



Admissions Tests 2027 Entry

Arrangements for the ESAT, TARA and TMUA



Welcome

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 - Head of Admissions and Data Services



An Introduction to UAT-UK





Who are we?

- UAT-UK is a Joint Venture established by Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge.
- Three admissions tests for entry onto a range of courses at seven UK universities
- Dedicated UAT-UK team
- The courses that will use these tests typically receive applications from very large numbers of students who have, or are predicted to achieve, the highest grades. As such, our tests are designed to be difficult and differentiate the top students globally.
- Tests are administered by Pearson, via their global network of test centres.

Aims and Objectives of UAT-UK

- State exams (such as GCE A levels and other public examinations) are a good indication of a student's ability.
- They form important preparation for our tests.
- The courses that will use these tests typically receive applications from very large numbers of students who have, or are predicted to achieve, the highest grades.
- UAT-UK was established to address a need for a robust way of further differentiating top applicants and benchmarking them across qualifications.



Aims and Objectives of UAT-UK

- Active recruitment of institutions > one single test for UCAS applications
- Reducing financial barriers in the UK via our bursary scheme
- Candidate experience is at the heart of what we do – significant investment and improvement has been made this year to streamline the experience.



Our Tests

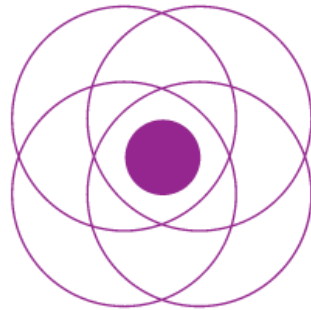


Test Overview

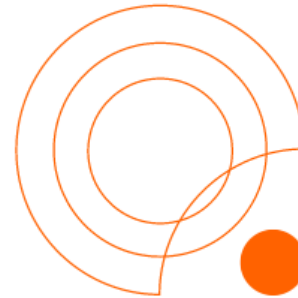
- UAT-UK has offers three admissions tests:



**The Test of
Mathematics for
University
Admission (TMUA)**



**The Engineering and
Science Admissions
Test (ESAT)**



**The Test of
Academic
Reasoning for
Admissions (TARA)**

Test Overview

- All tests are administered by Pearson through their network of test centres in over 180 countries
- Each test offered in two sittings per year; October and January
- Cambridge and Oxford applicants **must** sit in the October sitting, with the exception of mature applicants applying to a mature college with a January admissions deadline at the University of Cambridge, or applicants to the Astrophoria Foundation Year at the University of Oxford
- For all other applicants there is no benefit to sitting in either sitting
- Each test can only be taken **once per admissions cycle**
- Each test is offered across five days* per test sitting

**Excluding Test Centres in China, Macau and Hong Kong*

Test Overview

- Tests must be booked in advance and paid for by the candidate
- Candidates can select a Test Centre local to where they live or study (over 5500 worldwide), and a day/time convenient for them. See our landing page to find your nearest centre (available now):
<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/uatuk.html>
- 40-mile **max** travel distance in the UK
- **£78** in the UK and ROI and **£133** anywhere else in the world
- Computer-based tests
- All tests, with the exception of the writing task in the TARA, are made up of multiple-choice questions. There is no penalty for wrong answers, so candidates are best advised to attempt all questions.

Who uses our tests?

IMPERIAL

 **UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

LSE THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■


WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

 **Durham**
University

 **UCL**


**UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD**

The Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT)



- The ESAT tests mathematical and science thinking, along with reasoning skills.
- Assumes knowledge of GCSE level content or equivalent, with the exception of Mathematics 2 which includes content typically covered in the first year of sixth form.

The Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT)



- Compulsory Maths module - **Most** candidates will need to select two further modules at the point of registration, depending on their UCAS choices.
- Modules are made up of 27 MCQs and are 40 minutes long. They are sat back-to-back meaning most candidates will have a 120-minute test.
- Cannot return to a module once you move on or have used the 40-minute time allocation.

Mathematics 1
(Compulsory)



two modules selected from:

Mathematics 2

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

The Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA)

- Mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. It assumes knowledge of content typically covered by the end of the first year of sixth form.
- Two papers (75 minutes each/20 MCQs):
 - **Applications of Mathematical Knowledge**, which assesses an applicant's ability to apply their knowledge of mathematics in new situations.
 - **Mathematical Reasoning**, which assesses their ability to deal with mathematical reasoning, and simple ideas from elementary logic.
- Papers are sat back-to-back and form one test with a single score
- Cannot return to paper one once you move on or have used the 75-minute time allocation.



