# HPAT

Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

## Test Taker Information Booklet

**Registration Deadline:**
19 January 2024

**Test Window:**
16–25 February 2024

**HPAT-Ireland.acer.org**

Last updated: February 2024

09.02.24

# HPAT- Ireland 2024 Timeline

**Registrations open in November 2023**

▼

**Registrations close at 5.15pm GMT 19 January 2024**

▼

**Late registrations are accepted up to 2 February 2024 (late fee applies)**

▼

**Book test session with ProctorU**

▼

**Download the ACER Test App and Guardian Broswer**

▼

**Test window: 16–25 February 2024**

▼

**Results will be released to UL applicants and mature test takers in late April 2024. Results will be released to other test takers in late June 2024.**

# Contents

# 1. Contact Us

HPAT‑Ireland is developed and administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of a group of Irish Universities. ACER is an independent not-for-profit organisation.

All important information about HPAT‑Ireland can be found in this Information Booklet or on the HPAT‑Ireland website (https://HPAT‑Ireland.acer.org).

Due to the high volume of enquiries received particularly around the test window, it is advised to review the website and this information booklet for the answer to any questions you may have – particularly if they are urgent. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please email the HPAT‑Ireland Office at ACER and we will respond as soon as we can.

Please direct all enquiries or concerns by email to the HPAT‑Ireland Office and include your full name and HPAT‑Ireland ID number so we can easily find your registration and previous correspondence.

Email is the best means of communication on matters concerning HPAT‑Ireland and all communications from the HPAT‑Ireland Office will be via email, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

To ensure that your email provider does not flag important communication from the HPAT‑Ireland Office as spam, please save the HPAT‑Ireland email address (HPAT‑Ireland@acer.org) to your list of safe senders.

**Email:** HPAT‑Ireland@acer.org

Email services are available: **Monday to Friday**

All emails will generally be responded to within 24 hours.

Please note that response time may be longer in busy periods and after weekends or bank holidays.

**Message system:** Test takers can also contact the HPAT‑Ireland office through the HPAT‑Ireland registration account messaging system. Please use this method of correspondence for private and personal information. This includes:

- Reasonable Adjustment documentation
- Banking information
- Identification documentation

**Mail:** HPAT‑Ireland Office at
ACER Private Bag 55
Camberwell VIC 3124 AUSTRALIA

Please note the HPAT‑Ireland Office does not advise sending communications by mail as it cannot be held responsible for postal losses or delays.

## ProctorU Support

If you need immediate assistance, please access your ProctorU Account and use the Live Chat feature OR Call +44 808 168 1055.

If it is a non-urgent request, please enter the details of your request through the support website and a member of ProctorU support staff will respond as soon as possible. (Response times will fall within 24-48 hours).

# 2. About the Test

**The Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland (HPAT-Ireland)** is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health professions degree programmes.

HPAT-Ireland has been designed to assess 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. The test has a strong focus on general skills and personal abilities that have been identified as important for a competent health professional. HPAT-Ireland is designed to complement academic achievement; it does not test academic knowledge and it does not require special understanding of any academic discipline.

The HPAT-Ireland test is offered once annually in February each year.

## Which universities require a HPAT-Ireland score to apply?

You will need a HPAT-Ireland score to apply for admission to any of the following courses:

- **National University of Ireland Galway** – Undergraduate Medicine
- **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland** – Undergraduate Medicine
- **Trinity College Dublin** – Undergraduate Medicine
- **University College Cork** – Undergraduate Medicine
- **University College Dublin** – Undergraduate Medicine
- **University of Limerick** – MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) and MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification)

For information about specific courses and admission requirements, please refer to the relevant university websites. All course links can be found on the HPAT-Ireland website.

**International applicants please note:** If you are an international or non-EU student you may be exempt from taking HPAT-Ireland. For further information contact the CAO or the universities directly.

## Test Structure

The HPAT-Ireland is a 2½ hour test consisting of three sections. Each section is separately timed and there are no rest breaks between sections. The questions are in multiple choice format with 4 or 5 response alternatives from which you are asked to choose the most appropriate. Each question has only one correct response. Questions in sections 1 and 2 are in written form (though some section 1 questions may present information in visual or tabular format). Section 3 questions are based entirely on visual material.

HPAT-Ireland is divided into three sections designed to assess performance in the areas of:

- **Section 1 – Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving**
- **Section 2 – Interpersonal Understanding**
- **Section 3 – Non-Verbal Reasoning**
- **Section 4 – Written English** (UL applicants only)

The following table shows the structure of HPAT-Ireland by section and time.

|  | Number of questions | Time in minutes |
|---|---|---|
| Section 1 | 42 | 60 |
| Section 2 | 42 | 50 |
| Section 3 | 30 | 40 |
| Written English *(UL applicants only)* | 2 | 65 |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In addition to completing HPAT-Ireland, test takers applying to the MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) and the MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) at the University of Limerick are required to sit a 1 hour Written English component.

# 3. Before the Test

## Key Points

## Eligibility for HPAT-Ireland

HPAT-Ireland is available to any person who is applying to study a course for which HPAT-Ireland is a prerequisite, and who is able to meet the academic entry requirements set by the universities. Eligible test takers must either be in their final year of school or have completed their school leaving certificate prior to 2024.

International/non-EU students may be exempt from taking HPAT-Ireland. Please contact the universities to which you intend to apply directly, or check their websites for information.

## CAO application and CAO number

Before registering for HPAT-Ireland, all **MEDICINE** applicants should first get their CAO number. This number is required to complete your HPAT-Ireland registration successfully.

To get yourself a CAO number you need to apply online at www.cao.ie. Please note that if a paper application is submitted, your CAO number will not be available in time to register for the HPAT-Ireland test.

Applicants to the MSc in Occupational Therapy and MSc Speech and Language Therapy are not required to obtain a CAO number to sit HPAT-Ireland. All applications should be made to the University of Limerick directly.

# Registering for HPAT-Ireland

## How do I create an ACER online account?

To register for HPAT-Ireland you will need to create an ACER online account. You can do this by following the link from the HPAT-Ireland website. When creating your account you should ensure that your name and date of birth match exactly the identification document that you will present at your test session. These details will also be printed on your Statement of Results, and provided with your results to the CAO, so it is important they are correct, and that nicknames are not included.

To create your online account you must provide a valid email address which will be accessible during the registration, test and reporting cycle. Once an account has been activated it can be used for any future registrations.

If you make a mistake and need to change your name, date of birth or gender in your account, you will need to email the HPAT-Ireland Office, and we will do it for you. You may be asked to provide a supporting document to ensure that it is actually you, and not someone else providing false information. **Remember** – for privacy purposes all personal information should be provided via the message system within your ACER account.

## Completing your registration for HPAT-Ireland

The only way to register for HPAT-Ireland is online via the HPAT-Ireland website https://HPAT-Ireland.acer.org. To register you need an online account with a working email address and a credit card. The email address you include will be used for all communication from the HPAT-Ireland Office, including information on how to access your HPAT-Ireland results. It is important to enter your correct time zone, if you are based in Ireland, it will be Europe/Dublin (GMT+00.00). If you are located outside of Ireland, please ensure you correctly select the correct time zone for your location.

Once you have created your account please select **HPAT-Ireland** as the test that you wish to register for, fill in the online registration form and submit the payment. Details entered in the registration form can be amended through your online account at any time. Before completing your registration you will be asked to confirm that you have read this HPAT-Ireland 2024 Information Booklet including the Legal Notice, and that you agree and accept the terms and conditions of participation in the HPAT-Ireland test. A copy of the information contained in the declaration can be found on page 22.

Once your payment and registration are successful, you will receive a registration confirmation and payment receipt. These will both be sent to your registered email address. When you receive these, please check that the spelling of your name listed in your confirmation email matches the identification document that you will present on the test day. You can review the information provided in your registration at any time by logging into your ACER online account.

# What is remote proctoring?

Remote proctoring involves sitting the test under live supervision using your own computer in a quiet and private location with internet connectivity. Please watch this short video to have an understanding of how remote proctoring works and what to expect.

*Note: Remote proctoring for HPAT-Ireland is currently provided by ProctorU. ProctorU is based in the United States and by agreeing to sit the test by remote proctoring you will be required to provide your personal information to an overseas entity. In order to sit the test by remote proctoring you will need to provide your personal information to a third party, ProctorU (ACER's current provider of remote proctoring). The personal information you provide to ProctorU will be stored outside of Australia, the UK and the EU. You should read* ProctorU's privacy policy.

# How do I book a ProctorU test session?

To schedule your ProctorU test session, log into your ACER account https://registration.acer.edu.au and click on the **Log in to ProctorU** tab on the homepage under the heading **Schedule, Update or Sit your test session**.
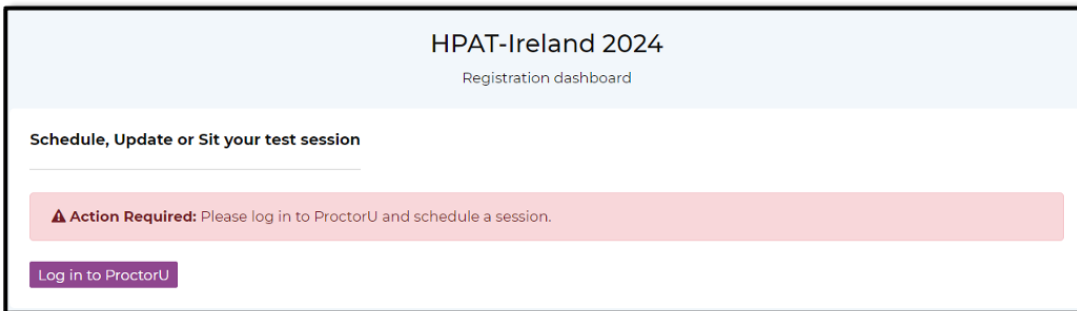


You must schedule/reschedule your test session by the registration deadlines provided on page 5 and the test session booking is subject to the availability listed on ProctorU's booking site during the test window period. You will be prompted to complete the EU citizen/resident information and agree to the Terms & Conditions outlined.

