

**UCAT**

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

# UCAT 2020

## UCAT Test Centre Candidate Guide

### Test Dates

3 August 2020 – 1 October 2020

[www.ucat.ac.uk](http://www.ucat.ac.uk)



Published: June 2020

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# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	About the UCAT .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Before the test .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Test centre safety .....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Choosing to sit the UCAT at a test centre.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Test centre experience .....	4
3.2	UCAT test centre photographic ID policy .....	5
3.3	Access arrangements .....	6
3.4	Under 18 candidates .....	6
<b>4</b>	<b>Checklist before test day.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>On test day.....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1	Test centre check-in process .....	8
5.2	Entering the testing room and starting your test .....	9
5.3	Incidents during the UCAT at a test centre .....	9
<b>6</b>	<b>After the test .....</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1	UCAT results.....	11
6.2	Further information .....	11
6.3	Further assistance .....	11
<b>7</b>	<b>Appendix 1 .....</b>	<b>12</b>

**The information, rules and policies in this guide only refer to the UCAT delivered at a Pearson VUE Test Centre.**

**Candidates sitting an online-proctored test should refer to the UCAT Online Candidate Guide 2020, which can be found on our [website](#).**

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 About the UCAT

In 2020, the UCAT will be delivered both in Pearson VUE test centres and as an online-proctored test, using Pearson VUE's platform, OnVUE.

Whilst OnVUE allows you to take the test in your home, you may prefer the more formal testing environment of a Pearson VUE test centre or you may have [access arrangements](#) that are more suited to delivery in test centres.

The UCAT delivered in test centres has exactly the same test content and structure as the UCAT Online. Details of the test format can be found on the [UCAT website](#).

Individuals with an affiliation with a UCAT coaching business, for example, in their capacity as a tutor, or as an item developer, or having some financial interest in a UCAT coaching business are not eligible to sit the UCAT.

**Tip!** If you want a better understanding of what to expect before booking your test at a test centre you can watch Pearson VUE's [What to expect at a Test Centre video](#).

## 2 Before the test

### 2.1 Test centre safety

The UCAT Consortium and our delivery partner, Pearson VUE are committed to protecting the safety of all candidates sitting the test. All Pearson VUE company-owned test centres are following recommendations from the CDC and World Health Organisation for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting candidates and test centre staff. Their third-party test centres are also encouraged to implement these precautionary measures. All these measures are subject to change.

Health and safety measures at Pearson VUE test centres include:

- Hand sanitiser available in the waiting area and prior to entering the testing room; candidates are also reminded to wash their hands regularly.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting in between all testing appointments.
- Tissues provided to candidates upon arrival at the test centre.
- Enforced social distancing.

Candidates are asked to comply with the health and safety guidelines outlined on the Pearson VUE website to keep everyone safe.

- You should not attend a Pearson VUE Test Centre if you have any symptoms of coronavirus and should follow government guidelines on self-isolating. You should book or reschedule your test to a later date, after the mandatory self-isolation period.
- If you are testing in the UK, you are strongly recommended to bring and wear a facemask or face covering while you are at the test centre and throughout your exam to protect yourself and others. In some EU and international test centres, it is mandatory to bring and wear a facemask or face covering and candidates without one will be denied entry to the test centre. Any surgical or cloth facemask, including a homemade facemask, is acceptable as long as your nose and mouth are fully covered. Unfortunately, test centres are unable to provide facemasks to candidates.
- Respect social distancing in the waiting area, during the admissions process and in the testing room.
- You are allowed to wear disposable gloves during testing. These will be inspected before and after the exam, and you will be asked to dispose of the gloves in front of the invigilator upon completion of your test.
- Some test centres may require candidates to provide a temperature check upon arrival.

You can read more information about the measures introduced at Pearson VUE test centres [here](#).

## 3 Choosing to sit the UCAT at a test centre

You may choose to sit the UCAT at a test centre if there are test centres open within a reasonable distance. It is also a more suitable option for candidates who may not have access to the right equipment or workspace to sit the UCAT Online.

