Information booklet 2012

Registration Deadline – Friday 20 January 2012 at 17:15 GMT
Test date – Saturday 25 February 2012

http://hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au/
This Information Booklet covers everything you need to know about registering for HPAT – Ireland 2012.

If you have any queries about the registration process, you may contact the HPAT – Ireland Office. The Office will not answer queries relating to the content of the test.

**HPAT – IRELAND Office at ACER:**

Email: hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au  
Web: www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au  
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9277 5757  
Postal address: Private Bag 55  
Camberwell VIC 3124

Please read the **LEGAL NOTICE** at the end of this booklet as this booklet details any legal agreement reached between you and the Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145).

**Note:** neither ACER, the CAO, nor the medical schools will answer queries relating to the content of the test, nor can staff advise how best to prepare for the test.

**Note:**

a. To the maximum extent permissible by law ACER expressly, irrevocably and totally disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage in connection with: your participation 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.

b. You are put on NOTICE that the entire risk of your participation in HPAT – Ireland is assumed by you. In no event will ACER have any liability (to the extent permissible by law) to you in connection with HPAT – Ireland or be liable for any: direct; incidental; indirect; consequential; punitive; or special damages of any kind, or any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, those resulting from loss of: profit; loss of contracts; goodwill; information; income; anticipated savings; or business relationships, whether or not advised of the possibility of such damage arising out of or in connection with your participation in HPAT – Ireland;

c. Both of the above clauses extend to cover any claims in connection with any actual or anticipated participation in HPAT – Ireland and any inability to so participate;

d. ACER provides **NO WARRANTY** or **REPRESENTATION** that: the HPAT – Ireland test will ensure you a placement with an educational institution; completion of the HPAT – Ireland registration form and/or payment of the registration fee guarantee you a place in the HPAT – Ireland (which will remain in the sole discretion of ACER); or the release of your HPAT – Ireland results (except in strict accord with this Agreement).

ACER has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this Information Booklet. However, you are advised to consult the HPAT – Ireland and university websites for information updates.
What is HPAT – Ireland?

1.1 The Health Professions Admission Test - Ireland (HPAT – Ireland)

The Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland (HPAT – Ireland) is a 2½ hour multiple-choice test developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine degree programs at undergraduate level.

HPAT – Ireland is divided into 3 sections and 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.

1.2 Who should sit 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 2012. 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.

1.3 Participating universities

You will need an HPAT – Ireland score for applications to an undergraduate medical program at the following institutions:

National University of Ireland, Galway
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
University College Cork
University College Dublin
Trinity College Dublin

For information about specific courses and admission requirements, please refer to the relevant university websites. Links are provided on the HPAT – Ireland website at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au.

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 www.hpat-ulster.acer.edu.au

1.4 Structure and Content

The HPAT – Ireland test is a 2½ hour paper-based 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>Time in minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
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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 nonverbal contexts.

1.5 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 subject areas, in close consultation with university faculty specialists. 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 program 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 will not be scored.

1.6 Use of Personal Information

Test results may be used by relevant authorities through ACER for purposes of research into the HPAT – Ireland programme. Candidates are assured that any use of registration and test records will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Candidate names will be separated from data in all cases.

By completing the HPAT – Ireland registration form you are indicating your acceptance of the processing of your personal and sensitive data for purposes connected to your HPAT – Ireland registration amongst other things. Please see the Legal Notice at the end of this booklet.

ACER’s policy on the collection, access to, and use of personal information can be found at www.acer.edu.au/about/assessment-services-privacy-policy.
2.1 Test Date
The test will be held on:

Saturday 25 February 2012

This date will be the only opportunity to sit HPAT – Ireland in 2012.

2.2 Registration fee payment date
Your online registration and test payment of €95 must be received by:

17:15 GMT Friday 20 January 2012

PLEASE NOTE:
1. Refund terms on page 5 and that under some circumstances the registration fee is non-refundable; and

2. ACER reserves the right absolutely to refuse or cancel a registration in circumstances where; a registration is not bona fide or the registration fee is not received by the payment date above or the late registration date below.

Late registrations will be accepted up to 17:15 GMT on Wednesday 1 February 2012, on payment of a late fee of €65 in addition to the registration fee of €95.

An exceptional late registration is available until 17:15 GMT on 3 February 2012, on payment of the exceptional late fee of €100 in addition to the registration fee of €95. An exceptional late registration will only be accepted from candidates who have submitted their application to CAO by 17:15 GMT on 1 February 2012.

It will NOT be possible to register for HPAT – Ireland 2012 once the online registration system closes at 17:15 GMT on Friday 3 February 2012.