a. Click on the **Schedule New Session** icon on the homepage:
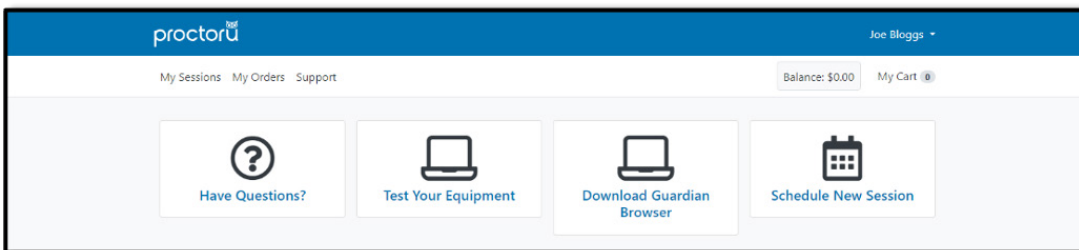


b. Select **HPAT-Ireland ACER** as your institution and **2024** as the term, then select **HPAT-Ireland Sections 1, 2 and 3** as the exam. Then click on the find sessions tab. Please note: test takers that are applying to the University of Limerick for the MSc Occupational Therapy and/or the MSc Speech and Language Therapy must follow this step again to find **HPAT-Ireland (Limerick) Written English** test sessions.
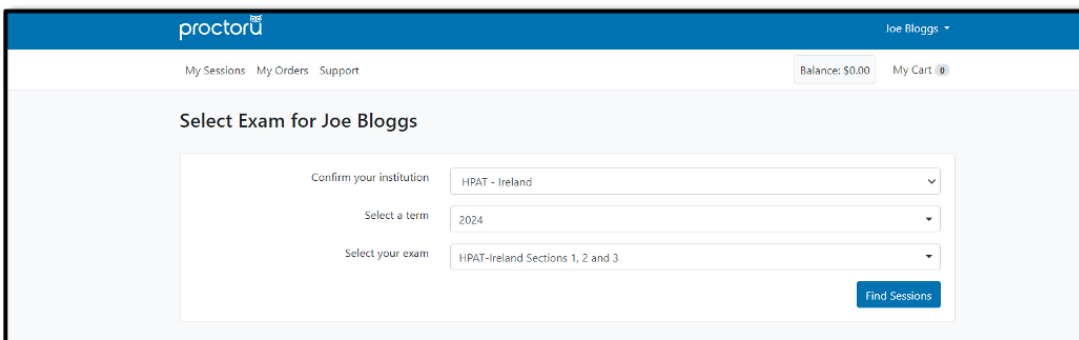
c. Choose the date and time you'd like to take the exam and click **Select** and then **Schedule** to confirm your choice.
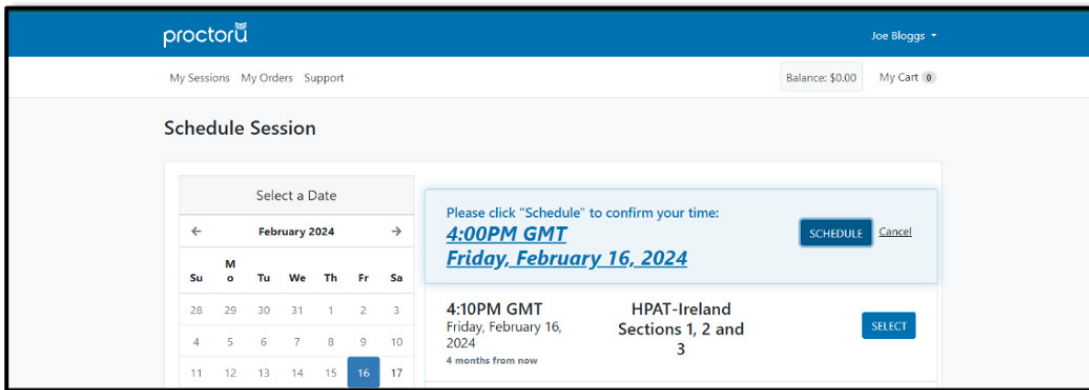


When scheduling your test, pay attention to the time you are choosing if you select 12AM you are scheduling for Midnight (AM = Morning, PM = Afternoon).

Please account for anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes to complete the start-up procedures in addition to the time you'll spend in your test. This is the time it takes to verify your identity, secure your environment, and get you into your HPAT-Ireland test. The start-up process does not take any time away from the time you're allowed in your test.

**Your test time does not start until you're actually in your HPAT-Ireland test and click the START button to begin.**

## Once I have made my booking can I reschedule my session if I need to?

ProctorU reservations can be changed. The window for bookings and any changes will close 3 days out from the start of the test window after this time no changes will be permitted.

To reschedule ensure that you log in to your ACER account to reschedule your test session(s) if needed. Click **Log in to ProctorU**.



Once you are logged in to your ProctorU account, please click on the **Reschedule** button and select a new date and time.
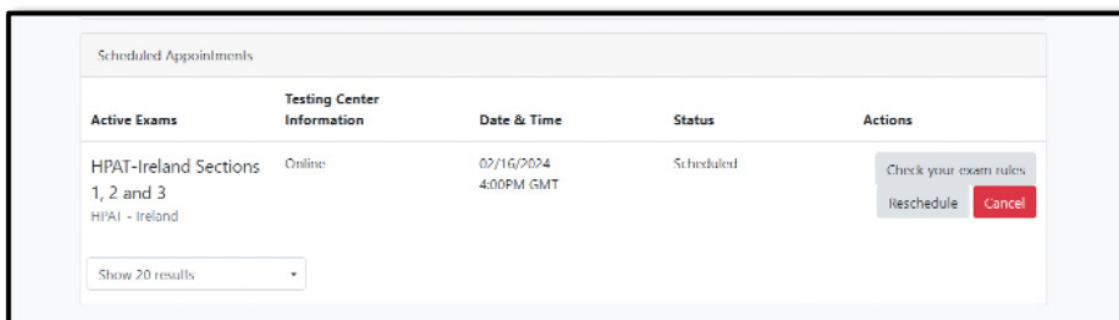


**Please note:** If you do need to change your session date/time, you may find that the time you want is already booked out, so any changes should only be made if absolutely necessary. At times ProctorU will experience high testing volumes, generally between 9am and 3pm. If you wish to avoid delays, we suggest you schedule your test outside of these peak times.

Importantly if you have a scheduled test session, keeping it is the best way to ensure you will be able to take your test. If you Cancel or are a No-show for your test, there may be delays in being able to schedule you quickly, or you may miss the test window altogether.

## What is the ACER Test App?

The test itself will be housed in the ACER Test App. You will need to download this onto the computer you intend to sit the test with in advance of the test window. In order to ensure you have the most up to date version, a download link is provided in this booklet on page 8.

You need to install the application on the computer that you intend to sit the HPAT-Ireland with. It is important that you download and install the application prior to your test session, as you will not be able to sit the test without having the application ready to use on your test day. To check that the installation was successful, launch the HPAT-Ireland Test Application. You should see the HPAT-Ireland test log in page. Please note you will NOT be able to log in to the ACER online test application until your scheduled test session(s).

## Registration deadline(s)

Registrations for the HPAT-Ireland 2024 test will open in November 2023. Your online registration and payment must be completed by: **5:15pm GMT 19 January 2024**.

Late registrations will be accepted up to **5.15pm GMT 29 January 2024**. Late registrations are subject to an additional fee.

An exceptional late registration is available until **5.15pm GMT on 2 February 2024**. The exceptional late registration is available only to test takers who have submitted their application to CAO by **5.00pm GMT on 1 February 2024** and is subject to an additional fee.

Due to the requirement to lock in final testing numbers, late registrations after **5.15pm GMT 2 February 2024** cannot be accepted. No exceptions can be made.

## Payment and refunds

*Table of fees*:

| Fee type | Amount |
|---|---|
| Standard Registration fee | €156.80 |
| Written English (UL applicants only) | €10 |
| Late fee | €75 |
| Exceptional late fee | €110 |
| Refund administration fee | €55 |
| No show re-booking fee | €90 |

The fee to sit HPAT-Ireland 2024 is €156.80. An additional fee of €10 applies to all UL applicants required to complete the Written English component. An additional €75 late fee applies for registrations completed after **5.15pm GMT 19 January 2024 and before 5.15pm GMT 29 January 2024**. An exceptional late fee of €110 in addition to the registration fee applies to registrations submitted after **5.15pm GMT 29 January 2024 until 5.15 GMT 2 February 2024**.

Your registration fee includes a copy of the online Practice Test e-book.

Payments are completed online by credit card (Mastercard, Visa Credit and Visa Debit). You will receive a payment confirmation/tax invoice by email once the payment is successfully completed. Please check your junkmail/spam folders if you do not receive your payment receipt. If you are still unable to find it email the HPAT-Ireland office.

Note: *ACER uses the CommWeb payment gateway to process your payment. The use of the payment gateway means that credit card details are not recorded or stored by ACER. You will be redirected to the CommWeb payment gateway to enter credit card information where the data are encrypted at the point of capture and transmitted directly to the bank by the provider. Please note that your credit card statement may list ACER as the recipient, and a specific reference to HPAT-Ireland may not be mentioned.*

## How do I apply for a refund?

Registration fees for the HPAT-Ireland 2024 test will be refunded up to **5.15pm GMT 29 January 2024**, with an administration charge of €55, unless a full refund is required by law. Requests must be submitted through your ACER account and a confirmation email will be sent to your registered email address once your request has been successfully submitted.

Please note that access to any preparation materials included with the HPAT-Ireland 2024 registration will be withdrawn upon completion of the refund. The fee will be refunded to the credit card used for payment. If your credit card has changed since you paid your registration, please email the HPAT-Ireland office.

PLEASE NOTE: To the fullest extent permitted at law, except as expressly provided herein, all moneys paid as part of a registration to sit the HPAT-Ireland test are non-refundable.

## Reasonable Adjustments

If you have a disability or other health-related or educational need that might interfere with your ability to sit the test in the standard manner, you should apply for reasonable adjustments as soon as possible after you complete your registration.

If you are unsure, we recommend you submit an application. All requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis and all reasonable efforts will be made to provide you with support and appropriate testing conditions for your needs.

