



SELECTION CRITERIA FOR

Undergraduate Entry to Medicine

FOR EU APPLICANTS 2026



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Minimum Entry Requirements

EU/EEA Applicants*

This brochure provides details of the selection criteria for EU/EEA applicants to undergraduate medicine in University of Galway, University of Limerick, RCSI, TCD, UCC and UCD.

School Leavers

In order for school leavers to be eligible to compete for entry to undergraduate medicine in 2026, they must:

1. achieve a minimum of 480 points and
2. meet the minimum entry requirements¹ for each Medical School for which they have applied and
3. complete the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in 2026.

Criteria 1 and 2 above must both be met in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent². Pre 2025 Leaving Certificate results may be presented but the HPAT must be presented in the year of entry. See Table 1 for details of requirements for each medical programme.

***For admission purposes, all applicants are categorised into two categories: EU or International, based on fee status.**

Table 1: Summary of Minimum Entry Requirements for EU Admissions for Each Medical School¹

Medical programmes			Minimum SUBJECT Requirements ¹						Minimum POINTS Requirement
Institution	CAO Code	Duration	Minimum Entry Requirements	English	Irish	Third Language	Maths	Science	
University of Galway	GY501	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	480 points from the same sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination or equivalent.
		5 Years	2 x H4 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 in two of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
University of Limerick	LM301	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in a language other than English		O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)	RC001	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
		5 Years	2 x H4 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 Chemistry and H4 in either Biology or Physics	
Trinity College Dublin (TCD)	TR051	5 Years	1 x H3 1 x H4 1 x H5 and 3 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in a language other than English		O6/H7 or O4/H6 if no Physics	H3 and a H4 from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	
University College Cork (UCC)	CK701	5 Years	2 x H4 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	H4 Chemistry and H4 in either Biology or Physics	
University College Dublin (UCD)	DN400	6 Years	2 x H5 and 4 x O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7	O6/H7 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science	

In addition, all students will be required to satisfy the Garda Vetting, Medical Clearance and Fitness to Practise requirements as required by each institution.¹

- 1 Students are advised to check the website of the relevant institution for full details of all entry requirements and policies and procedures.
- 2 For EU students presenting qualifications other than the Irish Leaving Certificate, equivalent qualifications are required. For details please consult the CAO website at https://www.cao.ie/?page=other_leaving&bb=studentresources

Mature Applicants (23 years or over by 1 January of 2026)

For those applying for a place on grounds of mature years, the minimum educational requirements and places available for mature students are available from each institution. In all cases the medical admissions test, HPAT-Ireland, is required. As HPAT-Ireland results form part of the selection procedure for mature applicants, results will be sent to the universities for short-listing purposes prior to the official release of results.

All Applicants

Applicants who previously started a medical programme must be in good academic standing at the institution previously attended. Applicants who have withdrawn from any other medical programme should contact the Admissions Office before applying

The Admissions Test: HPAT-Ireland

The admissions test is called HPAT-Ireland (Health Professions Admission Test-Ireland). This test is independently administered by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research).

The HPAT-Ireland test measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem-solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people. It does not test academic knowledge, and candidates do not require special understanding of any academic discipline. However, some familiarity with the question types typically presented in HPAT-Ireland would be an advantage and therefore a practice booklet with worked answers is supplied to all candidates. The test results will complement the Leaving Certificate Examination assessment (or equivalent EU/EFTA/UK qualification) for selecting applicants for admission to an undergraduate Medical School programme.

Format of Test

In 2026 the HPAT-Ireland test will continue to be run online via remote proctoring. The test will remain 2½ hours in length, and will consist of three modules or sections:

- (i) Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving
- (ii) Interpersonal Understanding
- (iii) Non-Verbal Reasoning

All questions are in multiple choice format with 4 or 5 possible responses, from which the candidate is asked to choose the most appropriate response. There is only one correct response. Further details regarding the test, including the approximate number of questions in each section, can be found at <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with a physical and/or specific learning disability.

Scoring of Test

The maximum score a candidate can achieve is 300. The weighting of the three sections will be Section 1 (40%); Section 2 (40%); Section 3 (20%). In addition to their overall HPAT score, HPAT-Ireland candidates will also receive an overall percentile rank to give them an indication of how well they performed against other HPAT-Ireland candidates.

