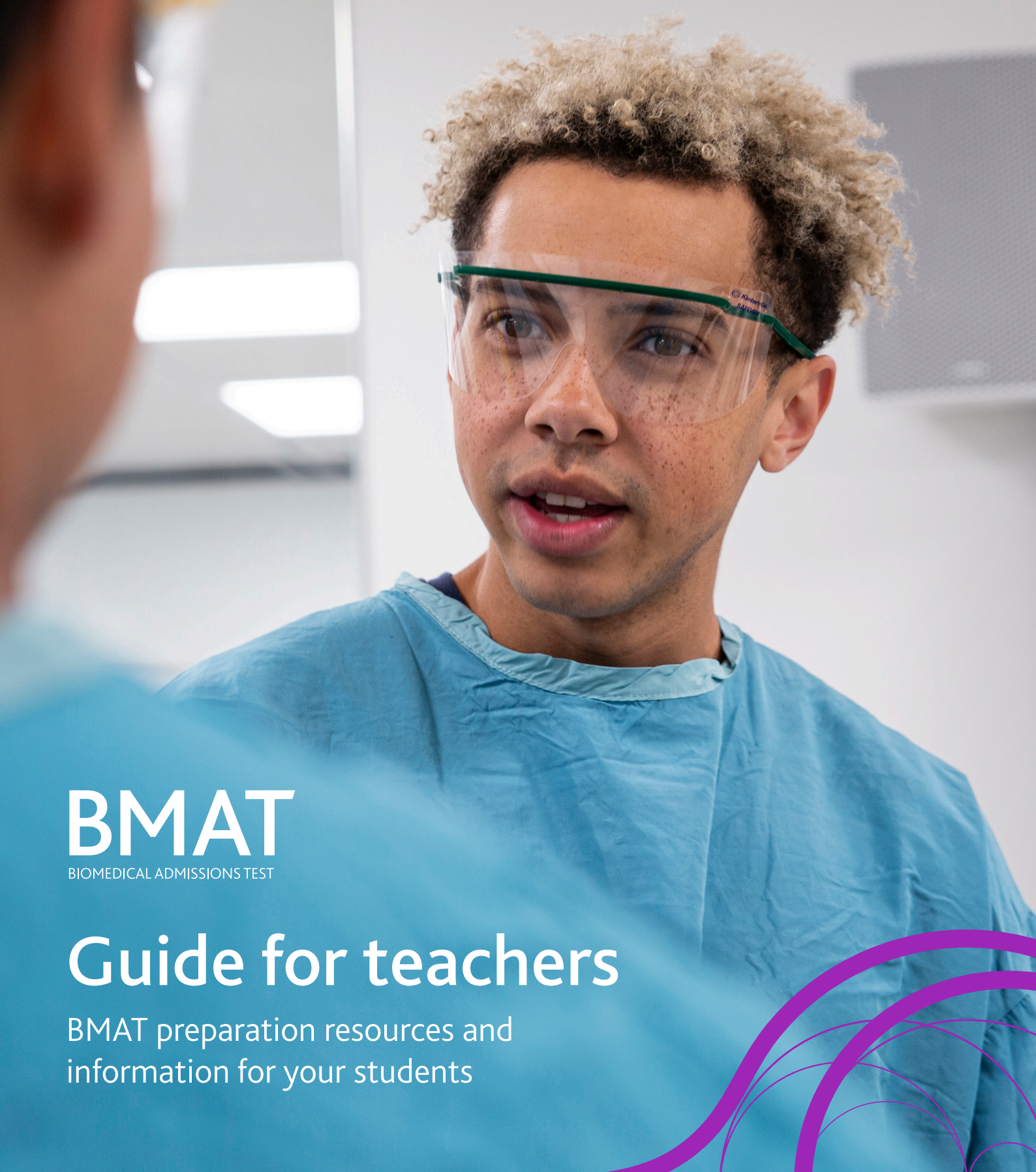




Cambridge Assessment
Admissions Testing



BMAT

BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

Guide for teachers

BMAT preparation resources and
information for your students



Introduction

We are Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing, and we develop and administer a variety of admissions tests, including the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT). The test is used by certain universities across the UK as an entry requirement when applying to study Medicine, Biomedical Sciences and Dentistry.