You may also have a personal preference about where you want to test and where you think you will perform best. Some candidates may be attracted by a more relaxed testing experience at home, whilst others may prefer a more formal testing environment.

You may have to sit your test at a test centre if you have complex access arrangements that cannot be accommodated in the UCAT Online. See section [3.3](#).

Test centres are currently open in some countries. We expect more test centres to re-open over the testing period. Appointment availability is limited due to social distancing precautions and may vary by location; this is likely to change as the test cycle progresses. Further country specific information can be found on the [Pearson VUE website](#).

A candidate would only be advised not to sit the UCAT in a test centre if they have circumstances that would make it unwise (for example, either they or a member of their household is self-isolating).

### 3.1 Test centre experience

If you are sitting the UCAT at a test centre this will be in a testing room where you will be allocated a desk space at which you will find a PC and keyboard.

There will be other people taking tests in the same room (within allowed social distancing guidelines) and there may be limited disturbance during your test as other test takers arrive and leave the room. The test centre will endeavour for such disturbance to be kept to a minimum. Headphones are available at each workstation and you can also request earplugs to block out the noise.

Nothing is allowed into the testing room apart from the indoor clothes worn and any permitted items on the [Pearson VUE Comfort Aid List](#).

All personal belongings (including bags, coats, hats or head coverings, papers, books, pens, watches, wallets, keys, IDs, mobile phones, food/water/drinks) must be placed in the lockers provided before you enter the test room. The only exceptions permitted are religious apparel, headwear worn for medical reasons and small hair clips/hairbands (less than 1/2 inch wide).

You should take the [Test Centre Tour](#) and watch this [video](#) to see what a UK Pearson VUE test centre looks like and what to expect on arrival.

Please note that due to security, test centre receptions are restricted to test takers only. We do not provide waiting areas for anyone accompanying you to the test centre so you should make other arrangements to meet them when your appointment is over.

**Tip!** The duration of the standard test is 2 hours; care should be taken when making return travel arrangements to allow adequate time at the test centre in case of unforeseen delays.

### 3.2 UCAT test centre photographic ID policy

You are required to present one piece of official photographic identification from the list of permitted ID below that meets the requirements of the country where you are testing. You must present the original ID (not a photocopy or digital ID).

You should also bring a printed or electronic copy of your appointment confirmation email from Pearson VUE.

The name on your ID must exactly match the name in your web account profile and in your appointment confirmation email; otherwise, your ID will not be accepted. If it does not match, you must contact [Pearson VUE Customer Services](#) at least 5 working days before your appointment in order for this to be addressed.

Candidates may present one of the following forms of photo ID; no other form of ID is permitted.

<p><b>PASSPORT</b></p> <p>An original, valid and signed passport that contains a recognisable photo is accepted at <b>ANY</b> test centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When presenting a child passport, the photograph must be recent enough that you can easily be identified.</li> <li>• If the passport does not include your visible signature, it will <b>ONLY</b> be accepted if presented together with a valid (unexpired) bankcard that has your printed name and visible signature. This also applies in the case of child passports signed by a parent.</li> <li>• For 2020 only, an expired passport (no more than 6 months) will be permitted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PHOTO-CARD DRIVER'S LICENCE</b></p> <p>A government-issued original, valid and signed licence that contains a recognisable photo is <b>ONLY</b> accepted at test centres in the <b>country of issue</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full or provisional licences are accepted.</li> <li>• Regional differences are acceptable.</li> <li>• If the licence does not include your visible signature, it will <b>ONLY</b> be accepted if presented together with a valid (unexpired) bankcard that has your printed name and visible signature.</li> <li>• For 2020 only, an expired licence (no more than 6 months) will be permitted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU IDENTITY CARD or IRISH PASSPORT CARD</b></p> <p>A government-issued original, valid and signed EU identity card or Irish passport card that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the card must be presented in Roman script as well as the original character set. For example, a Greek identity card will have Greek and Roman characters to be permitted.</li> <li>• If the card does not include your visible signature, it will <b>ONLY</b> be accepted if presented together with a</li> </ul>

