



# HPAT — IRELAND

Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland

## Information booklet 2021

Registration Deadline – Monday 20 January 2021 5.15pm GMT

Test date – Saturday, 20 & Sunday, 21 February 2021

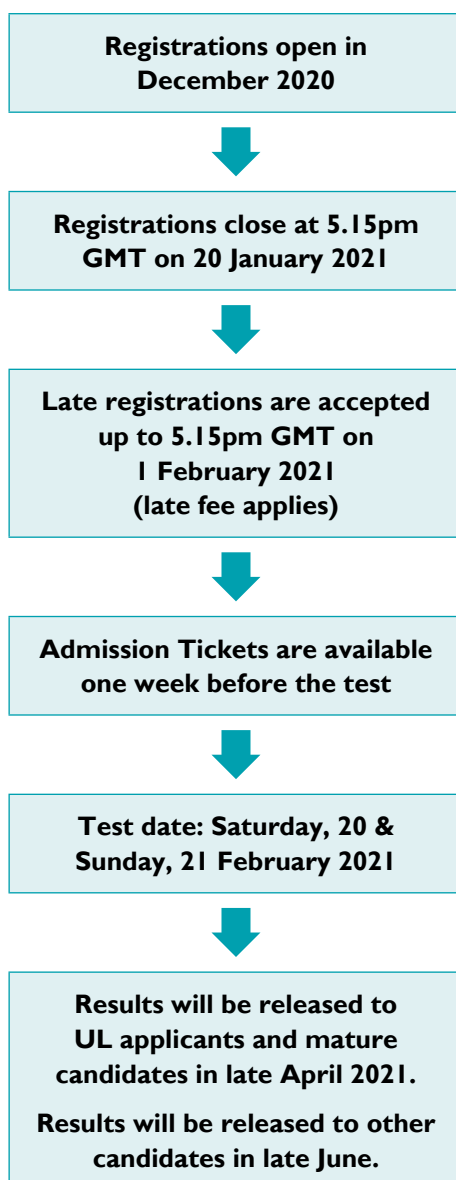
**<http://hpat-ireland.acer.org>**

**IMPORTANT:** Please read the **LEGAL NOTICE** at the end of this Booklet.

This Booklet, including the Legal Notice will form part of the binding agreement between you and the Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145) ("**ACER**") if you register to take the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test.

You should make sure that you understand fully and are familiar with the contents of this Booklet (including the Legal Notice) before you register for the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test.

### HPAT – Ireland 2021 Timeline



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>CONTACT US</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>ABOUT HPAT – Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>
	The Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland (HPAT – Ireland)	2
	Participating universities	2
	Structure and content	2
	Equity and fairness	3
<b>3</b>	<b>BEFORE THE TEST</b>	<b>4</b>
	Eligibility for HPAT – Ireland	4
	CAO application and CAO number	4
	Creating an online account	4
	Registering for HPAT – Ireland	4
	Registration date	4
	Late registration date	4
	Payment	5
	Test Delivery	5
	Technical specifications	5
	Downloading the ACER online test application	6
	Applying for reasonable adjustments	6
	Refund terms	7
	Admission Ticket	7
	Preparing for HPAT – Ireland	7
	HPAT – Ireland preparation materials	7
	Automatic scoring for Written English (UL applicants only)	8
	Purchasing preparation materials	8
	Test-taking strategy	9
	Written English (UL applicants)	9
<b>4</b>	<b>ON TEST DAY</b>	<b>10</b>
	Test date	10
	Test Session	10
	Timing and order of the test	10
	Identification on test day	10
	Items needed for your test session	10
	Answer sheets	11
	Test day issues	11
	Security	11
	Misconduct	11
<b>5</b>	<b>AFTER THE TEST</b>	<b>13</b>
	HPAT – Ireland results	13
	The HPAT – Ireland scores	13
	Withholding of results	13
	Currency of results	13
	Appeals and re-checks	14
<b>6</b>	<b>HPAT – Ireland DECLARATION</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Legal Notice</b>	<b>17</b>

# I 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 and on the HPAT – Ireland website (<https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>). Due to the high volume of enquiries, the HPAT – Ireland Office will not answer emails if the information requested is already available on the HPAT – Ireland website or in this Information Booklet. For all other enquiries, please contact the HPAT – Ireland Office at ACER. Please always include your full name and HPAT – Ireland ID number.

Email is the preferred means of communication on matters concerning HPAT – Ireland and all communications from the HPAT – Ireland Office will be via email, unless otherwise agreed by ACER.

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](mailto:hpat-ireland@acer.org)) to your list of safe senders.

