 | 846 | 856 |  |  |
| 575  | 555  | 725   | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 | 815 | 825 | 835 | 845 | 855 |  |  |
| 570  | 554  | 724   | 734 | 744 | 754 | 764 | 774 | 784 | 794 | 804 | 814 | 824 | 834 | 844 | 854 |  |  |
| 565  | 553  | 723   | 733 | 743 | 753 | 763 | 773 | 783 | 793 | 803 | 813 | 823 | 833 | 843 | 853 |  |  |
| 560  | 552  | 722   | 732 | 742 | 752 | 762 | 772 | 782 | 792 | 802 | 812 | 822 | 832 | 842 | 852 |  |  |
| 555  | 551  | 721   | 731 | 741 | 751 | 761 | 771 | 781 | 791 | 801 | 811 | 821 | 831 | 841 | 851 |  |  |
| 550  | 550  | 720   | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 820 | 830 | 840 | 850 |  |  |
| 545  | 545  | 715   | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 | 815 | 825 | 835 | 845 |  |  |
| 540  | 540  | 710   | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 820 | 830 | 840 |  |  |
| 535  | 535  | 705   | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 | 815 | 825 | 835 |  |  |
| 530  | 530  | 700   | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 820 | 830 |  |  |
| 525  | 525  | 695   | 705 | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 | 815 | 825 |  |  |
| 520  | 520  | 690   | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 | 820 |  |  |
| 515  | 515  | 685   | 695 | 705 | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 | 815 |  |  |
| 510  | 510  | 680   | 690 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 | 810 |  |  |
| 505  | 505  | 675   | 685 | 695 | 705 | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 | 805 |  |  |
| 500  | 500  | 670   | 680 | 690 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 | 800 |  |  |
| 495  | 495  | 665   | 675 | 685 | 695 | 705 | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 | 795 |  |  |
| 490  | 490  | 660   | 670 | 680 | 690 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 | 790 |  |  |
| 485  | 485  | 655   | 665 | 675 | 685 | 695 | 705 | 715 | 725 | 735 | 745 | 755 | 765 | 775 | 785 |  |  |
| 480***   | 480  | 650   | 660 | 670 | 680 | 690 | 700 | 710 | 720 | 730 | 740 | 750 | 760 | 770 | 780 |  |  |

\*\*\* 480 points equates to a Grade B average in six subjects at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate Examination (or equivalent).

## Further Information and Contact Details

### **National University of Ireland, Galway**

Admissions Office  
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### **University College Cork**

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### **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**

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### **University College Dublin**

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### **Trinity College Dublin**

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