To complete all the pre-test preparations, all requests need to be submitted no later than the close of standard registrations at **17:15pm GMT, 19 January 2024**. If you require reasonable adjustments due to a condition that occurred after the application deadline, please contact the HPAT-Ireland Office for advice. You can send your supporting medical documentation through your HPAT-Ireland account.

## Supporting Documentation

Please note there are changes to the types of medical documentation required when submitting a reasonable adjustment application from 2024. Please read the new HPAT-Ireland Documentation Requirements Guidelines for Reasonable Adjustments.

**List of Common Reasonable Adjustments**

This list is non-exhaustive. Other adjustments can also be granted.

**Presentation -** Change in presentation format of test

- Larger fonts or print format (test centre sitting only).
- Written list of instructions.

**Response -** Modification in the way a Test taker completes a test

- Scribe (test centre sitting only).
- Reader (test centre sitting only).

**Setting -** Allowance for a Test taker to undertake a test with permitted aides

- Use of Irlen Spectral Filters.
- Use of colour overlay.
- Bilingual Dictionary for Test takers whose native language is not English.
- Permission to have blood glucose testing kit and insulin.
- Permission to have medication.
- Permission to have food/drink.
- Permission to stand and stretch.

**Timing and scheduling -** Adjustments to when and how long a Test taker has to complete a test

- Extended time to complete a test.
- Rest breaks.

## How do I apply for Reasonable Adjustments?

Test takers must submit the online form and supporting documentation for their request through their online account prior to the close of standard registrations at **17:15pm GMT, 19 January 2024**.

To apply complete the following steps:

1. Create an online account and register for HPAT-Ireland (page 3).

2. Once your registration is complete you can apply for reasonable adjustments through your online account. Please fill in the online form and provide details about your condition and required adjustments – be detailed, we need to know exactly what you need.

3. Attach the supporting documentation for your request. Please read the new HPAT-Ireland Documentation Requirements Guidelines for Reasonable Adjustments for more specific details on the documentation required.

4. Once your application is received, a confirmation email will be sent to your registered email address. The HPAT-Ireland Office will contact you if further documentation or information is required for the assessment of your request.

5. All applications will be reviewed after the close of standard registrations at **17:15pm GMT, 19 January 2024** and you will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible after this. If approved, you will be able to view your approved adjustments through your online account. Your adjustments will be added to your ProctorU account by ACER and any additional time will be added to the timer on the ACER test app. For test takers with rest breaks, you will be provided a separate rest break timer. The test will be paused during rest breaks and a separate rest break timer started.

All information regarding reasonable adjustments will be treated confidentially and will not be forwarded to the universities or admission authorities. Proctors on the test day will be informed of the adjustments provided to you, but not of your condition. If you wish that proctors, be alerted to the nature of your condition, please indicate this in your application.

**Note: For psychometric reasons there is no possibility of reviewing or giving special consideration to test results, such as adjusting results for any perceived or actual disadvantage; or whether the actual or perceived disadvantage arises from any incident on the sitting day, or any wanted adjustment to sitting conditions. Consequently, it is important that any such adjustment be applied for in accordance with ACER's reasonable adjustments procedure. This will ensure such adjustments are made in advance of your test sitting.**

## Do I need to apply for reasonable adjustments again if I did so in a previous sitting?

Yes, you need to submit an application each time you sit HPAT-Ireland. Arrangements will only be valid for the test cycle and year the application was submitted.

# 4. Technical Preparation and Requirements

## Introduction

To sit the HPAT - Ireland via remote proctoring in 2024, you will need to use a desktop computer or laptop. **iPads, tablets or mobile phones are not suitable**. Review the list of requirements below for your camera, operating system, upload/download speeds, RAM, ports, microphones and browsers. Also included is a list of technology not currently supported by ProctorU.

Generally, a desktop device with a webcam will be a superior option to a laptop, however there is nothing wrong with sitting the test using a laptop. We would recommend you use an external mouse as track pads will be difficult in test conditions. If you use a laptop, for best results it is recommended it be a 15" screen or larger. However, a 13" screen will be acceptable, but it will simply mean that you will have to scroll more in order to see the information in the questions. Please ensure that your screen resolution is set to a minimum of 1280 x 1024.

You will also need:

- A functioning microphone (some web cameras have them built-in)
- ACER Test App
- Guardian Browser

## ACER Test App

In order to complete the HPAT - Ireland you will be required to download the ACER Test App. This is a secure platform that houses the test itself. All test takers login using the email address and password used to register for HPAT - Ireland.

You must install the ACER Test App on the device that you intend to sit the test with. It is important that you download and install the application prior to your scheduled test sessions as you will not be able to sit the test without having the test application on your device. Once you click on the required link the ACER Test App will automatically download and save to your desktop. The HPAT - Ireland testing icon will only appear on the home page closer to the testing window.

For Windows 10 or higher if you see the '*Windows protected your PC*' message, click **more info**. When a new message pops, up click **run anyway**.

For Mac OS X 10.10 or higher with Intel chip (most common)

For Mac OS x 10.10 or higher with Apple chip if Mac Gatekeeper blocks the ACER Test app, please follow these instructions.

**Note: To check whether your Mac has an Intel or an Apple chip, open the Apple menu. Select "About This Mac". In the "Overview" tab, look for "Processor" or "Chip". Check if it says "Intel" or "Apple".**

If you have a previous version of the ACER online test application installed on your computer, please uninstall it first. You must install the latest version of the ACER online test application on the computer that you intend to sit the test with.
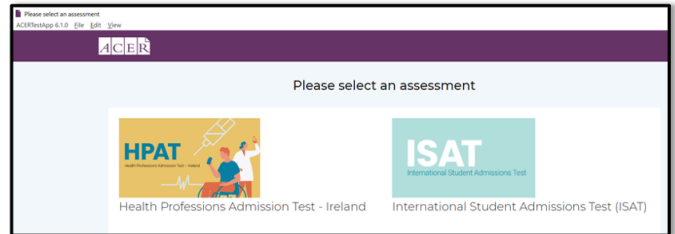


**Mac Gatekeeper may block the app; if that happens, please click here for instructions on how to proceed: https://support.apple.com/en-au/guide/mac-help/mh40616/mac**

**Please note you are neither required nor able to log in to the ACER Test App until your scheduled test session.** If you are unable to install the ACER Test App on your computer the cause could be, but not limited to, firewall or antivirus. Please note these restrictions are beyond ACER's control.

**IMPORTANT:** Ensure any remote controlling software such as TeamViewer, VNC and Apple Remote Desktop have been disabled or uninstalled before you sit the test. The deliberate use of any such programs will be deemed a serious act of misconduct, resulting in the cancellation of results and a possible disqualification.

## Guardian Browser

All Test takers must download the only supported Guardian browser, prior to their HPAT - Ireland sitting. This browser is required for ProctorU to complete all the checks and view the Test taker during the test.

To complete this step log in to your ACER account, click on the **Log in to ProctorU** button on the homepage and then click on **Download Guardian Browser** on the ProctorU homepage, run the downloaded file to install Guardian Browser.
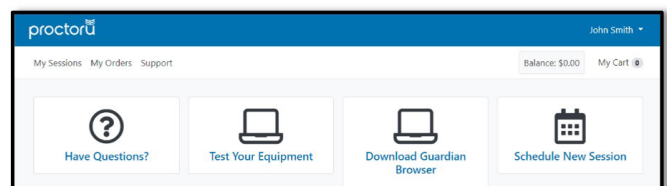
## Do I need to purchase a new computer to sit the HPAT-Ireland?

No, it is not necessary to purchase a brand new computer, as long as your computer meets the minimum requirements you should be able to complete your test. If you do not have a computer, consider borrowing one from a friend, relative or even school.

If you are not able to access a computer please contact the HPAT-Ireland Office. ACER will operate a small test centre in Dublin on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 February. This centre is for test takers that do not have access to a computer, or a suitable location to sit HPAT-Ireland by remote proctoring. All requests for a test centre booking should be accompanied by advice as to why you are unable to sit via remote proctoring.

## Test Your Equipment

You must pre-check your equipment by performing a Test Your Equipment check through ProctorU. Test using the computer and internet connection that you plan to sit the test with at the location you will be doing the test from. Network firewalls at public locations such as schools, universities, workplaces or libraries may prevent access to ProctorU on your test day and the equipment test may not detect the firewalls. Computers provided by a workplace, school or institution may also have settings that prevent you from sitting the test. For these reasons you are advised to sit the test using a personal computer connected to your home network.



## Technical specifications:

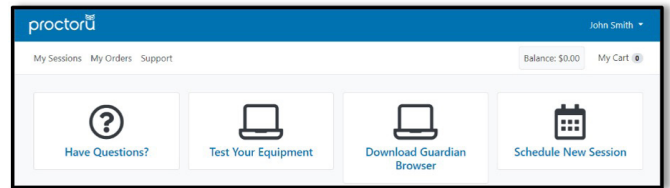| Requirement Type | Minimum | Recommended |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Internet Connection | Wifi Connection | Wired Connection |
| PC Users | Windows 10 (Windows 10 S mode is not supported) The Guardian browser requires 64-bit Windows 10 | Windows 10 (10 S mode is not supported) |
| Mac Users | MacOS 10.13 (Oldest Still Maintained Version) | MacOS 10.15 |
| CPU | more than 2 core CPU less than 85% CPU Usage | more than 4 core CPU less than 50% CPU Usage |
| Webcam | 640 x 480 resolution | 1280 x 720 resolution |
| Internet Download Speed | 1 Mbps | 12 Mbps |
| Internet Upload Speed | 1 Mbps | 3 Mbps |
| RAM | 4 GB less than 90% Ram Usage | 16 GB less than 70% Usage |
| Connectivity Ports | 1935, 843, 80, 443, 61613, UDP/TCP | 1935, 843, 80, 443, 61613, UDP/TCP |
| Screen Resolution | 1366 x 768 | 1920 x 1080 and above |
| Chromebooks are not supported | Chromebooks are not supported | Chromebooks are not supported |

## Technical trouble shooting

### a) Internet Connection/Bandwidth

Testing with ProctorU requires a strong and stable internet connection to support screen sharing and remote proctoring software. Issues with stability or speed may prevent you from testing or may cause issues during your test. Try some of the tips on the ProctorU website if you're experiencing issues with your internet.