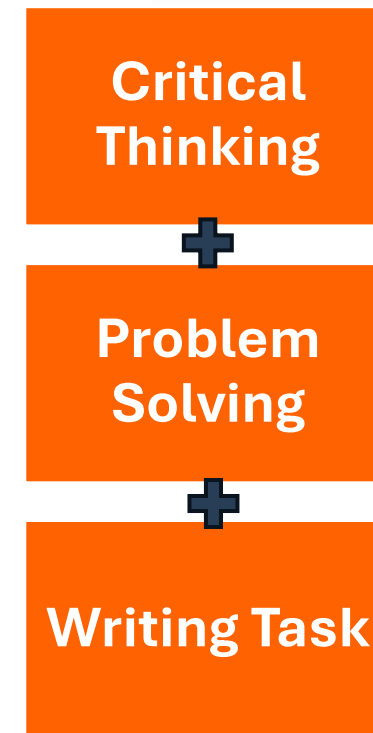
Paper One:
Applications of
Mathematical
Knowledge



Paper Two:
Mathematical
Reasoning

The Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions (TARA)

- Three compulsory modules (40 minutes each)
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving are each made up of 22 MCQs
- For the Writing Task, candidates have a choice of three essays. They should only complete one. There is a 750-word limit.
- Cannot return to a module once you move on or have used the 40-minute time allocation.
- The Writing Task is not scored by UAT-UK. Candidate responses are given directly to the relevant institutions to assess against their own criteria.





Test Administration

Common arrangements
across all UAT-UK tests



Account Creation

- New candidates can create an account [here](#). Returning candidates from October 2025 or January 2026 can use their existing account and candidate ID.
- Once candidate's have an account, their dashboard will be where they go for all of the following:
 - Booking, cancelling or rescheduling a test
 - Asking a question
 - Applying for a bursary or access arrangements
 - Reporting illness or making a request for special consideration
 - Accessing results
- All candidates will be sent the 2027 Entry Candidate Handbook shortly after their account is setup. The handbook has comprehensive instructions on all of the above processes, as well as test preparation and information about scoring and results.

Before Test Booking

Notes:

1. Each candidate will be issued a UAT-UK Candidate ID. This needs to be quoting if contacting UAT-UK or Pearson outside of the system
2. Candidates can apply for a bursary or access arrangements from June. **We strongly advise candidates do this before test booking opens at the end of July.** The forms to do so can be found on the candidate dashboard. Candidates with open requests for either a bursary or access arrangements will not be able to book a test until UAT-UK have reviewed the request. Bursaries and access arrangements cannot be applied to existing bookings.



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Tests

Bursary

Access Arrangements

Special Consideration

Welcome, **Jack Peterson**

Candidate ID: TEST-855848

Last logged in 2025-06-05 16:13:48+00:00 (UTC)

This is your UAT-UK online account. From here you will be able to apply for a bursary or access arrangements, book a test, and access your test scores.

The next available test sitting is October 2025. **Test booking opens on 31 July and closes on 29 September.**

Upcoming Test Dates:



Bursary Request

Apply for financial support to cover your full test fee. Available to eligible UK candidates only.

REQUEST BURSARY



Access Arrangements

Request reasonable adjustments to your test environment.