Application Procedure and Cost

In addition to their application to the CAO (www.cao.ie), students must also apply directly to ACER to complete the HPAT-Ireland test. Applicants for the test will apply online to ACER at <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org> (see Table 2 for details). The cost of applying to the HPAT-Ireland test in 2026 is €164.00 per candidate. This fee covers:

- online registration for the test
- 1 x Practice Test e-books with worked solutions included with registration
- provision of test results to the candidate
- transfer of results to the CAO

Only bona-fide applicants may apply to sit the test i.e., current or past school-leavers. A more detailed definition of a bona-fide candidate is available on the HPAT-Ireland website.

Test Delivery

In 2026 the HPAT-Ireland test will be delivered over four days 13 - 16 February by 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. HPAT-Ireland results are only valid for one year, i.e., a HPAT result from 2026 will only be valid for entry in 2026.

For test takers experiencing technical difficulties, a small number of days between 17 and 22 February are reserved for rescheduling. This will be done following investigation into any issues occurring at the initial session. Remote proctored rescheduled sittings will be scheduled on 17 and 18 February. Sittings on 21 and 22 February will be for Test Centre sittings only. Only ACER can schedule these sessions.

Table 2: Important Dates

CAO application www.cao.ie	From 5 November 2024 but no later than 1 February 2026 at 17:00
Normal HPAT-Ireland test registration period https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/	Early November 2025 until 5.15pm GMT 16 January 2026. You will require a 2026 CAO application number to apply for HPAT-Ireland. Fee: €164.00
Late HPAT-Ireland test registration period. Supplementary fee payable.	26 January 2026 at 17:15 Fee: €239.00
Exceptional Late HPAT-Ireland test registration period. Late fee payable	1 February 2026 at 17:15 Fee: €274.00
Date of HPAT-Ireland test	Friday 13 February – Monday 16 February 2026
HPAT-Ireland test result to candidates	Mid to late April 2026 (mature applicants) Late June 2026 (standard applicants)
Round 1 CAO offers	August 2026

Combination of Leaving Certificate Examination (LCE) Results and the HPAT-Ireland Score

For school-leaving applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements and the 480 points criterion in the same sitting of the Leaving Certificate, allocation of places for medicine will be determined on the basis of a combination of the Leaving Certificate and HPAT-Ireland scores. Before the scores are combined, Leaving Certificate Examination points above 550 will be moderated as per Table 3 below.

Table 3: Moderated Leaving Certificate Points from 550 Points (table applies to EU/EEA school Leaving exams also)

Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points
551-555	551	576-580	556	601-605	561
556-560	552	581-585	557	606-610	562
561-565	553	586-590	558	611-615	563
566-570	554	591-595	559	616-620	564
571-575	555	596-600	560	621-625	565



Combination of Leaving Certificate Examination Results and the HPAT-Ireland Score

For CAO applicants to medicine the maximum achievable score will be 865:

- 565 as the maximum score based on the Leaving Certificate Examination (after adjustment) and
- 300 as the maximum score based on the HPAT-Ireland test.

For example:

- If you achieve 621 points in the LCE this will become 565 moderated LCE points and if you achieve a score of 160 in the HPAT-Ireland test, your overall score will be 725.

The combined score will then be used to offer a place to an applicant for the highest of their programme choices to which they are entitled (if any), in line with standard CAO procedures www.cao.ie.

Applicants with the same combined score will be ranked in order of their Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) pre-moderated points.

Table 4 provides a sample of scores that eligible applicants would receive when the Leaving Certificate Examination points and HPAT-Ireland scores are combined. Leaving Cert scores over 550 have been moderated.

Table 4: Sample Combination Scores

Leaving Cert score moderated	HPAT scored to a maximum of 300										
	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250
524	674	684	694	704	714	724	734	744	754	764	774
530	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780
536	686	696	706	716	726	736	746	756	766	776	786
538	688	698	708	718	728	738	748	758	768	778	788
540	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790
542	692	702	712	722	732	742	752	762	772	782	792
548	698	708	718	728	738	748	758	768	778	788	798
553	703	713	723	733	743	753	763	773	783	793	803
555	705	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805
559	709	719	729	739	749	759	769	779	789	799	809
565	715	725	735	745	755	765	775	785	795	805	815

In 2025, applicants receiving an offer achieved LCE scores ranging from 553 to 625 and HPAT-Ireland scores ranging from 163 to 241. Table 5 outlines the minimum combined points per programme in 2025.