<p>contains a recognisable photo is <b>ONLY</b> accepted at test centres <b>in the EU</b>.</p>	<p>valid (unexpired) bankcard that has your printed name and visible signature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 2020 only, an expired ID or passport card (no more than 6 months) will be permitted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTITY CARD FROM A NON-EU COUNTRY</b></p> <p>A government-issued original, valid and signed identity card from a non-EU country that contains a recognisable photo is <b>ONLY</b> accepted at test centres in the <b>country of issue</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the card can be presented in Roman script or local language.</li> <li>If the card does not include your visible signature, it will <b>ONLY</b> be accepted if presented together with a valid (unexpired) bankcard that has your printed name and visible signature.</li> <li>For 2020 only, an expired ID card (no more than 6 months) will be permitted.</li> </ul>

Transport passes, library cards and student/employer ID cards WILL NOT be accepted under any circumstance.

### Alternative ID for Candidates Testing in a UK Test Centre

If you are taking the test in the UK and cannot present one of the permitted forms of ID above, there is a fallback solution for some candidates. Please refer to this [guidance](#).

### Candidates Who Cannot Meet the Permitted Test Centre photo ID Policy

If you cannot obtain a permitted form of ID or you want to check whether your ID will be accepted please contact [Pearson VUE Customer Services](#) at least 5 working days before your test appointment for advice.

If you arrive without the correct ID, you will not be allowed to test. You will lose your test fee and you will have to pay for a new test slot on another day. This will be difficult towards the end of testing when the availability of test slots is limited. We take the security of the test very seriously, therefore test centre staff have no discretion to waive or vary the ID rules.

## 3.3 Access arrangements

It is possible to sit the UCAT and all extended versions of the test (UCATSEN, UCATSA, UCATSENSA and UCATSEN50) at a test centre.

Details of access arrangements that can be accommodated in a test centre delivery can be found on the [website](#).

## 3.4 Under 18 candidates

Candidates under the age of 18 do not need to take a parent/guardian with them to the test centre.

## 4 Checklist before test day

Work through this list to make sure you will be ready for your test.

- ⇒ Familiarise yourself with the UCAT Consortium Test Centre Exam Rules (see appendix 1).
- ⇒ Candidates who present themselves to test are declaring themselves fit to sit the test. If you are aware of anything that might affect your performance on the day, you should not sit the test. This includes candidates who fall ill or experience issues on the day of their test. If you are not fit to sit your test, you should reschedule your appointment to a later date, even if this means losing the test fee.
- ⇒ Check you have the correct photo ID and a printed or electronic copy of your appointment confirmation email from Pearson VUE. See section [3.2](#).
- ⇒ Before you set off for your test, make a note of the Test Centre's address and phone number and find it on a map. Ensure you know how long it will take you to get there, and if relevant make sure you have planned where to park to avoid being late.
- ⇒ Make sure you have checked the [Pearson VUE website](#) for any country-specific testing information for attending a Pearson VUE Test Centre at your chosen location. At some centres, candidates without a facemask or face covering are not permitted to test.
- ⇒ At the current time, candidates are permitted to wear disposable gloves if they choose. If you wish to wear these, ensure you take them with you as Pearson VUE are unable to provide these for candidates.

## 5 On test day

### 5.1 Test centre check-in process

You must arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time to complete the check-in process.

If you arrive late, you may not be allowed to take the test and you will have to book and pay for a new test slot on another day. This applies in cases of family emergency, accident, arrest, transport problems and security alert as well as forgetfulness and lateness.