REQUEST ACCESS
ARRANGEMENTS

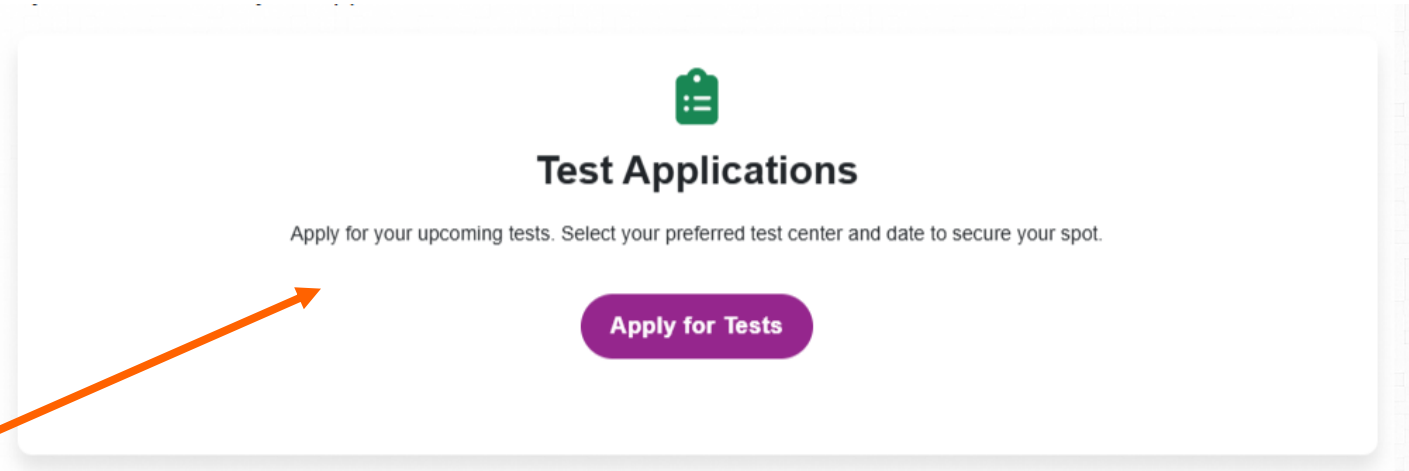
Test Booking

Two-step process:

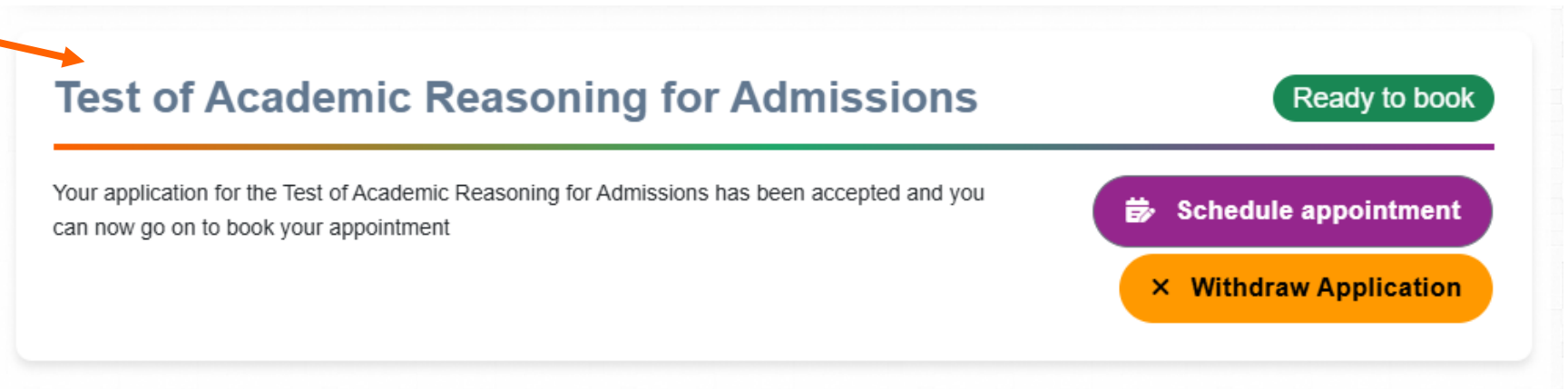
- 1. Test Selection: Create an account and apply for your bursaries/access arrangements. Select your test and the modules you need to sit.**
- 2. Test booking: Find an appointment at your local centre, book and pay for your test.**

- Candidates must ensure they check the entry requirements for the courses to which they are applying before they book a test. Modules cannot be changed once booked.
- UAT-UK publishes a course list [here](#)

Test Booking



- To begin the booking process, candidates should select 'Apply for Tests'
- Once a candidate has selected a test, and made a valid module selection (where applicable), their test will show as ready to book



2027 Test Dates

Test Delivery Window 1	12th-16th October 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 12th-13th ESAT in China, Hong Kong and Macau▪ 14th TARA in China, Hong Kong and Macau▪ 15th-16th TMUA in China, Hong Kong and Macau
Test Delivery Window 2	4th – 8th January 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6th ESAT in China, Hong Kong and Macau▪ 7th TARA in China, Hong Kong and Macau▪ 8th TMUA in China, Hong Kong and Macau

Other Key Dates

- Account creation, bursaries and access arrangements – **Monday 1st June 2026**
- **Any bursaries or access arrangements will apply to the year, so we advise all candidates to get these approved early.** Bursaries are one time use.

October 2026 Events	Date
Test booking opens	Monday 20 th July 2026 3pm BST
Access arrangements application deadline	Monday 14 th September 2026 6pm BST
Bursary application deadline	Monday 21 st September 2026 6pm BST
Test booking closes	Monday 28 th September 2026 6pm BST
Results to candidates	Monday 16 th November

Other Key Dates

January 2027 Events	Date
Test booking opens	Monday 26 th October 2026 3pm GMT
Access arrangements application deadline	Monday 7 th December 2026 6pm GMT
Bursary application deadline	Monday 14 th December 2026 6pm GMT
Test booking closes	Monday 21 st December 2026 6pm GMT
Results to candidates	Monday 8 th February 2027

The opening of bursary applications, requests for access arrangements and test bookings will always be scheduled for **3pm UK time** on the advertised date.