2.3 Test centres
HPAT – Ireland will be offered in the following locations:

Cork
Dublin
Galway
Sligo
Waterford

Every effort will be made to accommodate applicants at their preferred test centre. However as capacity in some test centres may be limited, places in those venues will be allocated on a first come basis. It is important that applicants register early to ensure that they are able to get their choice of test location.

Before you register you MUST read the information in this booklet and on the HPAT – Ireland website, as it contains all the relevant details about the test, deadlines, registration procedures and HPAT – Ireland terms and conditions.

2.4 Before you register
Before registering for HPAT – Ireland, all applicants must first get their CAO number. You need this number to successfully complete your HPAT – Ireland registration. To get 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 HPAT – Ireland.

2.5 How to register
Registrations must be submitted online via the HPAT – Ireland website http://www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au. To register you will need a computer with internet access and a functional email address. This email address will be used for all communication from the HPAT – Ireland Office. Before you start, you should save the HPAT – Ireland email address (hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au) in your ‘safe’ list of contacts. This is especially important if you are using hotmail, msn, yahoo or gmail addresses, as adding the email address to your address book will prevent HPAT – Ireland emails being regarded as spam and deleted/ blocked from your account.

Then follow these 5 easy steps:

STEP 1: Enter your details online
Complete your personal details (name, date of birth, etc), your contact details (address, email, telephone, etc.) and select whether you would like to purchase a practice test booklet. Please note that the name you register with MUST match the name on the identification you will bring to the test.

STEP 2: Select your test centre
A list of available test centres is provided under 2.3. Any requests for additional test centres cannot be accommodated. You will also be asked to enter further personal details such as your educational qualifications.
STEP 3: Select your payment method
All payments must be made in Euro. The preferred method of payment is by credit card. If you do not have access to a credit card, you can complete a provisional registration by selecting ‘bank draft’ as payment method and forwarding to the HPAT – Ireland Office your postal or bank draft made payable to ‘ACER International, HPAT – Ireland’. Please note that if you select to pay by postal or bank draft the deadlines remain the same and payments must be received by the registration deadline.

STEP 4: Sign the online declaration
Read the declaration carefully and if you agree with the terms proceed to submit your registration.

STEP 5: Complete your registration
You will receive an email confirming the status of your registration after submitting the online form. If you do not receive the email within 30 minutes, contact the HPAT – Ireland Office via email as soon as possible. If you pay by credit card your registration is complete when you submit the online form and payment. If you select to pay by postal or bank draft, your registration is provisional until your payment is received. Payments received after Friday 20 January 2012 will incur a late fee of €65. Payment received after Wednesday, 1 February 2012 will incur the exceptional late fee of €100. Payments received after Friday 3 February 2012 will NOT be processed and will be returned unopened.

2.6 Applying for Special Testing Conditions
If you have a visual, hearing, physical or other disability which might interfere with your ability to sit the test in the standard manner, you should submit a statement to this effect by no later than Friday, 20 January 2012.

Requests must be received at the HPAT – Ireland Office no later than 20 January 2012 and must be accompanied by a letter, no more than one year old, from a registered health practitioner outlining your condition and the kind of support needed. The letters from you and your practitioner must give clear information on your condition as it affects your ability to sit HPAT – Ireland. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide appropriate testing conditions for your needs.

Applicants with dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties should accompany their statement with a copy of an appropriate educational psychologist’s report, no more than 3 years old, for consideration.

All reasonable efforts will be made to provide appropriate testing conditions for approved candidates.

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.

2.7 Refund Terms
PLEASE NOTE: Application fees for the 2012 test will be refunded on request up to 1 February 2012. An administrative charge of €40 will be deducted.

After that date the registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. ACER fulfils its commitment to you by reserving a place for you (which would otherwise be available to another) in HPAT – Ireland and making all necessary preparations (which need to be completed a reasonable time before you sit the HPAT – Ireland) for you to sit the test. If for any reason you are unable to participate in HPAT – Ireland and you fail to notify ACER prior to the above date your registration fee will not be refunded.

There is no penalty, other than the loss of your fee, if you register for the test but do not sit.

2.8 Communicating with the HPAT – Ireland Office
If you have any queries about the registration process, you may contact the HPAT – Ireland Office. The Office will not answer queries relating to the content of the test.

HPAT – IRELAND Office at ACER:
Email: hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au
Web: www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9277 5757
Postal address: Private Bag 55
Camberwell VIC 3124

Email is the principal means of communication concerning HPAT – Ireland registration, Admission Tickets and results. Candidates must provide a current valid email address which will be maintained during the registration, test and reporting cycle.