We understand that teachers want to support their students with the next steps to university, which is why we have put together this guide for you. It provides an overview of the test, important information, and preparation resources to share with your students.

Why students should choose BMAT

BMAT provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate they have the potential to thrive on their chosen university course. Students should consider BMAT because:



it tests a range of skills that are vital for success on a medical-related course, therefore preparing for BMAT gets them ready for university study



it draws on skills and knowledge already learned at school and therefore gives students a chance to show universities what they can do



it gives them access to seven exciting and unique universities around the UK – Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Lancaster University, University College London, University of Leeds and Imperial College London*



there is a choice of test dates. Students can take the test in September and get results before the UCAS deadline, or in November giving themselves more time to prepare.

* For international students there are an additional two UK universities that require BMAT; please check our website for details.

What is BMAT?

The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is used as part of the admissions process for certain UK universities. Together with a personal statement and results from recent qualifications, BMAT results are typically used to shortlist for interviews.

BMAT provides another chance for students to stand out from the crowd. Remember that each institution uses the BMAT results differently, so students should always check the university's website in advance.

BMAT is a paper-based test that can be taken either at a school or college or at an authorised test centre, depending on which test session your student decides to take.

You can find the full details about the test on our website: admissionstesting.org/bmat

Test format

BMAT tests students on skills that are essential to university-level study. It's a 2-hour test in three sections:

Test section	Shows they can:
1 Thinking Skills 1 hour (32 multiple-choice questions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• solve problems• think critically.
2 Scientific Knowledge and Applications 30 minutes (27 multiple-choice questions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• apply scientific knowledge typically learned by the age of 16 in school Science and Mathematics.*
3 Writing Task 30 minutes One side of A4 only (one writing task from a choice of three)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• select, develop and organise ideas• communicate effectively in writing and present their ideas clearly and concisely.

* For example, GCSE in the UK and IGCSE internationally.

Preparing for BMAT

Everything that students need to prepare for the test is available, for free, on our website. There is no need for students to pay for a BMAT preparation course. Our research shows that students taking paid-for courses do not perform any better on the test.

Our top resources include:

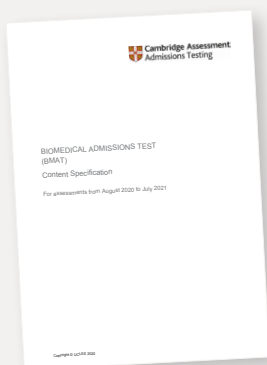
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BMAT preparation guide

We advise students download this as early as possible. It provides an overview of all our free materials, top tips, and useful information about how to prepare for each section of the test.



2



BMAT test specification

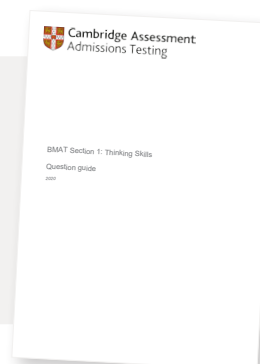
The test specification summarises what each section of BMAT tests, and outlines the scientific and mathematical knowledge that Section 2 questions can draw on.

The test specification can change slightly each year, so it's important that students download the latest version.

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BMAT Section 1 question guide

Students can familiarise themselves with the types of questions that will come up in Section 1 by reading this guide. It provides an explanation and worked example of the different question types.



Top tip

Students can subscribe to our YouTube channel where they'll find a BMAT playlist of videos. This includes Section 3 advice from examiners and general tips from current medical students. [youtube.com/admissionstesting](https://www.youtube.com/admissionstesting)



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BMAT Section 2 guide

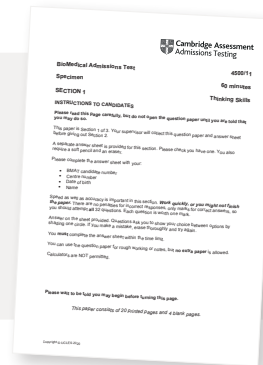
This is an online guide that covers the scientific and mathematical knowledge that Section 2 questions draw on.