**Note: Hotspots and tethering are not supported due to stability issues**

### b) Troubleshooting your microphone:

A Microphone is required for your test so the proctor can hear you. If your microphone is not working, try some of the troubleshooting steps found on the ProctorU website.

### c) Troubleshooting your webcam/camera:

A camera is required for your HPAT-Ireland test so that the proctor is able to monitor your testing environment. If your camera is not working, try some of the troubleshooting steps found on the ProctorU website.

# 5. Preparing for HPAT-IRELAND

## Key Points

- HPAT-Ireland does not draw on any particular body of knowledge or curriculum. Preparation should focus on being familiar with the question types, and understanding what to expect.
- 5 x E-books are available for purchase. You do not need to register for the test to buy practice materials, but you do need an ACER account.
- All questions have the same value, therefore attempting as many questions as possible gives you the best opportunity to maximise your score.
- Access the **Online Platform DEMO** before you sit.

The purpose of HPAT-Ireland is to assess your abilities in a range of general skills. The test measures skills acquired over a period of time, including your ability to reason, make logical deductions and form judgments. The test does not draw on any particular body of knowledge or curriculum. Wide and critical reading may provide helpful preparation for sections 1 and 2. There is little benefit to be gained from last-minute 'cramming'. However, some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT-Ireland is beneficial.

## HPAT-Ireland online platform DEMO

In order to familiarise yourself with the online delivery platform, the HPAT-Ireland office has made available some questions from existing preparation materials for you to navigate and explore.

All registered test takers can access the free HPAT-Ireland online platform DEMO by logging into your ACER account go to **Actions > Manage > the demo will appear at the bottom of the list of actions on the right.**

There will be two buttons one is for the multiple choice sections; and for test takers applying to the University of Limerick you can use the second button to try out the Written English platform.

Click View DEMO to start.

| View Sections 1, 2 and 3 DEMO | View Written English DEMO |

The purpose of the DEMO is not to provide you with additional practice questions. It is to provide all test takers sitting HPAT-Ireland in 2024 with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the online test delivery platform. We encourage all test takers to try the DEMO so that you understand the functionality of the platform, and know what to expect when you undertake your HPAT-Ireland.

**Please note:** none of the questions/essays that appear in the DEMO will be marked. This is for familiarisation of the delivery platform only, so please do not contact the HPAT-Ireland office seeking feedback or results.

If you exit at any point without completing a section you will be redirected back to the same question once you revisit the link. There is no limit on how many times you can access the online platform DEMO.

## Should I attend a HPAT-Ireland preparation course?

HPAT-Ireland preparation courses are not recommended, authorised by, or in any way associated with, ACER. They are unregulated. You will need to assess for yourself whether any particular preparation course is able to supply objective and reliable evidence that participation is likely to improve your score to justify the often significant cost associated with them, and whether representations they make about themselves are accurate.

## Test-taking strategy

Questions in the HPAT-Ireland test are in multiple choice format. There is no right or wrong way to work through the test, it is best for you to develop your own strategies that suit your way of working in order to complete the test in the allocated time.

Each test section is separately timed. It is recommended that you work steadily through each section. It is not advisable to spend too much time on any one question. Read through all the alternative answers to a question, even if you think the first one is correct, before marking your chosen response. If you think you know the answer to a question, mark your answer by clicking on the radio button corresponding to your chosen answer, even if you are not certain. Go on to the next question and come back later if you have time.

Remember: All questions have the same value, therefore by attempting as many questions as possible you stand the best chance of maximising your score. No marks are deducted for a wrong answer.

# HPAT-Ireland preparation materials

ACER produces the only official HPAT-Ireland preparation materials. All questions contained in our booklets have been used in past tests. Therefore, they are the only real test questions available to test takers, hence why they are the best guide for test preparation.

There are currently **five publications in the form of e-books** (hard copies are not available) and an **automatic scoring service for Written English** *(required for UL applicants only).*

## E-books

| Booklet | Cost | Information |
|---|---|---|
| Practice Test *(incl. with your registration fee)* | €22 | Equivalent to a full test - *with worked solutions* |
| Practice Test 2 | €22 | Equivalent to a full test |
| Practice Test 3 | €22 | Equivalent to a full test |
| Additional Practice Questions | €22 | 60 questions |
| Additional Practice Questions 2 | €22 | 60 questions |

Practice Test, Practice Test 2 and Practice Test 3 are each equivalent to a full test and will take approximately 2 ½ hours to complete under test conditions.

Additional Practice Questions and Additional Practice Questions 2 contain a collection of approximately 60 questions each that can also be used for additional practice. Answers are given to all questions in each e-book, and worked solutions are provided for Practice Test and Practice Test 3. Though similar in format the e-books contain different selections of material and are designed to give examples of the types of questions asked in HPAT-Ireland and of the skills and understanding tested.

We recommend you work through each booklet multiple times. Read the worked solutions in the practice test booklet to guide you in how to answer the questions, and then apply this knowledge to the other booklets – you may need to do this multiple times. Then practice using the real test timings.

**Remember: HPAT-Ireland does not test academic knowledge and doesn't require special understanding of any academic disciplines.**

Practicing the types and style of questions is important so you know what to expect in the live test. Reading widely and often is also important to do.

When you purchase of an e-book (including the Practice Test e-book provided as part of your registration) you are able to:

- Make 2 hard copies of the e-book which will be imprinted with your name and identifying details.
- Have unrestricted online access to the e-book you have purchased for 12 months commencing on the date the e-book is made accessible to you for the sole purpose of reading the e-book.
- HPAT-Ireland preparation videos will be available to all registered test takers through their online account, in the lead-up to the test date.

## How do I purchase preparation materials?

To purchase any of the available preparation materials you will need to create an ACER account. You do not need to register for the test itself in order to purchase practice materials. Additionally, the purchase of practice materials does not mean you are registered for HPAT-Ireland.

Any preparation materials you purchase will be accessible through your ACER account as soon as your payment is successfully received.

## Automatic scoring for Written English (UL applicants only)

The automatic scoring service for Written English allows UL applicants to submit two essays addressing two specific tasks. The essays are autoscored by computer and a percentile band and a score range are provided on completion of both tasks.

## How does automatic scoring work? (UL applicants only)

To enable automatic scoring, several hundred responses to the tasks were marked using a criterion-referenced analytical marking guide. Responses were hand marked (double marked and adjudicated, where necessary) using a marking guide. The scores were Rasch analysed and a measurement scale was calibrated. Finally, the scores were loaded into the automatic marking system to create a computer model that replicates manual scoring and can 'mimic' the way markers assign scores to the tasks.

When you purchase use of the automatic scoring service for Written English you are able to:

- Upload 2 essay tasks: one Task A and one Task B.
- Receive a single Written English score range, for example (51–59), and percentile band. Please note that you will only be able to submit your responses once.
- Submit your practice essay tasks anytime within 12 months from the date of purchase.
- Please note, it is not possible to provide detailed feedback and critiquing of your writing through autoscoring.

## Preparing for Written English (UL applicants only)

Good preparation for the Written English component is to attempt the sample essay prompts provided below. You should try to complete the essays in one hour under simulated 'test conditions'. Once completed, it is often helpful to ask someone else to read the essays and to suggest improvements or alternative approaches to the

prompts. (Note that it is not necessary to agree with the prompts). It can also be useful to put the essays aside for several days then re-read them to look for ways to make improvements.

Don't be concerned about the expected length of the essays. Within reason, the quality of the writing is much more important than the length. Test takers only have 30 minutes to plan and write each essay, and the examiners do not have unrealistic expectations of what can be produced in that time.

The following questions will be considered by the examiners when they assess your essays:

- What kinds of ideas has the test taker developed in response to the prompt?
- To what extent and how well has the test taker explored the ideas and issues in the prompt?
- Has the test taker developed a structured and organised piece of writing?
- Has the test taker written clearly and fluently?
- Is the language used by the test taker precise and appropriate for the topic?

Remember: Spelling and punctuation errors will not impact your essay scores.

**All Written English responses will undergo plagiarism checks as part of the marking process, so make sure your work is your work and not someone else's.**

> **Sample essay prompts:**
>
> Task A:
> A civilised society is one that makes sure there is a place for everyone.
>
> Task B:
> Whatever the field of endeavour, it is drive and commitment that counts.

## PRE-TEST CHECKLIST

## HPAT-Ireland Checklist Task

**Step 1**   Register to sit the test via the HPAT-Ireland Website before **5.15pm GMT 19 January 2024**.

**Step 2**   After registration is complete you can book your ProctorU test session.

**Step 3**   Download the Guardian Browser.

**Step 4**   Download the **ACER test app** (links available on page 8).

**Step 5**   Complete all the ProctorU technical checks (This can be done any time, as often as you need).

**Step 6**   Sit your test between **Friday 16 February– Sunday 25 February 2024**.

# 6. Test Day

## Key Points

- HPAT-Ireland will run from **16–25 February 2024**.
- HPAT-Ireland 2024 will be delivered via **remote proctoring**.
- You will need a computer or laptop to sit the test.
- You need to register with ACER, and book a ProctorU test session to sit HPAT-Ireland.
- You will need the correct ID to sit your test.

The HPAT-Ireland test window will run across a number of days from **16–25 February 2024**.

The testing window has been extended to include the 20, 21, 24 and 25 February for those test takers who encounter technical difficulties and require a rescheduled session.

**Please Note**: Only ACER can schedule sessions on the 20, 21, 24 & 25 February. This will be done following investigation into any issues occurring at the initial session. Remote proctored rescheduled sittings will be scheduled on 20 and 21 February. Sittings on 24 and 25 February will be for Test Centre sittings only.

No other testing dates will be provided.

The test will be conducted online via remote proctoring and test takers will select a time and day that suits them to complete their test.

HPAT-Ireland is conducted once a year, the 16–25 February 2024 will be the only time you will be able to undertake testing in 2024.