The HPAT – Ireland Office will not answer queries relating to the content of the test. Please note personal responses to enquiries are not provided at ACER offices.

## HPAT – IRELAND OFFICE

**Email:** [hpat-ireland@acer.org](mailto: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:** Candidates can also contact the HPAT-Ireland office through the HPAT-Ireland registration account messaging system. Please use this method of correspondence if your query includes personal data.

**Fax:** +61 (0)3 9277 5757  
Please address your fax to the HPAT – Ireland Office.

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

Please note the HPAT – Ireland Office will not be held responsible for postal losses or delays.



## The Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland (HPAT – Ireland)

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 is 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.

HPAT – Ireland is offered once a year only.

## Participating universities

You will need an 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. Links are provided on the HPAT – Ireland website at <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>.

Please note that international / non-EU students may be exempt from taking HPAT – Ireland. For further details contact the universities to which you intend to apply or refer to their websites. If you intend to apply to The University of Ulster, you should sit HPAT – Ulster. For more information please visit the HPAT – Ulster website at <https://hpat-ulster.acer.org/>.

## Structure and content

The HPAT – Ireland test 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.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In addition to completing HPAT – Ireland, candidates 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.

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

- 1 Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving
- 2 Interpersonal Understanding
- 3 Non-Verbal Reasoning
- 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	44	65
Section 2	36	45
Section 3	30	40
Written English (UL applicants only)	2	60

### Section 1: Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving

Materials in this section are drawn from a wide variety of general sources and are based on a brief text and/or piece of information presented graphically. Questions assess your ability to comprehend, draw logical conclusions, reach solutions by identifying relevant facts, evaluate information, pinpoint additional or missing information, and generate and test plausible hypotheses.

### Section 2: Interpersonal Understanding

Section 2 assesses the ability to understand and think about people. Questions are based on a scenario, dialogue or other text representing specific interpersonal situations. Most passages will have several questions. The questions assess your ability to identify, understand, and, where necessary, infer the thoughts, feelings, behaviour and/or intentions of the people represented in the situations.

### Section 3: Non-Verbal Reasoning

Questions in this section may be of several kinds. All are based on patterns or sequences of shapes and are designed to assess your ability to reason in the abstract and solve problems in non-verbal contexts.

### Written English

The 2 essay tasks assess your ability to communicate effectively in writing. The first writing task deals with a more formal public affairs issue that invites argument and the second task is a less formal topic that invites more personal reflection. Each task is assessed by two independent markers on three criteria:

- Thought and content - The quality of what is said
- Structure and organisation - The quality of the structure and organisation developed to say something
- Expression, style and mechanics - The quality of the language used to organise and present what is said

Please note that Written English responses will undergo an on-line plagiarism investigation. ACER does not condone plagiarism and it is listed as one of our unacceptable acts of misconduct on page 12.

### 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 candidate scores.

### Eligibility for HPAT – Ireland

HPAT – Ireland is available to any candidate who is applying to study a course for which HPAT – Ireland is a prerequisite, and who is capable of meeting the academic entry requirements set by the universities. Applicants must either be in their final year of school or have completed their Leaving Certificate prior to 2021. Please note that international / non-EU students may be exempt from taking HPAT – Ireland. For further details contact the universities to which you intend to apply or refer to their websites.

### CAO application and CAO number

Before registering for HPAT – Ireland, all **MEDICINE** applicants must first get their CAO number. This number is required to complete your HPAT – Ireland registration successfully. To get a CAO number you need to apply online at [www.cao.ie](http://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.

### Creating an online account

You must create an online account before you can register for HPAT – Ireland or purchase any preparation materials. To create an account you should follow the link on the HPAT – Ireland website and enter your details. When entering your account details you should ensure that your name and date of birth match **EXACTLY** the identification document that you will present on the test day. These details will also be printed on your Admission Ticket and Statement of Results. To change the name, date of birth or gender in your account, you need to email the HPAT – Ireland Office. To create your online account you must provide a valid email address which will be maintained during the registration, test and reporting cycle. Once an account has been activated it can be used for any future registrations.

### Registering for HPAT – Ireland

The only way to register for HPAT – Ireland is online via the website <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>.

To register you need an online account with a valid email address and a credit card. This email address will be used for all communication from the HPAT – Ireland Office, including information on how to access your Admission

Ticket and HPAT – Ireland results. 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 2021 Information Booklet and specifically the Legal Notice, and that you agree and accept the terms and conditions of participation in the HPAT – Ireland test and specifically the Legal Notice. A copy of the information contained in this declaration can be found on page 15.