Sometimes personal emails don’t make it through our spam filters, so if we don’t respond within a week, please resend the message.
3.1 Admission Ticket

You will receive an Admission Ticket approximately two weeks before the test date. Notification will be emailed to your nominated account, so you are advised to add hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au to your address book prior to registering.

The Admission Ticket will tell you exactly where and at what time to report on the day of the test. It will also contain your personal details. This ticket is your permission to attend the test centre and a printout must be taken with you on the day. If you present without an Admission Ticket you will be refused entry. Please check it carefully and contact the HPAT – Ireland Office immediately if there are any errors.

Do not print your Admission Ticket on recycled paper: there should not be any other marks on your Admission Ticket. You may not write on your Admission Ticket during the test.

If you have not received your Admission Ticket by 11 February 2012, you should contact the HPAT – Ireland Office. Check your junk mail folder to ensure the message from the HPAT – Ireland Office has not been treated as spam.

3.2 Reporting to the Test Centre

You will be assigned to a test centre in your chosen city. You must report to this centre at the time designated on your Admission Ticket. The test itself will start as soon as pre-testing procedures are completed. If you report to the centre after all candidates have been seated in the testing room you may not be admitted. No latecomers can be admitted once the test has started.

When making transport arrangements you should allow up to 4½ hours from the arrival time stated on your Admission Ticket to the end of the test, as candidates are not allowed to leave the test centre before the test has finished.

When you report to the test centre, you must bring:

- a printout of your HPAT – Ireland Admission Ticket
- appropriate identity document (see below)
- grey-lead pencils (medium soft HB) and eraser

All other items with the exception of a bottle of drinking water are prohibited.

Mobile phones, pagers, stopwatches, audio or recording devices of any kind including MP3 players, papers, food and bags will not be permitted in the test room. Dictionaries are not permitted. Pencil cases, highlighters and rulers are also not permitted.

Some test centres are warmer or cooler on weekends than during the week and you should consider dressing in layers, so that you can be comfortable no matter what the room conditions are.

You are also advised to have a light meal before reporting to the test centre, as you may have to be there for up to 4½ hours. No food is permitted in the test centre, unless prior permission is granted by the HPAT – Ireland Office based on medical reasons, e.g. if a candidate suffers from diabetes.

3.3 Identification on the Test Day

The only acceptable forms of ID are:

- Current passport
- Current driver’s licence (photo-bearing)
- Certified letter of identification (details follow)

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.

If you do not possess a current passport 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 recommended to use this template to avoid any problems on the day.

IMPORTANT: The identity document you present MUST bear an easily recognisable photograph of you as you look on the test day. If you do not present your Admission Ticket AND appropriate identification you will not be allowed to sit HPAT – Ireland and will be turned away from the test centre.
3.4 Penalties for Misconduct

Misconduct includes:

- Breach of any of the security arrangements for HPAT – Ireland;
- Impersonation;
- attempting to remove a test book or answer sheet or part thereof, or any notes, from the testing room;
- failure to follow test supervisor’s instructions at all times;
- giving or receiving assistance during the test;
- creating a disturbance;
- using prohibited aids (e.g. notes, scrap paper, mobile phone, audio/recording device etc.);
- writing, or marking your test paper or answer sheet after the instruction is given to stop writing;
- copying another candidate’s work;
- using the test questions or information about them for purposes other than sitting the HPAT – Ireland you are registered to sit. Passing the test questions or information about them to third parties;
- the giving of false or misleading information during the registration process;
- Infringement of copyright. Copyright infringement includes: performing those acts which only the copyright holders may or authorising or allowing a person on the candidate’s behalf to infringe ACER’s copyright material.

PENALTIES for misconduct include: withholding of your HPAT – Ireland results or disqualification from sitting the HPAT – Ireland for a period or at all:

YOU ARE PUT ON NOTICE there is NO APPEAL from any penalty applied.

3.5 Security

HPAT – Ireland is a high stakes test. Therefore ACER, in conjunction with the medical schools, has established security procedures which will be strictly enforced at all times.

3.6 Infringement of Copyright

HPAT – Ireland is copyright material. Any infringement of HPAT – Ireland copyright material, in addition to any right at law, will be treated as misconduct for the purposes of this Agreement.
4.1 HPAT – Ireland Practice Materials

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. Some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT – Ireland is beneficial.

The only official HPAT – Ireland Practice Materials are available from the HPAT – Ireland website or with your registration. There are currently two publications available for purchase at a cost of €22 each plus €5.50 for postage and handling.

ACER does not conduct HPAT – Ireland preparation courses, nor do the Universities requiring HPAT – Ireland as a prerequisite. ACER and the Universities do not recommend or endorse any commercially available courses offering HPAT – Ireland preparation. Nor does ACER or the Universities have knowledge of the content of such courses, or any involvement in their development, or any commercial interest in the programs. Thus the HPAT – Ireland Office is unable to comment on these courses.