## What identification do I need to complete my test?

On the day of your test session you will be required to show one form of photo-bearing identification. **The only acceptable forms of ID are:**
- Current passport
- Current photo-bearing driver's licence
- (learner's permit, probationary or full licence)
- Current Irish Public Services Card
- Current EU/EEA National Identity Card
- Certified letter of identification (details follow)

The photograph in your identification document must be recognisable as a likeness to you as you are on the day of the test.

If you do not possess a current passport, an EU/EEA National Identity Card or driver's licence, you need to obtain a certified letter of identification from your school, other educational institution or your workplace. The letter must:
- be on official letterhead;
- contain your name;
- contain your date of birth;
- have a passport photo glued to the letter with institution stamp overlapping (so that we can see that the photo was attached at the time the letter was verified and not added later);
- contain the signature and title of the official verifying the identification;
- contain your signature.

A sample letter of identification is provided on the HPAT-Ireland website and you are advised to use this template to avoid any problems on the day.

If you do not have one of these forms of identification, please allow enough time to organise one before the test date as you will not be able to sit the test without an approved form of identification.

**Digital identification documents, student cards, Garda cards and/or documents that have expired will NOT be accepted. Photocopies of identity documents are also not acceptable forms of ID.**

**If you do not present one of the above identification documents, the proctor will not be able to commence your session.**

## What will I need to complete my test?

To successfully complete your test you will need:

- A computer or laptop
  *(Tablets and mobile phones including Nexus, iPad, Tab, Note, etc. are not supported)*
- Stable internet connection
- A small erasable whiteboard and pen, OR 4 pieces of A4 sized scratch paper, a pencil, eraser & sharpener
- Acceptable current and photo-bearing identification document
- A clear water bottle (no labels attached)
- Mirror (hand held is fine) or other reflective device

Test takers are permitted to have two sheets of scratch paper i.e. 4 sheets of blank A4 sized paper or a small erasable whiteboard and pen to complete workings and notes.

Before your session starts your proctor will ask you to show them both sides of your paper or whiteboard. At the completion of your test session, the proctor will ask you to show your rough work to the webcam and then instruct you to dispose of the paper by ripping it up or will ask to see your erased blank whiteboard.

The ACER Test App has an inbuilt timer so there should be no need for additional timers.

There should be no other items on your desk during the test session. Mobile phones must be switched off, and placed in a location away from your workspace. Proctors will monitor where you store them during your session.

If you do not have access to a suitable computer, and cannot borrow one, then you should email the HPAT-Ireland office for support.

## What items are prohibited?

There are certain items that are not allowed on your desk or near you during your test session, these are:

- Mobile phone,
- Calculators,
- Stopwatches,
- Audio or recording devices of any kind, including cameras,
- MP3 players,
- Digital, analogue and smart watches, fitbits etc.,
- Standard English Dictionaries,
- Pencil cases, and rulers,
- Food,
- Earplugs,
- Bluetooth devices such as headphones,
- Dual monitors,
- Head coverings (unless it is for religious reasons)

Access to food (including sweets and nuts), earplugs, medication or other medical equipment (e.g. support cushion, sit/stand desk) requires special permission. If you think you will need any of these you will need to apply for reasonable adjustments (see page 6 and 7). If you are unsure email the HPAT-Ireland office.

It is recommended you eat before your test session, but you are permitted to eat/drink and use the bathroom while you are waiting to connect to a proctor, or if you have delays starting.

## Can I use a dictionary?

Test takers whose first language is not English may use a bilingual dictionary for the section 1 and 2 of the test. The pages must be unmarked, and any notes removed. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted. Dictionaries containing definitions of English words into the nominated language are acceptable but there must not be definitions of English words in English. If you are using a bilingual dictionary, you will need to show your proctor for inspection before starting. The final decision on the suitability of dictionaries will be made on the test day by your proctor.

## Completing the test

The HPAT-Ireland test consists of 2 ½ hours test time. There will be pre-testing procedures to complete before you can start. These will take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour to complete depending on your personal circumstances. Therefore, **it is not possible to guarantee start and finish times**.

Those people applying to the MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification) and the MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) at the University of Limerick are also required to sit a 1 hour Written English component in addition to the multiple choice sections. The Written English will be conducted as a separate test session, which will require UL applicants to make 2 test session booking with ProctorU. One for the multiple choice sections and one for Written English.

**You may use the bathroom during testing time.**
If you take a bathroom break, no additional time will be granted and the timer will not be paused. Please make sure you advise your proctor that you are leaving to use the bathroom. Another room scan will be completed when you return.

## Answering the test questions

The HPAT-Ireland test is in multiple-choice format. You will need to select your answer by clicking one of the 'radio' buttons next to the options.

UL applicants will complete the Written English component by typing their written responses.

## Technical Issues

### What do I do if there are delays in connecting me to a proctor?

It's important to stay calm. There will be lots of people using the ProctorU system and demand may be higher or lower depending on the time your test session is booked. Many test takers will experience short delays in connecting to a proctor. It is important that you stay online: if you log out and then back in again you may find that you lose your booking slot which remains open to you for 30 minutes past the scheduled start time. If you surpass the 30 minute window, you will need to schedule a new test session within the HPAT-Ireland test window – you can do this by contacting ProctorU support and the HPAT-Ireland Office.

Remember you can eat, drink and use the bathroom while you wait!

### What do I do if I experience technical or connection problems during my test session?

If you have technical issues or something goes wrong during your test, the proctor will try to help you. If the issues are related to technology they will transfer your session to a technical support team member. It is important to remain calm, you may eat, and use the bathroom while this is happening. If you do leave your computer while technical issues are being resolved, it is a good idea to have someone watch your computer in case you are required to action something from your side.

We understand that remote proctoring can be stressful. It is important to know that if you are having ongoing issues and become distressed that you can stop if you need to. You can reschedule your session to another day and time, to provide an opportunity to resolve the technical issues you are facing. This may include finding another computer, changing location or both. If you are unable to resolve the issues you are facing, please notify the HPAT-Ireland Office by email for advice regarding next steps.

If your technical issues are insurmountable and neither you nor ProctorU can resolve them, then you should email the HPAT-Ireland office for support once you disconnect from your proctor.

Similarly, any complaints relating to the test session should be reported **immediately** to the HPAT-Ireland Office so the issue can be addressed without delay.

> **Important note:** It is not possible to schedule tests outside of the allocated test window. All technical or other issues arising during remote testing must be addressed immediately and resolved during the allocated test window of **Friday 16 February–Sunday 25 February 2024**.

## Taking your test

Once your space is ready and it is time to take your HPAT-Ireland test, you will need to log into your ProctorU profile.

You must have the following items with you:

- Acceptable current and photo-bearing identification document
- A clear water bottle (no labels attached)
- Mirror or other reflective device
- 4 sheets of blank A4 sized paper (Pencil, Pencil sharpener, Eraser)
- OR small erasable whiteboard and marker.

## Test takers with Reasonable Adjustments

If you have been approved for Reasonable Adjustments, you will receive a notification from the HPAT-Ireland office in the usual manner. Have this with you for your session and show it to your proctor if asked. The HPAT-Ireland office will update your ProctorU account with your allowances, and will add any additional time to your test session via the ACER Test App.

## Beginning your Test – Step by step

This process will likely take between 10 to 30 minutes unless you experience technical difficulties which means it could take an hour or more in severe cases. Be sure to test your equipment before test day to minimize the chance you'll have technical issues. If you do have technical issues, ProctorU support will do what they can to assist you with fixing your equipment. This time is not subtracted from the time you're allowed in your test – stay calm and try not to panic.

1. **Log in to your ProctorU** account via your ACER account 2–3 minutes before your scheduled appointment (there is no need to do this any earlier) and click **Start Session** when the countdown timer reaches 0:00:00.

2. **Pre-checks:** If you haven't already downloaded the Guardian Browser, you'll be prompted to do so. You'll be required to accept test guidelines and terms of service. The browser will prompt you to share your screen, a required part of being proctored online. You'll be automatically guided through a series of equipment checks to make sure your system meets minimum requirements.

3. **Photos & Authentication:** You'll take a photo of yourself as well as your I.D. for identity verification purposes.

4. **Chatbox download:** You will be prompted to download and run a LogMeIn Rescue applet file that will bring up a chat box allowing you to text with your proctor. If prompted, be sure to click "open" or "allow" to give the file permission to run. When the chat box says "waiting," it means that you are in the queue waiting for your proctor. **TIP: If your status shows "waiting," do not re-download the applet file as that will put you back at the end of the queue.**

5. **Proctor Connection & Confirmations:** Your proctor will greet you and confirm that you passed your identity verification steps. You'll review the test rules with your proctor and they'll ask to see any permitted resources that your instructor has allowed you to use during your test.

6. **Remote System Check:** Your proctor will ask to take remote control of your mouse and keyboard via the LogMeIn Rescue applet in order to make sure no unpermitted programs are running. You will be able to see everything that your proctor is doing during this step, and it is impossible for them to access any files without your knowledge.

7. **Camera Pan:** Your proctor will ask you to show the 4 walls of your room as well as your desk space via your webcam. You may or may not also be asked to show your computer monitor. Your proctor will make sure your cell phone is out of reach.

8. **Take Your Test:** Your proctor will release control of your computer so you can begin logging into your test.