The closing of all of the above will always been scheduled for **6pm UK time**.
Deadlines are applied strictly and we cannot make exceptions to these.

Candidates should be advised to start the booking process well in advance of the deadline in case they need assistance.

UAT-UK Bursary Scheme

- Our bursary scheme provides UK candidates in financial need.
- Candidates must live in the UK permanently at the time of application and plan to take their test at a UK Test Centre.
- For approved candidates, it covers the entire cost of the test.
- The applicant, or their parent/guardian, will need to meet the criteria set out (next slide) and provide the relevant documentary evidence.
- Bursaries are applied to the upcoming sitting. If a candidate is granted a bursary for October and does not book, they will need to reapply for the January sitting.
- Full details can be found on the website, www.esat-tmua.ac.uk.

Bursary eligibility criteria

- **The candidate is eligible for / in receipt of:**
 - Free School Meals
 - 16-19 Bursary / EMA
- **The candidate receives support as a Care Leaver** (as defined by the Student Loans Company)
- **The candidate (if over 21 years old), or parent/guardian, living at the same address, is in receipt of:**
 - Universal credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Income support, Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Access Arrangements

- Access arrangements are available if applicants have a learning difference, a physical or mental disability, sensory impairment or other medical condition that might otherwise impact their ability to sit the test.
- Like a bursary, applicants **must** make these arrangements in advance of registering for the test. They can do so via their online account.
- There is also a list of 'Permitted Comfort Aids' for items that can be taken into the test centre without approval.
- Full details can be found on the website, www.esat-tmua.ac.uk.
- Candidates who apply over the school holidays may be provisionally approved without supporting evidence. Candidates should upload this as soon as possible once school re-opens.

Access Arrangements

- Once a candidate is approved for any access arrangements, they will be emailed some information about how their arrangements will be applied on the day. Candidates should read this carefully.
- Candidates with extra time and/or rest breaks can go on to book online as normal. Any extra time or rest breaks will appear on the booking confirmation.
- Candidates with other arrangements such as the use of a reader/recording, or sitting in a separate room, will be called by Pearson to arrange a suitable booking over the phone. This call will be made outside of school hours.

How can Teachers and Advisers Support Candidates?



Helping your students prepare...

- The tests use content that students will have already learned in their school studies.
- The tests are based on material from GCSE mathematics and science qualifications.
- Only ESAT Mathematics 2 and TMUA include material from AS mathematics qualifications.
- There is **no need** to take a preparation course or prepare beyond revising what they have already learned.
- UAT-UK **do not** recommend or endorse any commercial preparation materials.

Helping your students prepare...

- We do recommend candidates familiarise themselves with the test format and style of questions.
- Full test specifications and extensive question guides are available on the UAT-UK website.
- There are two practice tests available for each of our tests, one with explained answers and one without: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/uatuk>.
- The practice tests are published using the same Pearson test software. Candidates will use this software on their test day. We would encourage all candidates to test the functionality – moving back and forth to the review screen for instance.
- The specimen tests comes with explained answers.
- The practice tests provide scores only. We recommend these are completed under timed conditions.

Supporting your students ahead of Test Day

- Candidates must present photographic ID which is unexpired. It must include a signature and cannot be a copy or photograph.
- ID exemptions can be applied but we must know at least five days in advance of the test. Please encourage students to check they can meet the ID requirements. If not, they may need a letter from their school.
- Candidates should report any issues or problems at the Test Centre. This allows for a report to be filed and access by UAT-UK.
- Plan travel accordingly – candidates arriving more than 15 minutes late will be turned away.
- Candidates unable to attend because of illness should apply for special consideration via their account.