**Upon successful completion of the registration, a registration confirmation and payment receipt will be sent to your registered email address.**

Please ensure that the spelling of your name listed in your confirmation email matches the identification document that you will present on the test day.

**The status of your registration can always be checked through your online account.**

For security reasons your Admission Ticket with the login details of your on-line test session will be available one week before the test window opens. You will be notified by email when your Admission Ticket is available for download from your ACER online account.

### Registration date

Registrations for the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test open in December 2020. Your online registration and payment must be completed by:

**5:15pm GMT 20 January 2021**

ACER reserves the right in its absolute discretion to refuse or cancel a registration in any circumstances where ACER considers the application for registration or the registration once completed is not bona fide, or the registration fee as applicable is not received in full and as cleared funds by the payment date above or the late registration date given below.

### Late registration date

Late registrations will be accepted up to 5.15pm GMT 1 February 2021, upon payment of the late fee in addition to the registration fee. An exceptional late

registration is available until 5.15pm GMT on 3 February 2021. The exceptional late registration is available only to candidates who have submitted their application to CAO by 5.00pm GMT on 1 February 2021.

**No applications for registration will be accepted after 5.15pm GMT on 3 February 2021 under any circumstances.**

### Payment

The fee to sit HPAT – Ireland 2021 is €152.80. An additional fee of €6 applies for all UL applicants who are also required to complete the Written English component. A €70 late fee applies for registrations completed after 5.15pm GMT 20 January 2021 and before 5.15pm GMT 1 February 2021. An exceptional late fee of €105 in addition to the registration fee applies to registrations submitted after 5.15pm GMT 1 February 2021 until 5.15 GMT 3 February 2021.

Your registration fee includes a copy of the online *Practice Test* e-book. Payment must be submitted online by credit card (Mastercard, Visa Credit and Visa Debit).

**You will receive a payment confirmation/tax invoice by email once the payment transaction is complete.** The online payment option operates through ACER's e-commerce facility via the ACER website. Credit card details are not recorded or stored by ACER but are encrypted at point of capture and transmitted directly to the bank, without entering ACER information systems.

Please note that your credit card statement may list ACER as the recipient, and a specific reference to HPAT – Ireland may not be mentioned. If you (as the person registered to sit the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test) or any other person wrongfully dispute the amount charged to the credit card provided to complete the registration, your registration may be cancelled, your results may be withheld or you may be blocked from taking further ACER administered tests.

### Test delivery

In 2021 the HPAT–Ireland test will be delivered by online proctoring.

#### What is online proctoring?

Online proctoring involves sitting the test under live supervision using your own computer in a suitable location i.e. at home with internet connectivity.

#### How to book your test session?

ACER will provide all registered candidates comprehensive instructions and further information as soon as is practicable. This information will include:

- How to book your HPAT - Ireland test session?
- What to expect?
- How to complete technical checks prior to your test?

### Technical specifications

To sit the HPAT-Ireland in 2021 via online proctoring, you will need to use a desktop computer or laptop. iPads, tablets or mobile phones are not suitable. All candidates are required to have a camera connected to their computer.

#### Computer Requirements:

- macOS X 10.5 or higher, Windows Vista or higher. Linux or Chrome OS can be difficult to support so should be avoided.
- Desktop computer or laptop (tablets, Chromebook and cell phones do not meet the technical requirements)
- A working built-in or external webcam and microphone
- Internet speed must be at least 2 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload. Hot spots are not recommended
- Browser with pop-up blocker disabled

Dual screens or monitors are not permitted when sitting the HPAT-Ireland online test. When completing the pre-test checks the Proctor will make sure you only have a single screen operating. Which means that if you are using a laptop then it is the laptop screen only that you are permitted to use. If you are using a laptop or desktop computer with more than one screen connected, you should remove the second screen in advance of your test session booking. It is recommended that candidates using a laptop utilise the keyboard on their laptop or a wired keyboard and a wired mouse. For desktop systems it is recommended that a wired keyboard and mouse be used to complete the HPAT-Ireland online test. Candidates will be required to show the Proctor their computer set up prior to beginning their online test.

Whilst it is not explicitly forbidden to use a wireless keyboard or mouse, candidates that choose to do so should understand that ACER is aware that these



technologies can be manipulated to facilitate cheating in online exams. It is for this reason those people utilising this technology will undergo additional scrutiny post-test session – and risk the cancellation of test results if suspicious behaviour is observed.