   To log into your test you should complete the following steps:

   a. Open the ACER Test application and click on **HPAT-Ireland**;

   b. You will see the login page for your ACER account (https://registration.acer.edu.au). Your Username is the e-mail address you registered with. You can use the 'Reset my password' link if necessary.

   c. Once logged in, your username (i.e. email) will appear in the text box. Copy and paste this into the chat box for your proctor to use to unlock your allocated test.
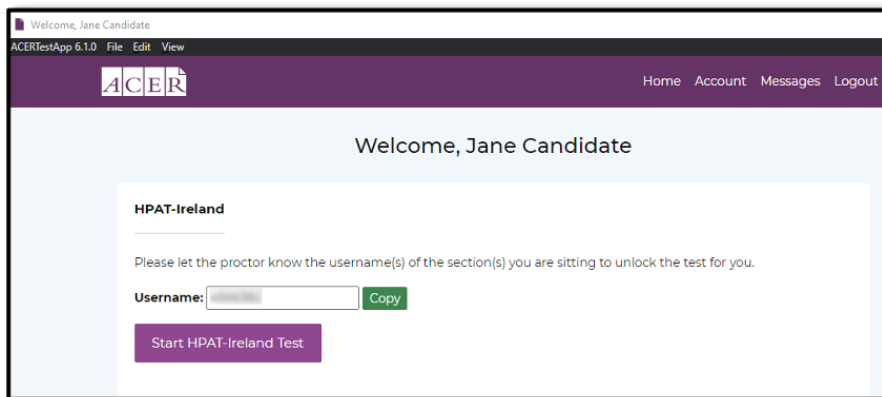


   d. Then click the **Start HPAT-Ireland test**.

   e. Now you should be on the test landing page that should look like this:
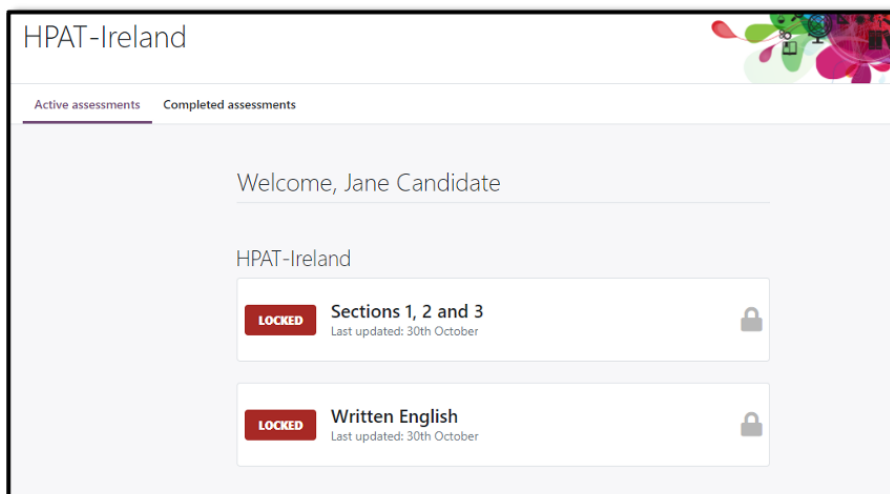
**IMPORTANT:** You will only see the Written English test on the landing page if you have registered with ProctorU to sit this component of the test. This is required for any test taker who has applied for entry into to the MSc in Occupational Therapy and MSc Speech and Language Therapy. It is important to check that the Proctor is unlocking the correct test for you. Please make sure you are sitting the correct test section(s) at the correct session schduled booking.

If the wrong test has been unlocked, please ask you proctor to unlock the correct one. If both are unlocked, proceed to the test you are scheduled to complete and ignore the other one. You willl know when your test has been unlocked as the button will change from locked and red, to green and new.

f.  Once it is displaying in green you can click on the **name of the test**, the test will open and you can begin.
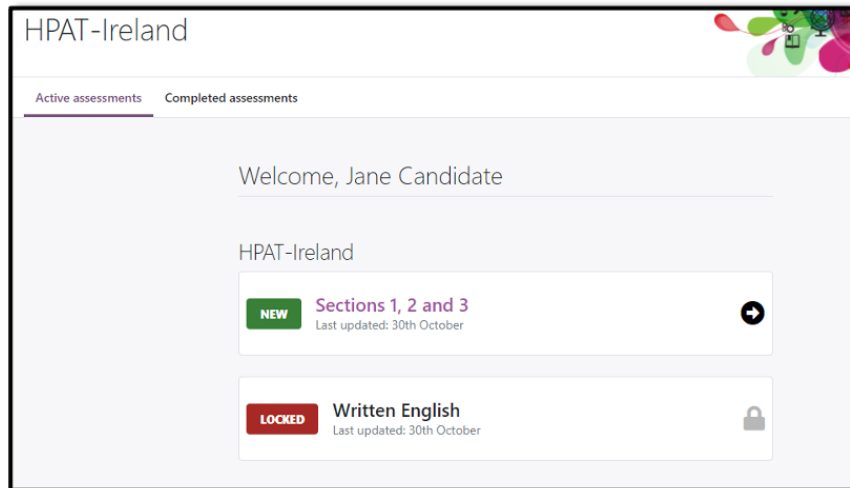


## Finishing your Test Session

9.  **Alert the proctor when finished after submitting:** After you have submitted your test, let your proctor know through the chat box that you're finished. If you used scratch paper you will be required to tear this up in front of your proctor before you close out of your session, and if you have used a whiteboard you will be required to clean this.

10. **Log out of your test site and browser:** Your proctor will observe you logging out of the test website and close out of all browser tabs.

11. **Close out of ProctorU chat box:** This will end your session with ProctorU. Once the chat box closes, you'll be invited to complete a customer satisfaction survey.

**You're all done!**

## Absent or 'No Show' for your scheduled booking

If you are a 'No show' for your HPAT-Ireland session, you may still sit the HPAT-Ireland in your registered test window if there are testing days and session times available. Please contact the HPAT-Ireland office by email and request a rescheduled session. There is a 'No show' administration fee of €90 which must be paid before a second session booking can be made. Once payment is received you will be sent a new ProctorU booking link to complete your rescheduled session booking.

**Please Note:** Test takers that attend their session on time, but encounter technical difficulties are not considered a 'No show'. If you still wish to sit HPAT-Ireland but are unable to do so within the test window, you will be required to register for a future test window and will have to pay the full HPAT-Ireland registration fee again. Test takers may only use 'No show' rescheduling once within the test window. There are no penalties other than the loss of your fee if you do not attend your scheduled test session and are considered a 'No show'.

# 7. After the test

## Key Points

- UL and mature test takers receive results in mid to late April 2024. Everyone else in late June 2024.
- Results are accessed via your ACER account.
- Results are valid for one year.

## When will my result be available?

HPAT-Ireland results will be released to UL applicants and mature test takers in mid to late April. All the other test takers will receive their results in late June 2024. You will be advised via email when results are available to you via your online account.

Note: Applicants are considered mature if they are 23 years old on or before 1st January 2024 (i.e. born on or before 1st January 2001).

You can access your Statement of Results through your ACER account. ACER does not provide hard copies of results. When you access your results you are advised to save and print a copy of the Statement of Results for your own records.

The HPAT-Ireland statement of results includes your date of birth and the name used at the time your test was taken. For security reasons it is not possible to provide replacement result statements to accommodate name changes.

ACER will provide your results to the CAO and universities for the purpose of selecting applicants into their programmes. You are not required to do anything to facilitate this, other than making sure your CAO number is correct and included in your ACER account.

Due to privacy requirements ACER will not provide results over the telephone, by fax or by email. This is to protect test taker confidentiality.

## How are HPAT-Ireland scores calculated, and what does it all mean?

The process of scoring HPAT-Ireland is complex. Neither the raw or final score is produced by any automated process. But rather, calculated in accordance with psychometric principles. Any 'raw score' or 'systems value" automatically produced by ACER's software online delivery assessment and reporting system is not used in scoring HPAT results.

The maximum score a test taker can achieve is 300.

Each of the three HPAT-Ireland scores is expressed on a scale of 0 to 100. These are **not** percentage marks.

You will receive a score for each of the three sections, together with an Overall Score and an overall percentile ranking to give you an indication of how well you performed against other HPAT-Ireland test takers sitting in the same year as you. The overall score is a weighted aggregate of the three section scores.

The overall HPAT-Ireland score is calculated using the following formula:

Overall Score = [(2 × Section 1 + 2 × Section 2 + 1 × Section 3) ÷ 5] × 3

Please Note: The Overall Score is calculated to several decimal places and then rounded. The Overall Score is calculated before the rounding of section scores. Which means it is not possible for test takers to replicate this process.

UL applicants will also receive an additional score for the Written English component. The Written English Score is a separate score and is not used in the calculation of the Overall Score.

## What is a scaled score?

For HPAT-Ireland, rigorous, best-practice psychometric techniques are used to transform test raw scores (the number of questions a test taker has answered correctly) and place them on a measurement scale. The transformed scores are called scaled scores. Compared to using raw scores, this approach has a number of benefits. In particular, it is a vital equity measure that allows fair comparison of test takers who take different versions of a test.

Multiple test forms are used for HPAT-Ireland. Although test developers follow defined parameters so that test versions are broadly comparable in difficulty, some differences are unavoidable. Thus, raw scores may reflect test difficulty as well as test taker ability. For example, suppose test takers A and B took different versions of the same test. If B has a higher raw score, is B the stronger test taker, or was A's test harder? Which test taker has the better performance if they both scored the same?

The analysis of HPAT-Ireland results allows answers to such questions by accounting for differences in test difficulty and placing all test versions on a single scale. This ensures that all scores are directly comparable: the higher the score, the better the performance, regardless of which test version was taken.

Scaling also supports development of more precise measures of test takers' performance, which leads to greater certainty of test taker ranking. Carefully considered test design can ensure that performance is measured most precisely at the levels of greatest interest. For example, scaled scores around any selection threshold should be as precise as possible to ensure fairness of selection decisions.

Finally, a problem with raw scores is that they are not interval measures: the change in test taker ability for any given score change is variable. For example, typically it is 'more difficult' (i.e. requires a greater increase in ability) to move from a score of 80 to 85, than from a score of 50 to 55. In contrast, a HPAT-Ireland score difference of 5 marks, anywhere on the scale, always represent the same change in ability. This property of measurement scales is essential when seeking to understand the relative difference in ability of test takers with different scores.

## What is considered a good HPAT-Ireland score?

This can change marginally year to year depending on the group of students undertaking the HPAT-Ireland test with you. You should be looking to achieve 160 + out of a maximum score of 300.

Remember that it is not just your HPAT score that is important: the universities will be taking both your HPAT-Ireland score and (moderated) Leaving Certificate (or equivalent exam) into consideration. You are required to achieve 480 CAO points or higher for entry to medicine.

As a guide, in 2023 those students that received an offer achieved LCE points ranging from 542–625 and HPAT-Ireland scores ranging from 164–235.