Table 5: 2025 Minimum Entry Points

2025 Minimum Entry Points			
CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level	CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level
CK701	729 *	RC001	732 *
DN400	738	TR051	739
GY501	728 *		

* Not all on this points score were offered places

Note: Changes to scoring from 2027

The changes are as follows:

- Leaving Certificate scores above 550 points will no longer be moderated – full points scored by candidates will be applied in the calculation.
- Points scored in the HPAT assessment will be weighted to 150 maximum (down from 300 currently). HPAT results from a sitting in the year of admission to a medicine programme will continue to be a requirement.

Tips from ACER for the Day of the Test

1. **ACER Log in Details:** Please ensure you know your log in details for your ACER account as you will need these to access your test when prompted by the proctor.
2. **Accessing your test session:** All test takers will be required to schedule a test session with ProctorU. You must access your test session at the time you scheduled with ProctorU. To access the test, log in to your ProctorU via your ACER account using the Guardian Browser 2–3 minutes before your scheduled test (there is no need to do this any earlier) and click **Start Session** when the countdown timer reaches 0:00:00. It is not necessary to arrive more than 2-3 minutes before your scheduled session. Keep in mind that due to the high volumes of test takers sitting, there may be a delay in being connected to your proctor. Do not panic - use this time to check that you have everything you need, eat a snack and relax as much as you can before beginning your test.
3. **Identification:** On the day of your test session, you will be required to present an original photo-bearing identification document. Candidates should note that the name on the identification document must match the name on your CAO and HPAT applications. The only acceptable identification documents are:
 - a. a valid passport, or
 - b. a current driver's licence (if this includes an embedded photograph), or
 - c. a Current EU/EEA National Identity Card, or
 - d. Current Irish Public Services Card, or
 - e. a [certified letter of identification](#). This letter must be on official institution (school or workplace) letterhead and contain your name, date of birth, a passport photo glued to the letter with the institution stamp overlapping and the signature, printed name and title of the official verifying the identification as well as your signature. Examples of the appropriate ID can be found on the HPAT-Ireland website. If you do not present one of the above approved identification documents, in addition to your Admission Ticket, you will not be able to sit HPAT-Ireland and will be turned away from the test session.
4. **Duration of the test:** The duration of the test is 2.5 hours. However, test takers should note when making arrangements that they may be in the test session up to 3.5 hours. Please note that pretest procedures can take up to 15 -20 minutes to complete. These include ID and technical checks; room scans and other security procedures. Test Takers may not leave the test session before the test has finished, and they must be released by the proctor before disconnecting.
5. **Dress comfortably:** Consider dressing in layers, so you will be comfortable irrespective of the room conditions.
6. **Food:** As you will be under test conditions for a number of hours it is important that you are aware that food is not permitted whilst testing (unless permission has been granted by the HPAT-Ireland Office prior to the test e.g., in the case of diabetes, etc.). All students are permitted to have bottled water while testing.
7. **Permitted items:** All test takers are permitted an A4 sized whiteboard and erasable pen OR 4 pieces of blank A4 sized scratch paper pen and/or pencil, eraser for note taking. Test takers may also have a water bottle.
8. **Test room and setup:** Ensure your room is clear of clutter and that you have suitable desk and chair. You will need a desktop computer or laptop. iPads, tablets or mobile phones are not suitable. All test takers are required to have a camera connected to their computer. Please see the HPAT-Ireland Test taker Information booklet for more information on technical requirements.

IMPORTANT: Under no circumstances are:

- mobile phones permitted near the test taker at any time during the test session.
- other people permitted in the room while the test taker is undergoing any part of the HPAT-Ireland test.

Further information is available from the HPAT-Ireland website <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>

Further Information and Contact Details

University of Galway

Admissions Office
Tel. 091 492 408
Email:
admissions@universityofgalway.ie
www.universityofgalway.ie

Trinity College Dublin

Admissions Office
Dublin 2
Tel. 01 896 4500
Email: academic.registry@tcd.ie
www.tcd.ie/study

RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences

Admissions Office
Dublin 2
Tel. 01 402 2228
Email: admissions@rcsi.ie
www.rcsi.ie/study

University College Cork

Admissions Office Tel.
021 490 3571
www.ucc.ie/ask/prospective
www.ucc.ie/study/undergrad/

University College Dublin

Registry Admissions Dublin 4
Tel. 01 716 1608
www.ucd.ie/askus
www.ucd.ie

University of Limerick

Tel. 061 233 755
www.ul.ie/academic-registry/about/contact-us
www.ul.ie/courses/

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided on this document and any material is accurate. However, no responsibility will be taken by the institutions for any errors or omissions.

October 2025