Test Scores



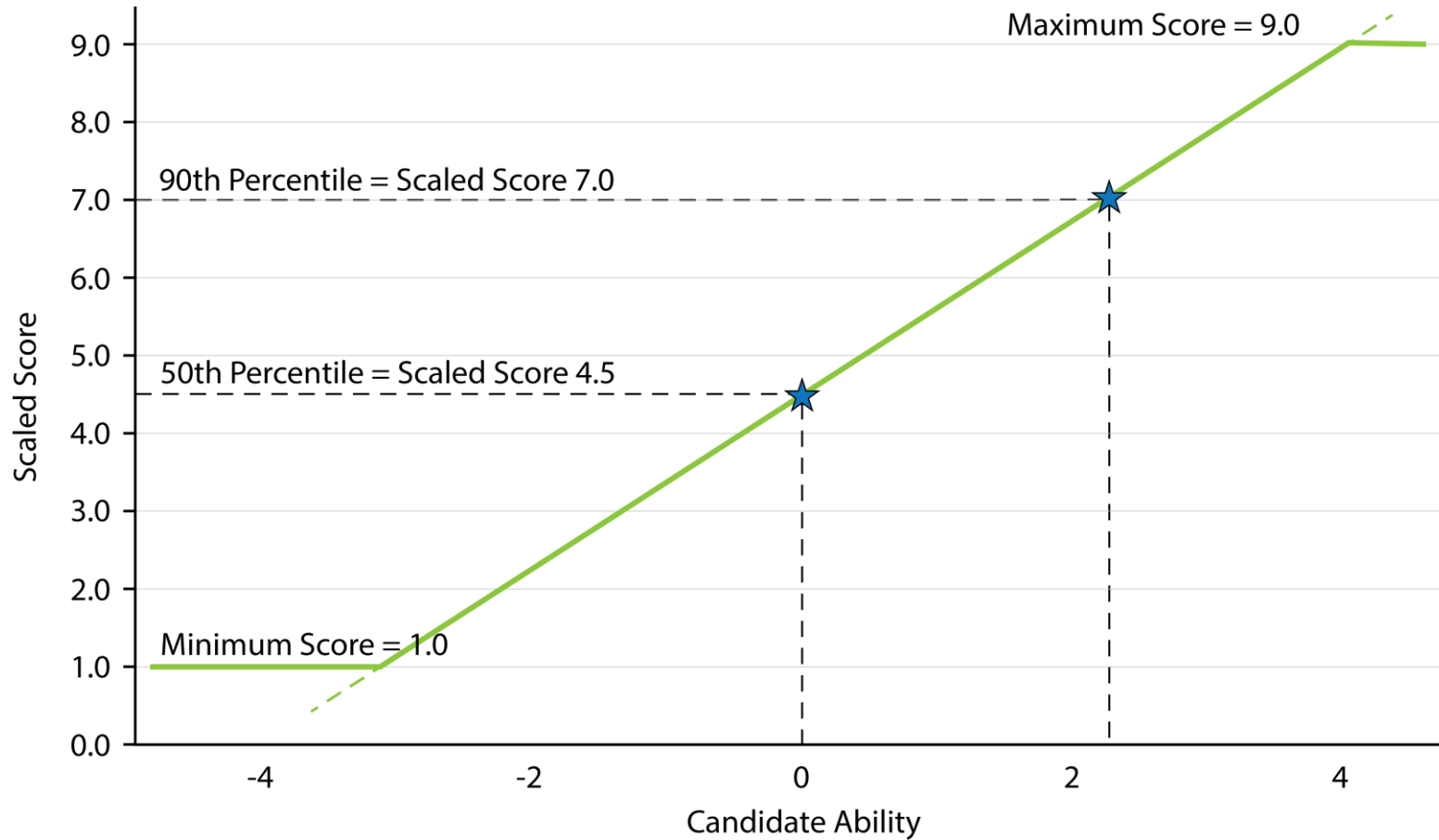
Test Scores

- Will be released to applicants via their online account, approximately four weeks after testing is complete.
- The results are UCAS matched and automatically shared with all universities using the tests.
- There is no need for applicants to send Universities their test results.
- Only the result from the first sitting will be accepted i.e. candidates should **NOT** sit the test more than once.
- Results are only valid for one admissions cycle.

Test Scores

- There is no pass or fail for any of our tests. Each institution retains discretion as to how they will use test scores in the context of the candidate's full UCAS application
- Response data is analysed using the Rasch item response theory (IRT) model which allows us to score candidates on a common scale of 1.0–9.0:
 - The TMUA is awarded one overall score.
 - The ESAT is awarded one score per module.
 - The TARA has two scored modules, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. The Writing Task is not scored by UAT-UK.

Test Scores



Notes on Test Performance

- Although the questions in the specimen and sample tests are representative of the level of difficulty candidates will experience in the live tests, performance on a practice test will not necessarily be indicative of performance under exam conditions.
- This is intentional because the score scale in any particular year is based on the ability distribution of the cohort, with the median fixed at 4.5 and the 90th percentile fixed at 7.0.
- The UAT-UK tests are designed to be challenging. Our tests need to clearly separate highly capable applicants. This includes those who may have achieved top grades in school exams. This might be the first time they have taken a test designed specifically for high levels of ability. Candidates should not expect to score as highly on these tests as they have in their school exams.



Questions & Answers

An opportunity for your questions