You should contact the universities or the CAO for more information on your individual situation.

## Currency of results

HPAT-Ireland scores can be used for admission to a course ONLY in the same year in which the course is due to commence. For example, results from HPAT-Ireland 2024 can be used for courses beginning in 2024 but not 2025.

Do not register for HPAT-Ireland 2024 unless you are planning to apply for a course commencing in 2024 and that you meet the eligibility criteria outlined earlier in this Information Booklet.

## How does ACER ensure equity and fairness?

HPAT-Ireland is developed to rigorous professional and technical standards. Test questions are designed and developed by a team of ACER writers, expert in their fields. All test questions must pass detailed panelling, trial testing, analysis and final review. The content, style, duration and sequencing of the tests are determined to ensure that the testing programme is relevant, fair, valid and reliable.

HPAT-Ireland test data are subjected to statistical analysis to check that each question has performed as required. Test questions in development are carefully scrutinised in an ongoing attempt to minimise gender, ethnic or religious bias, and to ensure that the test is culturally fair.

The test may contain a small number of trial questions which may not contribute to test taker scores but allow us to ensure that new test questions are working to the expected standard.

# 8. Appeals and Complaints

If you have a serious complaint or wish to make an appeal in relation to your test sitting or results, please read the ACER complaint and appeals policy.

Any complaints relating to test sittings should be reported immediately to your proctor at the time of your test session, and in writing to the HPAT‑Ireland Office **immediately** after your test session so that the issues can be resolved within the testing window.

> Please note: It is not possible to schedule tests outside of the allocated test window. All technical and or delivery issues arising during remote testing must be addressed immediately and resolved during the allocated test window of **Friday 16 February– Sunday 25 February 2024**

Test takers are advised that HPAT‑Ireland results are released only after careful calculation and extensive checking. For this reason remarks for any component of the test including Written English are not offered.

# 9. Test Security and Misconduct

The HPAT‑Ireland test is a high stakes test. Therefore ACER, in conjunction with the Irish medical schools, has established security procedures which will be strictly enforced at all times. It is important that you understand the ramifications for breaches of test security or misconduct.

## Misconduct

ACER and the HPAT‑Ireland user universities expect test takers to adhere to an acceptable level of behaviour during all interactions in relation to the HPAT‑Ireland test. They view any misconduct in respect to the HPAT‑Ireland test seriously.

## What is considered misconduct?

Misconduct (whether occurring prior to, during or after the HPAT–Ireland test session) means any unacceptable conduct or any conduct that might result in unfairness or inaccurate results. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- sitting the HPAT –Ireland test if you have an affiliation with a preparation business, for example as a tutor, item developer or hold financial interests in a HPAT‑Ireland preparation business;
- breach of any of the security arrangements for the HPAT‑Ireland test;
- impersonation;
- reproducing, copying, plagiarising responses to HPAT‑Ireland from another person's work;
- using, accessing, or employing any form of Artificial Intelligence during the HPAT‑Ireland. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI-powered devices, software applications, or any other tools that may assist in answering questions, solving problems, or providing information related to HPAT-IRELAND content;
- copying or recording questions or answers from the test via screen sharing, or any other means;
- failure to follow a supervisor/proctor's instructions;
- giving or receiving assistance during the test;
- using prohibited aids (e.g. notes, calculator, mobile phone, audio/screen recording device including opening a web browser etc.);
- creating a disturbance;
- giving or receiving assistance with regards to test content from other individuals before, during or after the test;
- giving of false or misleading information at any stage;
- using the test questions, their content or information about them for purposes other than your sitting of the HPAT‑Ireland test. This includes: publishing the HPAT‑Ireland questions or any of their content or information about them on the Internet, in chat rooms or any digital format or otherwise; and/or passing the HPAT‑Ireland questions, any of their content or information about them to third parties;
- inappropriate, abusive or aggressive communication in any form with proctors, or the HPAT‑Ireland office prior to, during, or after the test.

## What happens if I am found to have unacceptable conduct, or breached security?

ACER will fully investigate any suspected misconduct, this includes speaking with supervisors/proctors, reviewing footage of your session, or having a ProctorU investigator provide a detailed report.

ACER will notify any affected test takers in writing of the outcome of an investigation, including the possible consequences to be applied. Test takers will be provided with a 14 days in which to respond, this will then be considered by ACER and a final judgment will be provided in writing to the test taker.

Consequences of misconduct may have significant personal consequences for the individual involved, including the cancelling of your registration to sit the HPAT‑Ireland test without any refund, withholding of your HPAT‑Ireland test results or disqualification from sitting any HPAT‑Ireland test (whether it is the current test or future tests).

Additionally, when considering acts of misconduct ACER may seek the input of any of the user universities in respect to any matters and any consequence to be applied. It is also possible and you consent to the misconduct being referred to any educational institution (not limited to the HPAT‑Ireland user universities) or a professional body or other third party to whom such misconduct might be of interest.

You should also be aware that your misconduct might also give rise to liability on your part to third parties, including but not limited to HPAT‑Ireland user universities.

ACER and the HPAT‑Ireland user universities reserve the right to take legal action and claim any remedies available to them at law in respect of any incident of misconduct or where your conduct (whether or not it constitutes "misconduct") infringes any of their rights.

# 10. HPAT‑Ireland Declaration

IMPORTANT: Please read the **LEGAL NOTICE** at the end of HPAT‑IRELAND Information Booklet 2024 ("**the Booklet**").

By registering to sit the HPAT‑Ireland you are entering a binding legal agreement between You and The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145) ("**ACER**") in relation to your registration for the HPAT‑Ireland, and all associated administrative and other consequent activities regarding the HPAT‑Ireland provided digitally in a HPAT‑Ireland testing centre or from another location by remote proctoring in 2024, consists of:

1. The Booklet, including its Legal Notice;
2. any ACER instructions issued from time to time regulating test takers' sitting of the HPAT‑Ireland;
3. ACER may wish to define 'Test Day Instructions' please see comment below; and
4. this declaration. ("**the Legal Agreement**")

Ensure you understand fully and are familiar with the contents of the Legal Agreement before you complete your registration for the HPAT‑Ireland as it details important conditions in respect of your participation in the HPAT‑Ireland.

NOTE: the terms of the Legal Agreement may vary from sitting to siting of HPAT‑Ireland and, therefore, you should re-familiarise with each part of the Legal Agreement detailed above before each sitting of HPAT- IRELAND. You should not assume that the terms and conditions applicable to a previous sitting are the same in every respect as those which are set out in the Legal Agreement.

The declarations below signify You AGREE:

1. To the Legal Agreement which will apply to your registration for and participation in HPAT‑Ireland in 2024 and all matters consequent thereon;
2. In the event of a HPAT‑Ireland sitting in 2024 being compromised or having to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond ACER's reasonable control it may be necessary for you to, and at ACER's sole discretion:
   a. re-sit HPAT‑Ireland:
      ii. on a date;
      iii. at a testing venue; and
      iv. with a remote proctoring service;
   b. other than that originally specified by ACER; and undertake further action in finalisation of those alternative arrangements;
3. For logistical reasons and in ACER's sole discretion, if required you may be allocated a date, time and testing venue or remote proctored session when available in respect of your undertaking of the HPAT‑Ireland i.e. you may not have a choice of date, time and/or venue;

4. To comply with any direction, guideline or policy issued by ACER concerning compliance with public health orders or regulations applicable to your undertaking of the HPAT‑Ireland;
5. That to sit HPAT‑Ireland in 2024 you are a bona fide prospective applicant to a course for which HPAT‑Ireland is a pre-requisite;
6. You meet the requirements for eligibility set out in the HPAT‑Ireland Information Booklet 2024;
7. Not to use or divulge to any third party, information concerning the test questions in HPAT‑Ireland for Your own or any third party's personal or commercial gain;
8. Not to post or publish any specific part or aspect of the content of HPAT‑Ireland. This includes publication on the internet, in any digital format or other format;
9. the information you give in your application for registration for the HPAT‑Ireland in 2024 is true and correct. The giving of false or misleading information constitutes misconduct, may result in permanent disqualification from undertaking HPAT‑Ireland in the future, and may jeopardise Your chances of being admitted into any course for which HPAT‑Ireland is a pre-requisite;
10. you are the person whose name and address appears on this registration and.
11. to ACER submitting Your written English responses to a plagiarism reviewer, currently Turnitin, for plagiarism including use of Artificial Intelligence checking.

☐ **I CONFIRM that I have read the:**
   · **HPAT‑Ireland Information Booklet 2024 including its Legal Notice;**
   · **Test Day Instructions; and**
   · **Privacy Statement for HPAT‑Ireland;**

☐ **I AGREE to the Legal Agreement governing my participation in the HPAT‑Ireland and GIVE THE CONSENTS specified in the ACER Privacy Statements (should you not wish to give the consents specified by ACER or have any queries please notify ACER by using the contact details contained in its Privacy Statement).**

# 11. HPAT – Legal Notice

1. By completing and submitting the registration form for the HPAT‑Ireland 2024 test located at https://HPAT‑Ireland.acer.org You are offering to enter into a legal agreement with The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145) ("**ACER**"). That legal agreement is concluded when ACER accepts your registration.

2. That legal agreement will consist of:
   a. the entire contents of this Test taker Information Booklet, including its Legal Notice ("**the Booklet**");
   b. any instructions issued by ACER from time to time regulating Test takers' sitting of the HPAT‑Ireland 2024;
   c. the Test Day Instructions; and
   d. the online legal declaration you complete ("**the Legal Agreement**").

   The Legal Agreement:
   - covers, amongst other things, Your sitting the HPAT‑Ireland 2024, payment of the registration fee, refunds of fees, access to HPAT‑Ireland preparation materials and release of the HPAT‑Ireland 2024 results; and
   - may vary from sitting to sitting of HPAT‑Ireland 2024 and, therefore, you should re‑ familiarise with each part of the Legal Agreement detailed above before each sitting of HPAT‑Ireland.