4.2 Test-taking Strategy

Work steadily through the test. It is not advisable to spend too much time on any one question. If you think you know the answer to a question, mark it, even if you are not certain. Go on to the next question and come back later if you have time. No credit is given if more than one answer is marked. No marks are deducted for a wrong answer. All questions have the same value; therefore by attempting as many questions as possible you stand the best chance of maximising your score. Questions are in multiple choice format. It will be advantageous for you to develop your own strategies for answering this type of question.

Mark your answers directly onto the HPAT – Ireland answer sheet and not in the test book. Any rough work may be done in the margins of your test book. Scrap paper is not allowed.
5.1 The HPAT – Ireland Scores

An online HPAT – Ireland Statement of Results will be issued to every candidate in late April. 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.

Your results will also be provided to the Universities and the CAO for the purpose of selecting applicants for interview. Results for mature applicants will be sent to the universities for short-listing purposes prior to the official release in late June.

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

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.

5.2 Validity of Results

The HPAT – Ireland score is valid for two years. Scores are scaled by ACER to make them directly comparable from year to year. If you have more than one valid score (i.e. you take HPAT – Ireland two years in a row) you may use whichever score you prefer.

5.3 Appeals and Re-checks

The HPAT – Ireland Office will not enter into appeals against HPAT – Ireland results or any penalties applied for misconduct under this agreement.

Please note that results are released after careful calculation and extensive checking, and errors in scoring are highly unlikely. However requests for re-checks can be submitted online by midnight Thursday 10 May 2012. A fee of €80 is payable for this service.

It is not possible to give special consideration for impaired performance on the day of the test caused by illness or unexpected personal situations.
1. This booklet (as well as being an information source) is a **LEGAL AGREEMENT** ("the Agreement") between you and the Australian Council for Educational Research LTD (ABN 19 004 398 145);

2. By completing the registration form for HPAT – Ireland located at www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu you are entering into a legal agreement with the Australian Council for Educational Research ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145);

3. The **TERMS AND CONDITIONS** you agree to are contained in this booklet:

4. Therefore, please read and understand this Agreement carefully as this Agreement governs amongst other things - your sitting of the HPAT – Ireland, payment of the registration fee, refunds and release of your results;

5. Some of the terms and conditions are summarised as follows:

   a. To the maximum extent permissible by law ACER expressly, irrevocable and totally disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage in connection with: your participation 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;

   b. You are put on **NOTICE** that the entire risk of your participation in HPAT – Ireland is assumed by you. In no event will ACER have any liability (to the extent permissible by law) to you in connection with HPAT – Ireland or be liable for any: direct; incidental; indirect; consequential; punitive; or special damages of any kind, or any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, those resulting from loss of: profit; loss of contracts; goodwill; information; income; anticipated savings; or business relationships, whether or not advised of the possibility of such damage arising out of or in connection with your participation in HPAT – Ireland;

   c. ACER provides **NO WARRANTY** or **REPRESENTATION** that: the HPAT – Ireland test will ensure you a placement with an educational institution; completion of the HPAT – Ireland registration form and/or payment of the registration fee guarantees you a place in the HPAT – Ireland (which will remain in the sole discretion of ACER); or the release of HPAT – Ireland results (except in strict accord with this Agreement);

   d. Under some circumstances your registration fee is **NON REFUNDABLE** please see page 5 of this booklet; and

   e. There is no appeal in respect of your HPAT – Ireland results or any penalty applied for misconduct.

6. **PRIVACY, PERSONAL INFORMATION and SENSITIVE DATA:** By completing the HPAT – Ireland registration form you consent to use of your personal information and sensitive data:

   a. Being used for purposes connected with your HPAT – Ireland registration;

   b. Being disclosed to the CAO and participating medical schools and other persons or bodies connected with HPAT – Ireland for HPAT – Ireland related purposes;

   c. Being used for research purposes and disclosed to relevant research bodies.

All information collected will be treated as confidential and used only in de-identified form for research purposes. You are assured that the provisions of all applicable legislation will be strictly adhered to. Candidates are given an assurance that any use of their registration and test records will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Candidate names will be separated from data in all cases. Please see the ACER privacy policy at www.acer.edu.au/about/acer-privacy-policy.

7. By completing the HPAT – Ireland registration form you have agreed to the terms and conditions contained in this booklet.
Any queries about HPAT – Ireland should be directed to:
hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au

ACER
HPAT – Ireland Office
Email: hpat-ireland@acer.edu.au
Web: www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9277 5757
Postal address: Private Bag 55
              Camberwell VIC 3124

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