There will be a limit to the technical support that can be provided during the test. Issues with your internet connection will likely be out of the scope of support that can be provided by ACER. All candidates must make a decision for themselves as to whether they have the technical set up to be able to complete the test. ACER will endeavor to provide an opportunity for candidates to re-sit if they have technical difficulties, however this will be limited time-wise by the sitting window.

If you feel that you cannot be confident in your technical set up, then we would advise you to contact the HPAT-Ireland office. Please provide a detailed outline of your concerns in order for a suitable solution to be considered.

### Downloading the ACER online test application

To sit the HPAT-Ireland test by online proctoring, you are required to download and install the ACER online test application. Instructions will be provided to all candidates prior to the test days.

You must 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).

### Applying for reasonable adjustments

If you have a disability or other health-related needs which might interfere with your ability to sit the test in the standard manner, you should apply for reasonable adjustments as soon as possible after registration. Please note if you require access to food, medication, medical equipment or other devices during testing time, due to a medical condition, you must submit a reasonable adjustments application. All requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis and all reasonable

efforts will be made to provide appropriate testing conditions for your needs. **All requests must be submitted no later than 5.15pm GMT 3 February 2021. If you require reasonable adjustments due to a condition that occurred after the application deadline, please contact the HPAT – Ireland Office for advice.**

To apply complete the following steps:

1. Create an online account and register for HPAT – Ireland (see page 4).
2. Once your registration is complete you can apply for reasonable adjustments through your online account. Please fill in the online form and give details about your condition and reasonable adjustments.
3. Attach the supporting documentation for your request for review. The supporting documentation provided must be from a registered health practitioner. The documentation must be no more than one year old for health-related needs or disabilities other than learning disabilities, and no more than three years old for learning disabilities. Applicants with learning disabilities should submit a copy of an appropriate educational psychologist's report for consideration. If your report is more than three years old, it will still be accepted, as long as it is accompanied by a recent letter from a psychologist stating that the information in the report is still applicable to you as you are today.  
  
The supporting documentation from your health practitioner must give a clear diagnosis and information on your condition, indicate the impact of your disability in testing settings and include a statement as to what adjustments your health practitioner feels are appropriate for you in testing settings. All supporting documentation must be typed on the medical practitioner's official letterhead and include the date and title, name, registration number, contact details, and signature of the medical practitioner.
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 processed after 3 February 2021 and you will be informed of the outcome shortly after. If approved, you will be able to view

your approved adjustments through your online account and you will be required to bring a printout of this page with you on the test day.

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

**Note: There is no possibility of special consideration being given to test results. In no circumstances will scores be adjusted to account for any perceived disadvantage.**

### Refund terms

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE: Registration fees for the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test will be refunded up to 5.15pm GMT 1 February, with an administration charge of €45, unless a full refund is required by law.** Requests must be submitted online through your account and a confirmation email will be sent to your registered email address if your request has been successfully submitted. Please note that access to any preparation materials included with the HPAT – Ireland 2021 registration will be withdrawn upon completion of the refund. The fee will be refunded to the credit card used for payment.

### Admission Ticket

Admission Tickets will be released approximately one week before the test window. You will need to log into your candidate account to access your ticket once it is released. In order to view the Admission Ticket you are required to complete the identification document details in your registration. If your identification document details have not been entered in the registration form you will NOT be able to access your Admission Ticket.

This ticket is your permission to sit the test by online proctoring. You should check your Admission Ticket carefully and contact the HPAT-Ireland Office immediately if there are any errors. The details on the Admission Ticket must match the details on the

identification document that you will use for your test session. Only your first and last names are required to match and it is not necessary for other names (including middle names) to appear on the Admission Ticket.

You will be required to have a copy of your Admission Ticket on your desktop when sitting HPAT-Ireland online, so that the Proctor can view it and verify your details. If you have issues accessing your Admission Ticket, you should contact the HPAT-Ireland Office prior to the day of your test. Please do not leave this to the last minute.

Remember that you will only be able to download the Admission Ticket once you have entered your identification document details in the registration form.

### Preparing for HPAT – Ireland

The purpose of HPAT – Ireland is to assess your abilities in a range of general skills. HPAT – Ireland measures skills acquired over a period of time, including the 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.

**Please note: Neither the HPAT – Ireland Office nor the universities that require HPAT – Ireland scores recommend or endorse any particular texts or preparation courses. Nor do they support any commercially available preparation courses or have any association with commercial courses. Thus the HPAT – Ireland Office is unable to comment on their relevance or usefulness. It is possible that some commercial preparation courses might provide misleading information or advice to candidates. Neither ACER nor the universities conduct HPAT – Ireland preparation courses.**

### HPAT – Ireland preparation materials

ACER produces the only official HPAT – Ireland preparation materials. There are currently two types of preparation materials available: five publications in the form of e-books and an automatic scoring service for Written English (for UL applicants only).