Much of the content in Section 2 will have been covered in students' school-based study of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. However, they may find some gaps in their knowledge, so this resource can be used for revision.

5

BMAT practice papers with explained answers

Our research and feedback from successful candidates show that practising under test conditions is the best way to prepare. We advise doing this with two to three practice papers.



Show students where to access our BMAT preparation materials: admissionstesting.org/bmat-preparation



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BMAT tests a range of skills which are important in the life of a medical student.

Wisdom Ohia, current medical student
University College London, UK



Student FAQs

We understand there's lots to think about during the application process and preparing for BMAT. We've put together some typical student questions with answers for you to help.

I did not do a Physics qualification after GCSE/the age of 16. Am I at a disadvantage?

BMAT tests students' ability to apply knowledge typically covered in non-specialist school Science and Mathematics subjects by the age of 16 (for example GCSE in the UK and IGCSE internationally). Students who feel they need to revise their Physics can use our free Section 2 guide.

I don't write essays for my current qualifications. Does that matter?

The Section 3 Writing Task is a short essay – just one A4 page. This part of the test requires students to use skills they have already gained from their school work (e.g. GCSE English) and also from any report writing they may have done on their current courses.

I have heard that BMAT is really hard. Is that true?

BMAT is used to select students for highly competitive courses, however the test focuses on skills and knowledge students have learned in school. Students just need to practise applying them to the questions in the test.

Students are not expected to get everything right in BMAT, and a typical candidate will get about half of the questions correct.

How much time do I need for preparation?

Everyone learns differently, so what works for one person may not for another. Students should plan their preparation schedule to best suit their own learning style. Familiarising themselves with the style of questions and practising past papers should help students understand where they need to focus.

What if I need Access Arrangements?

Access Arrangements are available if a candidate has a disability or special requirement, and is entitled to support for other exams. The arrangements that are available are typically the same as students would get for a school exam.

Students must make their test centre aware and provide medical evidence, either when they register for the test online or directly with their Exams Officer at school.

I can't afford the test, what should I do?

Institutions using BMAT want to make sure that the entry fee is not a barrier to access or widening participation. In some cases, we can reimburse the BMAT fee based on ability to pay.

For more information about how to apply for a reimbursement, visit the BMAT 'Dates and costs' page for the relevant test session on our website.

Do your students have more questions?

You can find a full list of FAQs on the relevant BMAT test session pages on our website.



Which BMAT test session should students take?

Students who are applying to study in the UK can take BMAT either in September or November. Whether they would like to receive their results before the UCAS deadline or need more time to prepare, it's important for students to take a look at the main differences between the two sessions. That way they can be sure they are making the right decision.

Show students our dedicated web page where they can compare the main differences and download a detailed guide about each session, including key dates and costs:

admissionstesting.org/bmat-september-or-november

Please be aware that students must only take BMAT once in an admissions cycle, and that the University of Oxford will only accept results from the November session for application to A100 Medicine or BC98 Biomedical Sciences.

How to register for BMAT

BMAT – September

BMAT – September takes place at certain authorised test centres in the UK and internationally. Students must register themselves for the test via our online booking system, Metritests.

During the registration period, Metritests can be accessed via our website:

admissionstesting.org/bmat-september

BMAT – November

Students can take BMAT – November at their school, college or test centre.

Please ensure that students inform your school's Exams Officer if they wish to take BMAT – November. Exams Officers must register students for the test session and provide them with a candidate entry number as proof that their registration is complete.

If your school or college is not already registered as a centre, you can apply to become a test centre. Please visit our support site for full details about how and when to apply:

admissionstesting.org/become-a-centre

For more information about the test session, visit:

admissionstesting.org/bmat-november

Top tip

Encourage students to sign up to the BMAT newsletter on the website so they can take advantage of our regular advice, tips and key date reminders in the lead-up to the test.