During the check-in process:

- You will be asked to acknowledge that you meet the [Pearson VUE health requirements](#) and that you will follow health and safety guidelines on social distancing while testing.
- You may be required to have your temperature checked upon arrival.
- Your photo ID will be checked and staff will take a digital photograph of you.
- You will be asked to read the UCAT Consortium Test Centre Exam Rules and sign to confirm you understand them. It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with these rules before your appointment as they explain what you need to do if you experience any issues during your test (see appendix 1).
- All personal belongings (including bags, coats, hats or head coverings, papers, books, pens, watches, wallets, keys, IDs, mobile phones, food/water/drinks) must be placed in the lockers provided before you enter the test room. The only exceptions permitted are religious apparel, headwear worn for medical reasons and small hair clips/hairbands (less than 1/2 inch wide). For clarity, nothing is allowed into the testing room apart from the indoor clothes worn and any permitted [comfort aids](#). If you need to access medication or food/drink during your test, you should refer to the [Access Arrangements](#) page for more details.
- Staff will conduct a routine visual inspection of your clothing, hands/arms and any comfort aids. This is to ensure that you do not take any non-permitted items into the test room.
- If you choose to wear disposable gloves, staff will inspect the gloves both before and after the exam, and the gloves will be disposed of in front of the test centre staff upon completion of the test.

If you have any concerns over the check-in process or have a medical condition / disability that you think our test centre staff should be made aware of please contact [Pearson VUE Customer Services](#) at least 5 working days before your test.

## 5.2 Entering the testing room and starting your test

After the check-in process has been completed, you will be taken into the testing room and allocated a desk space at which you will find a PC and keyboard.

Once the invigilator has launched your test, you are under exam conditions. The invigilator will continuously monitor and record you by video while you take your test.

If you need a break to take medication or to use the toilets, please raise your hand to notify the invigilator. The test cannot be paused and will continue running - you will lose time whilst out of the test room. You are advised to take any breaks between subtests to limit the impact on test time.

After completing the test, raise your hand. The invigilator will end your test and escort you from the room to collect your printed score report.

## 5.3 Incidents during the UCAT at a test centre

The UCAT Consortium and our partner Pearson VUE aim to provide a straightforward and convenient way of sitting your test. However, occasionally things may go wrong and we have put systems in place to deal with such circumstances.

If you experience an issue at a test centre, raise your hand to notify the invigilator. The invigilator cannot answer questions related to test content.

### 5.3.1 Illness

If you become ill during your test, notify the Invigilator by raising your hand. If you are not well enough to continue, you should ask the Invigilator to end your test. You then need to contact the UCAT Office as soon as possible. If you choose to continue testing, it is unlikely that UCAT will consider this as mitigating circumstances.

### 5.3.2 Hardware/software problems, noise disturbance or other distractions

If you experience any hardware or software problems, noise disturbance or other distractions notify the Invigilator by raising your hand. If you do not report the problem, it will not be considered as mitigating circumstances by UCAT.

### 5.3.3 Cheating or unprofessional behaviour

You may not copy or record questions or answers from the test using any means, and you may not share or discuss the questions or answers seen in the test with others.

If you are suspected of unprofessional behaviour or cheating, the Invigilator will immediately terminate your test. They will report the violation to Pearson VUE and The UCAT Consortium, along with video evidence. Your test result may be invalidated, and UCAT may take other action,

such as sharing the outcomes of the investigation with legitimate third parties (which may include UCAS and Consortium universities).

#### 5.3.4 Incident Number

If you have experienced an issue during your test, please make sure you obtain an incident number before leaving the test centre. You will need this if you wish Pearson VUE to follow up your issue. If you forget, you can also obtain your incident number by contacting Customer Services.

If you experienced an issue during your UCAT Online and you would like it to be followed up please see our information on [mitigating circumstances](#).