### E-books

The publications are only available in the form of e-books; hard copies are not available.

The HPAT – Ireland registration fee is inclusive of the *Practice Test* with worked solutions. This practice booklet normally retails at €22.00 but is provided to candidates as part of their registration at a reduced rate.

*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 exam 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 knowledge tested.

The purchase of an e-book (including the *Practice Test* e-book provided as part of your registration) entitles you to:

- Make 2 hard copies of the e-book which will be imprinted with your name and identifying details.
- Unrestricted 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 candidates through their online account, in the lead-up to the test date.

### 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 then automatically scored and a percentile band and a score range are provided **on completion of both tasks**. Please note, detailed feedback and critiquing of your writing is not provided.

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 to the automatic marking system to create a computer model that replicates manual scoring and can ‘mimic’ the way markers assign scores to the tasks.

The purchase of the automatic scoring service for Written English entitles you to:

- Provision of two essay tasks: one Task A and one Task B.
- Provision of 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 completed essay tasks within 12 months from the date of purchase.

### Purchasing preparation materials

In order to purchase any preparation materials you will need to create an account. This is not a registration for the HPAT – Ireland test. Please note that you cannot purchase these materials without an online account and you can purchase any of these materials without being registered for the HPAT – Ireland test. Any preparation materials you purchase will be accessible online as soon as your payment is successfully received.

All HPAT – Ireland preparation materials are copyright works and protected by copyright law both in Australia and outside Australia.

As a condition of purchasing any HPAT – Ireland preparation materials you will be required to complete a declaration expressly confirming your acceptance of the limited licence granted to you to access and use the specific HPAT – Ireland preparation materials.

For any HPAT – Ireland preparation materials purchased, You (being the individual in whose name the online account to purchase the materials has been opened, and no-one else) will be granted a limited licence to access and/or download and print up to 2 copies of the preparation materials in an unaltered form only for your personal non-commercial use. You are not permitted to otherwise copy or reproduce any preparation materials, in whole or in part, by any means whatsoever. Further, under no circumstances whatsoever can you distribute, make available, give or communicate the preparation materials (in whole or in part) to any other person under any arrangement howsoever described, whether or not for monetary consideration, and whether or not any copying or

reproduction of the HPAT – Ireland preparation materials is involved. The limited licence granted runs, in respect of any HPAT – Ireland preparation materials, for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase (as evidenced by ACER's records).

Except as otherwise required by law, or as otherwise provided in this document, no refunds will be given for the purchase of any HPAT – Ireland preparation materials.

Please note that as the materials are accessible as soon as the payment is received, you agree that any cooling off period does not apply for any change of mind.

The limited licence granted to you in respect of any HPAT – Ireland preparation materials is subject only to any non-excludable rights or entitlements granted to you at law, including but not limited to the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) (as amended).

### Test-taking strategy

Questions in the HPAT – Ireland test are in multiple choice format. It is advantageous for you to develop your own strategies for answering this type of question. Each test section is separately timed. You are advised to 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.

#### Please note the following:

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.

### Written English (UL applicants)

Good preparation for the Written English component is to attempt the sample essay prompts provided below. Candidates should try to complete the essays in one hour under '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 before re-reading them to look for ways to make improvements.

Candidates are often concerned about the expected length of the essays. Within reason, the quality of the writing is much more important than the length. Candidates 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 in assessing the writing of candidates:

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

#### Sample essay prompts:

1. Science and Technology have brought many benefits, but they have also brought problems that may eventually negate those benefits.
2. It is better to burn out than to rust out.

# 4 ON TEST DAY

## Test date

The HPAT – Ireland 2021 test is held on **Saturday, 20 & Sunday, 21 February 2021**. This is the only opportunity to sit HPAT – Ireland in 2021.

## Test Session

Your Admission Ticket will be available through your online account approximately one week before the test (see page 7). It will contain the login information required to access the ACER test app.

You must report for your test session at the appointment time you selected with Examity. It is not necessary to arrive more than a couple of minutes beforehand. The test itself will start as soon as all pretesting procedures are completed including technical, ID and admission ticket checks and room scans.

Candidates must follow the proctors instructions at all times and ensure they have prepared a suitable space in which to undertake the test session.

Your space must be private, quiet, with a suitable desk and chair. You must have a clean and clear workspace, that does not have notes or books or any clutter on, or around your work area.