3. Before lodging Your Registration, You should make sure You understand fully and are familiar with the contents of the Legal Agreement and the online declaration. Without limiting the foregoing, you acknowledge that misconduct, as defined in this Legal Agreement, has serious consequences including disqualification from undertaking HPAT in the future. "Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, the use of information relating to the test questions for purposes other than Your sitting of the HPAT; giving false or misleading information at any stage regarding your participation in HPAT; and infringing "ACER" or "HPAT" trademarks, copyright or other intellectual property rights

4. Misconduct also includes:
   a. infringement of the "ACER" or "HPAT‑Ireland" trademarks. Trademark infringement includes performing any act which only a trademark owner or a person authorised by the trademark owner may do infringement of copyright.``
   b. copyright infringement including performing those rights or authorising the performance of those rights which are granted at law exclusively to the copyright owner. These rights include the exclusive right to reproduce the copyright work in a material form and to communicate that work to the public;
   c. in any way breaching (as determined by ACER in its absolute discretion) any of the terms and conditions of
      i. your registration to participate in the HPAT‑Ireland test; or
      ii. your purchase of any HPAT‑Ireland preparation materials
   d. infringement of any rights (including but not limited to intellectual property rights) whatsoever relating to or subsisting in the HPAT‑ Ireland test or any part or element of it, including but not limited to the concept, structure, administration or conduct of the HPAT‑Ireland test, the HPAT‑Ireland trademark and any HPAT‑Ireland preparation materials prepared or published by or on behalf of ACER or the user universities;
   e. plagiarism referring to the act of presenting someone else's work, ideas, thoughts, expressions, or creations as one's own and involves copying, reproducing, paraphrasing, or closely imitating another person's work, whether in whole or in part, and submitting it as original work for assessment, evaluation, or any other purpose. In the context of examinations, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to verbatim copying: directly reproducing words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or any other textual content from a source without using quotation marks or appropriate citation;
   f. using, accessing, or employing any form of Artificial Intelligence during the HPAT‑Ireland. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI‑powered devices, software applications, or any other tools that may assist in answering questions, solving problems, or providing information related to HPAT‑Ireland content. You are required to personally engage with the HPAT‑Ireland content and respond to questions without the assistance of AI technology. Any attempt to use AI for answering, analysing, or generating responses is a breach of the Legal Agreement. For the purposes of the Legal Agreement, "Artificial Intelligence" or "AI" refers to any technology, software, algorithm, or system that simulates human-like cognitive processes, including but not limited to machine learning algorithms, neural networks, and automated decision-making systems; and

g. any act or omission by you which ACER, in its absolute discretion, renders you to be unfit to participate in any HPAT-Ireland test, whether or not you are registered to participate at the time of ACER's determination inappropriate, abusive or aggressive behaviour or communication in any form with the HPAT-Ireland office, proctors/supervisors or university representatives.

h. If you are found to have engaged in misconduct (including that specified above) concerning any aspect of your engagement with ACER connected with your participation in the test, you will be subject to a sanction. If a sanction is applied:
– the imposition of the sanction may be reported to any relevant educational institution;
– it will be applied after the time ACER became aware of the misconduct and will not be backdated;
– the misconduct specified above may constitute criminal offences under the Commonwealth, Victoria or your local law, for example, Section 83A of the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic), Section 144.1 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth). In which case the relevant misconduct may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for prosecution;
– if ACER has suffered any loss, damage or expense as a result of the misconduct it may proceed for recovery under civil law; and ACER does not provide any appeal process in respect of the imposition of a sanction and will not engage with any request concerning such.

5. You are advised that except as expressly provided at law, there is no right to challenge, appeal or seek review of any determination by ACER that misconduct has occurred or in relation to any consequences imposed by ACER for any misconduct.

6. Withholding of results - you will only receive your HPAT-Ireland test scores if you have complied with the HPAT-Ireland test policies and procedures and the Legal Agreement governing Your participation. Your scores may be withheld or cancelled if ACER learns, either on or after the test day, that you have violated the HPAT-Ireland test policies and procedures or any other aspect of the Legal Agreement. Even if ACER cannot confirm your direct involvement in the breach of policies and procedures your HPAT-Ireland test scores may be withheld or cancelled if ACER has reason to question the validity of your scores or if ACER has reasonable basis for believing you may have been involved in a breach of the Legal Agreement.

7. Examples of when the validity of HPAT-Ireland test scores may be challenged are:
a. intended or unintended exposure to HPAT-Ireland test content*

b. contradictory performance on different parts of the HPAT-Ireland test

c. abnormal answer patterns in the HPAT-Ireland test

d. atypical performance over different HPAT-Ireland test sittings.

*If you attend a coaching course where you are exposed to questions that appear in the HPAT-Ireland test, you risk having your HPAT-Ireland test scores withheld.*

8. Whilst ACER will make every effort to ensure the HPAT-Ireland Online test will run as scheduled, we make no guarantees, given any event outside of ACER's control such as a pandemic or epidemic. If for any reason the test is cancelled ACER will notify test takers via email. Any such cancellations will be at the discretion of ACER and the HPAT-Ireland user universities.

9. You may have legal rights and guarantees under certain laws including the Australian Consumer Law (being Schedule 2 to the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth), as amended from time to time). If the publication of this Booklet or Your registration for or participation in the HPAT-Ireland 2024 test involves a supply of goods or services to a consumer within the meaning given in those laws, nothing contained in this Booklet excludes, restricts or modifies the application of any consumer guarantee provided in those laws, the exercise of any right or remedy in respect of, or the imposition of any liability for the failure to comply with any relevant guarantee.

10. Subject to point 9:
a. The HPAT-Ireland test is a selection tool used by certain educational institutions and your results in respect of HPAT-Ireland may not be used or relied on for any other purpose;

b. To the maximum extent permissible by law (and for the avoidance of doubt, subject to any guarantees, rights, remedies or obligations which cannot be excluded, restricted or modified under certain laws including the Australian Consumer Law), ACER expressly, irrevocably and totally disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage whatsoever and howsoever arising in connection with or resulting from: Your participation (actual, potential, contemplated or cancelled for any reason whatsoever) in HPAT-Ireland; and Your test results, including, but not limited to, any representations made by ACER or its personnel (including agents, subcontractors and consultants) in respect of HPAT-Ireland and the accuracy of any information contained in this Booklet;

c. To the fullest extent permitted at law, You acknowledge and accept that the entire risk of Your participation in HPAT-Ireland is assumed

by You and that ACER will have no liability whatsoever to You for any loss, harm, damage, cost or expense (including legal fees) or any direct, special, indirect, incidental, punitive or consequential loss or damage (including, without limitation, economic loss, loss of contract, profit, revenue, income, opportunity, goodwill, information, anticipated savings, business relationships, production or data) whatsoever and howsoever arising;

d. You acknowledge and accept that, to the fullest extent permitted at law, ACER gives NO WARRANTY or guarantee and makes no representation whatsoever that: registering for or sitting the HPAT-Ireland test will guarantee You or secure for You a placement with an educational institution; or that You will be provided with Your HPAT-Ireland results (other than in strict accord with this Agreement).

11. Subject to *Australian Consumer Law* and, otherwise to the fullest extent permitted at law, You release and fully indemnify ACER, its officers, employees and agents from and against all claims, liabilities, costs, demands and expenses whatsoever caused by you and howsoever arising from or in connection with:

a. Your registration for or participation (actual, potential, contemplated or cancelled) in the HPAT-Ireland test; or

b. Any breach by You of the Legal Agreement governing Your participation (actual, potential, contemplated or cancelled) in the HPAT-Ireland test.

c. Any misconduct by you in relation to the HPAT-Ireland and any sanction imposed by ACER as a consequence of Your misconduct. These releases and indemnities survive Your participation (actual, contemplated, potential or cancelled) in the HPAT-Ireland test and whether or not You are offered or accept a placement with any educational institution for any course whatsoever.

12. In the event that any law implies terms or guarantees into the offering or conduct of the HPAT-Ireland test which cannot be lawfully excluded, restricted or modified, such terms or guarantees will apply, save that the liability of ACER for breach of any such term or guarantee will, to the extent legally permitted, be limited to the refund of the price paid for any relevant goods or services.

13. ACER has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this Booklet. However, from time to time, due to changed circumstances ACER may need to change the arrangements concerning the administration of the HPAT-Ireland test and ACER (without amending your legal obligations or remedies) reserves the right to alter or amend any detail contained in the Booklet in its absolute and unqualified discretion. Any alteration or amendment will take effect immediately upon publication of the alteration or amendment on https://HPAT-Ireland.acer.org/.

14. By completing and submitting the HPAT-Ireland registration form you:

a. confirm that You have read in its entirety and accept the contents of this Booklet, including the Legal Notice and the online declaration;

b. confirm Your agreement with the Legal Agreement governing Your participation in HPAT-Ireland;

c. acknowledge that You have been entitled to obtain legal advice concerning any matter covered in this Booklet, whether or not You have in fact sought any legal advice;

d. acknowledge and accept that the Legal Agreement and online declaration contains the entire agreement between You and ACER concerning Your participation in the HPAT-Ireland test in 2024 and that no matter;

e. information or representation not expressly contained in the Legal Agreement has induced You or had any bearing on You to seek registration for the HPAT-Ireland test in 2024;

f. accept and unconditionally undertake to strictly comply with the Legal Agreement governing Your participation;

g. acknowledge and accept that the Legal Agreement with ACER will be governed as follows:

i. where your registration fee is paid in pounds Sterling (£/GBP), the laws of England & Wales;

ii. where your registration fee is paid in Euros (€/EUR), the laws of the Republic of Ireland; or

iii. in any other case or where your registration fee is paid in Australian dollars ($/AUD), the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia.

h. agree that to determine any dispute (whether as to the interpretation of the Legal Agreement with ACER, or any matter concerning performance or compliance of the Legal Agreement or otherwise) or to determine any claims brought or made against You by ACER or its authorised nominee, you submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts and any of the Courts of Appeal therefrom as follows:

i. where your registration fee is paid in pounds Sterling (£/GBP), the courts of England & Wales;

ii. where your registration fee is paid in Euros (€/EUR), the courts of the Republic of Ireland; or

iii. in any other case or where your registration fee is paid in Australian dollars ($/AUD), the courts of the State of Victoria, Australia.