## 6 After the test

### 6.1 UCAT results

- When you leave the test centre, you will be given a copy of your UCAT Score Report.
- Your UCAT score report will be accessible online through your Pearson VUE account approximately 24 hours after your test. See [www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/](http://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/)
- You will have your test result before the UCAS deadline so please ensure you use this to help inform your UCAS choices, otherwise you might be wasting an application. See [www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/how-universities-use-the-ucat/](http://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/how-universities-use-the-ucat/)
- In order to help you make your University choices, you may want to understand how your test result relates to other candidates and scores used by Universities in previous years. This will be of particular interest to those wishing to apply to Universities using a threshold score. Test statistics will be published on the UCAT website in mid-September and once testing has ended. See [www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/test-statistics/](http://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/results/test-statistics/)

### 6.2 Further information

Follow these links for information about:

- ⇒ [Access Arrangements](#)
- ⇒ [Dates and Fees](#)
- ⇒ [Registration and Booking](#)
- ⇒ [Bursary Scheme](#)
- ⇒ [Reschedule and Cancellation Policy](#)
- ⇒ [Official Practice Materials](#)

### 6.3 Further assistance

Please contact **Pearson VUE UCAT Customer Services** ([www.ucat.ac.uk/contact-us/](http://www.ucat.ac.uk/contact-us/)) for advice about the following:

- General enquiries
- Pearson VUE account
- Registration and booking
- Rescheduling and cancelling
- Testing enquiries – online (OnVUE) and test centres
- Results

Please email the **UCAT Office** ([ucat@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ucat@nottingham.ac.uk)) for advice about the following:

- Bursary Scheme
- Access Arrangements / Test Accommodations

## 7 Appendix 1

### UCAT Consortium Test Centre Exam Rules

**Please read these rules carefully as they explain what you must do if you have any issues during testing.**

- Individuals with an affiliation with a UCAT coaching business, for example, in their capacity as a tutor, or as an item developer, or having some financial interest in a UCAT coaching business are not eligible to sit the UCAT.
- You may only test once in any test cycle. Instances of multiple testing in the same cycle will be treated as unprofessional behaviour and all results withdrawn.
- In attending to test you are declaring yourself fit to take the test. If you are not fit to test you must reschedule to a later date. If you choose to sit your test against this advice, UCAT will not consider such issues as mitigating circumstances.
- If you become ill during your test, raise your hand to notify the invigilator. If you are not well enough to continue, you should ask the invigilator to end your test. You then need to contact the UCAT Office as soon as possible. If you choose to continue testing, it is unlikely that UCAT will consider this as mitigating circumstances.
- If you need a break to take medication or to use the toilets, please raise your hand to notify the invigilator. The test cannot be paused and will continue running - you will lose time whilst out of the test room. You are advised to take any breaks between subtests to limit the impact on test time.
- If you experience hardware/software problems, noise disturbance or other distractions, raise your hand to notify the invigilator *immediately*. If you do not report the problem, it will not be considered as mitigating circumstances by UCAT. The invigilator cannot answer questions related to test content.
- No personal belongings are allowed in the test room.
- You may request ear plugs. Headphones are available at workstations and may be used to block out noise.
- You will be given a set of laminated noteboards and a pen. If you require an additional set, raise your hand and request one from the invigilator. There is also an onscreen scratch pad feature built into the test.
- Making noise that may disturb other candidates is prohibited during the test.
- To ensure a high level of security, you will be monitored at all times using CCTV.
- After completing the test, raise your hand. The invigilator will end your test and escort you from the room to collect your printed score report.

- You may not share or discuss the questions or answers from your test with other individuals.

**Your privacy:** Your exam results will be encrypted and transmitted to Pearson VUE and the exam sponsor. The test centre does not retain any information other than when and where your exam was taken. The Pearson VUE Privacy Policy Statement provides additional information regarding this which you can obtain by visiting the Pearson VUE Web site ([www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com)) or by contacting a Pearson VUE Call Centre.

**Candidate Statement:** *By providing a digital signature, I give Pearson VUE my explicit consent to retain and transmit my personal data and test responses to Pearson VUE and to the exam sponsor (either of which may be outside of the country in which I am testing). I understand the information provided above and agree to follow the Rules. If I do not follow the Rules or I am suspected of cheating or tampering with the computer, this will be reported to Pearson VUE and the exam sponsor, my exam may be invalidated, the sponsor may take other action, and I will not be refunded my exam fee.*