**The HPAT-Ireland Online test will be conducted via online proctoring.**

## Timing and order of the test

The HPAT – Ireland test consists of 2 ½ hours testing time. In addition, pre-testing procedures will take some time to complete. Therefore, **it is not possible to guarantee start and finish times.**

In addition to completing HPAT – Ireland, candidates 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.

HPAT – Ireland is a high stakes test administered under secure test conditions.

**You may use the bathroom during testing time, but this will not be permitted in the last ten minutes of each section.** No additional time will be granted for bathroom breaks.

## Identification on the test day

On the day of the test 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. **No other form of identification will be accepted.**

If you do not possess a current passport, a EU/EEA National Identity Card or driver's licence you must obtain a certified letter of identification from your school or other educational institution. The letter must be on official letterhead and must contain your name; date of birth; a passport photo glued to the letter with institution stamp overlapping; signature and title of the official verifying the identification; and your signature. A sample letter of identification is provided on the HPAT – Ireland website and you are strongly 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 enter the test without an approved form of identification. Some of these identification documents can take approximately a month to obtain.

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

Your date of birth, first and last name in your identification document must match your Admission Ticket details.

**If you do not present one of the above identification documents, together with your Admission Ticket, you will NOT be able to sit the HPAT – Ireland test and your registration fee will be forfeited.**

## Items needed for your test session

For your test session you will need:

- Your Admission Ticket which will need to be open and visible on your desktop for checking by your proctor.



- Acceptable current and photo-bearing identification document
- A clear water bottle (no labels attached)
- Mirror or other reflective device
- Scrap paper and pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser

Candidates are permitted to have two sheets of scratch paper i.e. 2 sheets of blank A4 sized paper. Before your session starts you will be required to show both sides of your paper to the proctor. At the completion of your test session, the online 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. You will be monitored throughout by the online proctor.

As there is a timer built into the test delivery platform there should be no need for additional timers. Mobile phones, digital, analogue and smart watches are prohibited. Candidates are not permitted to wear hats unless it is for religious reasons.

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.

Please note: accessing or using your mobile phone during the test session will be deemed an act of misconduct. You risk the cancellation of your results.

**Note: All other items, including but not limited to calculators, pagers, stopwatches, audio or recording devices of any kind, MP3 players, digital watches, Apple/smart watches, fitbits, dictionaries, pencil cases, highlighters, and rulers are not permitted.**

Access to food (including sweets and nuts), earplugs, medication or other medical equipment (e.g. support cushion) during the test will only be permitted due to a medical condition and can only be allowed if you have been granted reasonable adjustments (see page 6).

It is recommended you eat before your test session if you think you cannot wait to eat until after your test.

To avoid being too cold or too hot, it is recommended you wear layers, which will allow you to adjust your own comfort level.

## Answering the test questions

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

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

## Test session issues

Should you wish to query a particular test question on the day of the test, please alert your proctor of your concern and provide an outline via email to the HPAT-Ireland office. Your query will be reviewed by the HPAT-Ireland Office and you will be notified of the outcome. 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.

If something goes wrong during your exam, test-takers can connect with the online proctor by email, phone or live chat.

## Security

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.

## Misconduct

ACER and the HPAT-Ireland user universities view any misconduct in respect to the HPAT-Ireland test seriously.

Consequences of misconduct may have significant personal consequences for the individual involved.

To be clear: as ACER is a service provider to the user universities in respect of its administration of the HPAT-Ireland test, ACER may seek the input of any of the user universities in respect to any misconduct and any consequence to be applied.

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 such as, without limitation:

- breach of any of the security arrangements for the HPAT-Ireland test
- impersonation

- a candidate reproducing, copying, plagiarising responses to HPAT-Ireland from another person's work
- attempting to copy a test question or any part of the test, via screen sharing, or any other means
- attempting to remove scrap/note paper or part thereof, or any notes, from the testing room
- failure to follow a proctor's instructions at all times
- giving or receiving assistance during the test
- creating a disturbance
- using prohibited aids (e.g. notes, calculator, mobile phone, audio/recording device opening a web browser etc.)
- copying your screen and sharing with others, receiving information about the test from another party
- copying another candidate's work
- using the test questions, their content or information about them for purposes other than your sitting of the HPAT-Ireland test is prohibited. This includes: publishing the HPAT-Ireland questions or any of their content or information about them on the Internet, any digital format or otherwise; and/ or passing the HPAT-Ireland questions, any of their content or information about them to third parties
- the giving of false or misleading information at any stage in connection with your participation in the HPAT-Ireland test
- infringement of the "ACER" or "HPAT-Ireland" trade marks. Trade mark infringement includes performing any act which only a trade mark owner or a person authorised by the trade mark owner may do
- infringement of copyright. Copyright infringement includes: 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
- in any way breaching (as determined by ACER in its absolute discretion) any of the terms and conditions of (a) your registration to participate in the HPAT-Ireland test; or (b) your purchase of any HPAT-Ireland preparation materials

- 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 trade mark and any HPAT-Ireland preparation materials prepared or published by or on behalf of ACER or the user universities
- 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 communication in any form with the HPAT-Ireland office.

