Access Arrangements: Diabetes

Candidates with diabetes may need access arrangements to manage their condition during their test.

What test version should I take?

The UCAT is a 2 hour timed, computer-based test, which once started, cannot be paused. For most candidates the standard test will be suitable. If you are usually entitled to rest breaks during public exams we have a version of the test called the UCATSA, which has the standard test timings, but with 5 minute instruction sections before each subtest. To sit this version of the test you must apply for approval with supporting evidence.

What can I take into the test room <u>without</u> prior approval?

The following items are classed as 'comfort aids' and are permitted in the testing room following a visual inspection.
- Continuous glucose monitoring device or insulin pump (without a remote control) attached to the candidate's body
- Glucose tablets (must be unwrapped and not in a container).

A full list of permitted comfort aids is available here:
https://home.pearsonvue.com/Test-takers/Accommodations/Pearson-VUE-Comfort-Aid-List-PDF.aspx

What can I take into the test room <u>with</u> prior approval?

If you need to access the following items during your test you can apply (with supporting evidence) for approval to have them at your workstation. You will need to test in a separate room but this means that you can manage your condition without having to leave the room. However, you should note that the availability of a separate room cannot be guaranteed at certain times of the year and in certain locations.

- **Drinks or food**
  You must follow these rules:
  o Drinks must be in a transparent, spill-proof bottle with a spout.
  o Food must be in a small, transparent plastic bag.
  o Hard candy (sweets) must be unwrapped and not in a container.
  o You must place your food/drink away from the workstation while testing.
  o You may not eat or drink over or near the workstation. You are responsible for any damage to the testing room related to your food/drink.
- **Diabetic testing supplies** (e.g. glucose monitor)
- **Mobile phone as a diabetes-monitoring device**
  o Only a mobile phone without a SIM card (i.e. it cannot access a mobile network) can be taken into the test area to use as a diabetes-monitoring device. You will be expected to demonstrate that it is SIM free to test centre staff. If approved the Test Centre is notified in advance with instructions for administering the appointment.

All these items will be visually inspected before being allowed into the testing room.

How do I apply for approval?

You must make an 'Access Arrangements' application with supporting evidence at least 5 working days before your test. If you leave it very late to apply, your options may be limited depending on test slot availability. We will not process any applications after 12 noon (BST) on 22 September 2021. Details of how to apply can be found here https://www.ucat.ac.uk/register/access-arrangements/

If you already have a test booked the date, time or place may need to be changed. Testing without access arrangements in place will not be accepted as a mitigating circumstance.

What if I turn up to test without approval?

If you arrive to test without an approved accommodation you will be asked to store any items in a locker and will only be able to use them outside the testing room (with the exception of a mobile phone used as diabetes-monitoring device) whilst your test time continues to countdown. The Test Centre will create an incident report describing what occurred so that the UCAT Office can take any follow up action if necessary.

What if I become ill during my test?

If you become ill during your test, notify the invigilator. If you are not well enough to continue, you should ask the invigilator to end your test. If you choose to continue testing, UCAT will not accept this as a mitigating circumstance.

You should make sure that the incident is recorded by the test centre and you are given a case number, so that the UCAT Office can take any follow up action if necessary.

You then need to email the UCAT Office as soon as possible (usually within 1 working day of your test) to arrange for your test to be rescheduled.