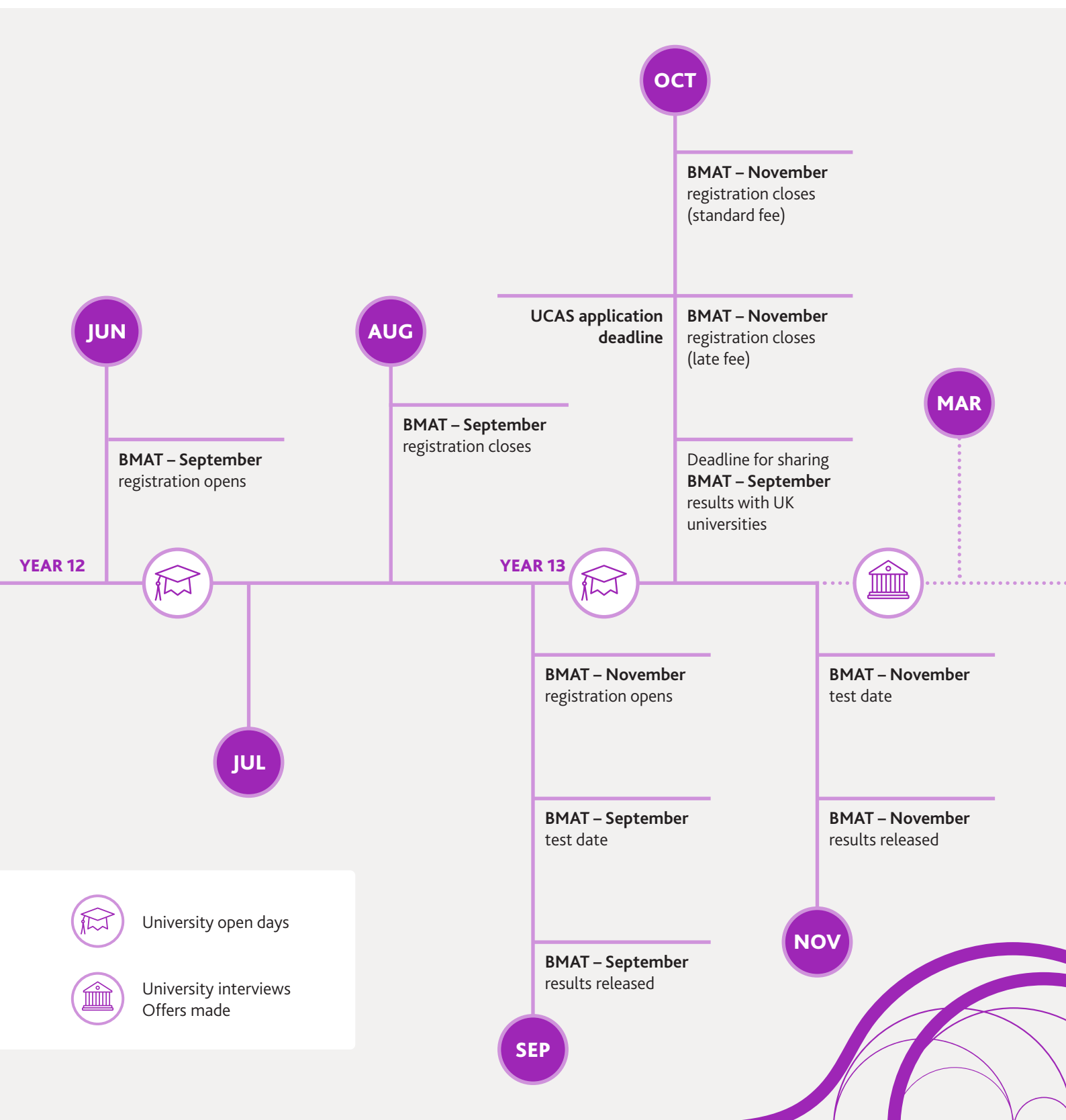


BMAT and the medical application timeline

We know there is a lot for students to consider when applying to study a medical-related course, including admissions tests, personal statements and completing their application – and it's important that nothing is overlooked.

Here's an overview of the medical application timeline and how BMAT fits into it. You can share this with your students to keep them on track.

For full details, including specific dates for registration, test dates and results release dates, please visit our website: admissionstesting.org/bmat





We provide everything that students need to prepare for BMAT for free on our website: admissionstesting.org/bmat-preparation



Contact us

Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing
The Triangle Building
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8EA

admissionstesting@cambridgeassessment.org.uk

 admissionstesting.org

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