CONSEQUENCES for misconduct may include cancelling 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 test for which you have registered or otherwise).

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 professional body or other third party to whom such misconduct might be of interest.

YOU ARE PUT ON NOTICE 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. 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.

Whilst ACER will make every effort to ensure the HPAT-Ireland Online test will run as scheduled. We make no guarantees, given the current global epidemic. If for any reason the test is cancelled ACER will notify candidates via email. Any such cancellations will be at the discretion of ACER and the HPAT-Ireland user universities.

### HPAT – Ireland results

HPAT – Ireland results will be released to UL applicants and mature candidates (i.e. any candidates born on or on before 1/1/1998) in mid to late April. All the other candidates will receive their results in late June 2021. You will be notified via email when results are available through your online account. You can only access your Statement of Results online and are advised to save and print a copy of the Statement of Results for your records. Statements of Results include your date of birth and name used at the time the HPAT – Ireland test was taken. Replacement Statements of Results will not be provided to accommodate a subsequent change of name.

No hard copies of the Statement of Results will be sent to candidates.

Your results will also be provided to the Universities and the CAO for the purpose of selecting applicants into the programmes.

Under no circumstances will results be released over the telephone, by fax or by email. This is to protect candidate confidentiality.

### The HPAT – Ireland Scores

You will receive a score for each of the three sections, together with an Overall HPAT – Ireland Score and an overall percentile rank to give you an indication of how well you performed against other HPAT – Ireland candidates.

The overall score is a weighted aggregate of the three section scores.

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

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

#### Overall Score =

$$[(2 \times \text{Section 1} + 2 \times \text{Section 2} + 1 \times \text{Section 3}) \div 5] \times 3$$

**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. It is not possible for candidates to replicate this process.

Candidates will not be provided with any additional information on scores or the scoring process. All information remains the property of HPAT – Ireland and no right of inspection will be deemed to be vested in a candidate.

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 to calculate the overall score.

### 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 these terms and conditions. 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 and these terms and conditions. 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 these terms and conditions. Examples of when the validity of HPAT – Ireland test scores may be challenged are:

- intended or unintended exposure to HPAT – Ireland test content\*
- contradictory performance on different parts of the HPAT – Ireland test
- abnormal answer patterns in the HPAT – Ireland test
- 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.

### 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 2021 can be used for courses beginning in 2021 but NOT 2022. Do not register for HPAT – Ireland 2021 unless you are planning to apply



for a course commencing in 2021 AND you meet the eligibility criteria specified in the HPAT – Ireland 2021 Information Booklet.

### Appeals and re-checks

Unless otherwise required by law or as expressly provided herein, ACER will not entertain any challenges of or requests or demands to review HPAT – Ireland test results or any determination by it that any misconduct has occurred or in relation to any consequences imposed by ACER following a determination that misconduct has occurred. Nor is it possible to give special consideration for impaired performance on the day of the test caused by illness or unexpected personal situations.

Any complaints relating to the test 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**.

ACER will not enter into appeals against HPAT– Ireland results. Candidates are advised that HPAT – Ireland results are released only after careful calculation and extensive checking. Requests for remarking will not be considered.

**NOTE:** Re-checks for the Written English component are not offered.

# 6 HPAT – IRELAND DECLARATION

**IMPORTANT:** Please read the **LEGAL NOTICE** at the end of HPAT – Ireland Information Booklet 2021.

That Booklet, including its Legal Notice, as well as any instructions issued from time to time regulating candidates' sitting of the HPAT - Ireland and this declaration will form the binding legal agreement ("the Agreement") between You and The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145) ("**ACER**") for administering your registration for, undertaking of and all consequent activities regarding the HPAT - Ireland test provided digitally in a HPAT - Ireland testing centre and or from another location by online proctoring in 2021.

You should make sure that you understand fully and are familiar with the contents of this Booklet (including the Legal Notice) before You submit Your registration for a HPAT – Ireland test in 2021.

The declarations below signify You **AGREE**:

1. To the terms and conditions contained in the HPAT – Ireland Information Booklet 2021 applying to Your sitting of HPAT – Ireland in 2021 and all matters consequent thereon;
2. For logistical reasons and in ACER's sole discretion, to being allocated a date, time and testing venue then available in respect of your undertaking of the HPAT -Ireland test i.e. you will not have a choice of date, time and venue;
3. In the event of a HPAT - Ireland sitting in 2021 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:
    - (i) on a date;
    - (ii) at a testing venue; and
    - (iii) with a online proctoring service;
  - b. other than that originally specified by ACER; and undertake further action in finalisation of those alternative arrangements;
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 test;
5. That to sit HPAT – Ireland in 2021 You have read and understood the entrance requirements of the courses at the user university you plan to apply

to and are a bona fide prospective applicant to a course for which HPAT – Ireland is a prerequisite;

6. You meet the requirements for eligibility set out in the HPAT – Ireland Information Booklet 2021;
7. Not to use or divulge to any third party information concerning the test questions in the HPAT – Ireland test 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. That the information that You give in Your application for registration for the HPAT – Ireland test in 2021 is true and correct. The giving of false or misleading information constitutes misconduct and may jeopardise Your chances of being admitted into any course for which HPAT – Ireland is a prerequisite;
10. That You are the person whose name and address appears on this registration form. it may be necessary for You to, and at ACER's sole discretion:

☐ **I confirm that I have read the HPAT-Ireland Information Booklet 2021 including the Legal Notice and the Privacy Statement locatable at: <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/about-hpat-ireland/privacy-statement>.**

☐ **I AGREE to the terms and conditions of participation in the HPAT-Ireland contained in the HPAT-Ireland Information Booklet 2021 and provide the **CONSENTS\*** specified in the HPAT-Ireland privacy statement.**

**\* should you not wish to provide the consents or have a query about the same please contact [hpat-ireland@acer.org](mailto:hpat-ireland@acer.org).**

1. By completing and submitting the registration form for the HPAT – Ireland 2021 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).
2. The **TERMS AND CONDITIONS** which will apply to Your application for registration and to Your registration to participate in the HPAT – Ireland 2021 test are contained in this Booklet, including this Legal Notice. The Terms and Conditions cover, amongst other things, Your sitting the HPAT – Ireland test, payment of the registration fee, refunds of fees, access to HPAT – Ireland preparation materials and release of the HPAT – Ireland test results.
3. Before lodging Your Registration, You should make sure You understand fully and are familiar with the contents of this Booklet, including this Legal Notice and the online declaration.
4. 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 2021 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.
5. Subject to point 4:
  - 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).
6. Subject to the 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 terms and conditions of Your participation (actual, potential, contemplated or cancelled) in the HPAT - Ireland test. 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 a HPAT - Ireland user university for any course whatsoever.
  - c. Any misconduct by you in relation to the HPAT - Ireland.

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.

7. 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.
8. 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/>.
9. By completing and submitting the HPAT – Ireland registration form:
  - a. You confirm that You have read in its entirety and accept the contents of this Booklet, including the Legal Notice and the online declaration.
  - b. You confirm Your agreement with the terms and conditions contained in this Booklet and the online declaration.
  - c. You 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. You acknowledge and accept that this Booklet and the online declaration contains the entire agreement between You and ACER concerning Your participation in the HPAT - Ireland test in 2021 and that no matter, information or representation not expressly contained in this Booklet has induced You or had any bearing on You to seek registration for the HPAT - Ireland test in 2021
  - e. You accept and unconditionally undertake to strictly comply with the terms and conditions contained in this Booklet.
  - f. You acknowledge and accept that Your agreement with ACER will be governed by the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia.
  - g. You submit to the jurisdiction of the Courts chosen by ACER and any of the Courts of Appeal therefrom to determine any dispute (whether as to the interpretation of Your agreement with ACER, or any matter concerning performance or compliance of the agreement or otherwise) or to determine any claims brought or made against You by ACER or its authorised nominee.

**Any queries about HPAT – Ireland  
should be directed to:**

[hpat-ireland@acer.org](mailto:hpat-ireland@acer.org)

**ACER**

**HPAT – Ireland Office**

Email: [hpat-ireland@acer.org](mailto:hpat-ireland@acer.org)

Web: <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>

Fax: +61 (0) 3 9277 5757

Postal address: Private Bag 55  
Camberwell VIC 3124  
Australia

<https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>

HPAT is a registered trademark of ACER

Copyright © 2020 Australian Council for Educational Research

