

ISAT EXAM 2026

Complete Guide Eligibility, Test Format & Registration

Everything international students need to know before sitting the International Student Admissions Test (ISAT) for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy admissions in 2026.

Prepared using official ACER ISAT guidance ([isat.acer.org](https://www.isat.acer.org))

1. What Is the ISAT?

The **International Student Admissions Test (ISAT)** is a 3-hour, online, multiple-choice admissions test independently developed by the **Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)**. It is required as one part of the entry application for international students applying to a select group of high-demand university courses — mainly Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy — at universities in Australia, Estonia, Spain and Ireland.

ISAT does not test subject-specific knowledge (no biology, physics or chemistry syllabus to memorise). Instead, it measures general cognitive skills — critical reasoning and quantitative reasoning — that predict readiness for demanding, high-stakes university programs.

2. Which Universities Require ISAT?

ISAT is a mandatory requirement for international applicants to the following programs:

University	Program
Monash University, Melbourne	Undergraduate Medicine
Monash University, Malaysia campus	Undergraduate Medicine
University of New South Wales (UNSW)	Bachelor of Medical Studies / Doctor of Medicine
University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Medical Science & Doctor of Medicine (H3X)
University of Western Australia (UWA)	Direct Pathway — graduate-entry Medicine & Dentistry
Western Sydney University (WSU)	Undergraduate Medicine (via International Office)
University of Limerick, Ireland	Occupational Therapy; Speech & Language Therapy
Estonian University of Life Sciences	Veterinary Medicine
Universidad de Navarra, Spain	Undergraduate Medicine

Always confirm on the specific university's admissions page whether ISAT is required for your intake, as requirements can change by program and campus.

3. Who Should Take ISAT (Eligibility)

ISAT is designed specifically for **international students** applying to the courses listed above. There is no fixed age or academic-percentage cut-off set by ACER itself — eligibility to apply is instead governed by each individual university's admission requirements. In practice, you should register for ISAT if:

- You are an international (non-domestic) applicant to one of the participating universities and programs listed on page 1.
- The university you are applying to explicitly lists ISAT as a required or accepted admissions test on its official course page.
- You meet that university's own academic prerequisites (e.g. required school-leaving qualification, English proficiency such as IELTS/TOEFL, and any subject prerequisites) in addition to sitting ISAT.

Important: ISAT is only one component of a holistic admissions review — universities also weigh your academic transcripts, English-language test scores, and (for some programs) interviews or personal statements alongside your ISAT result.

4. Key Dates for ISAT 2026

Test Window	Dates	Resit Days
Window 1	19 – 30 January 2026	29 – 30 Jan
Window 2	27 April – 8 May 2026	7 – 8 May
Window 3	27 July – 7 August 2026	6 – 7 Aug
Window 4	26 October – 6 November 2026	5 – 6 Nov

Note: The last 2 days of every test window are reserved for resits only. You may only re-sit ISAT 12 months after your previous sitting. Always check [isat.acer.org](https://www.isat.acer.org) for the live, confirmed 2026 schedule before planning.

5. ISAT Exam Pattern & Structure

Feature	Detail
Conducting body	Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)
Mode	Online, remote-proctored (via ProctorU) computer-based test
Duration	3 hours (180 minutes), single sitting
Total questions	100 multiple-choice questions (4 or 5 options each)
Sections	Critical Reasoning + Quantitative Reasoning (integrated across the paper, presented in units)
Marking scheme	+1 mark per correct answer; no negative marking for wrong answers
Testing cycles	4 test windows per year
Re-sit rule	Only after 12 months from your last sitting

The two skill areas assessed:

Critical Reasoning	Quantitative Reasoning
Comprehending and analysing information, understanding and extending ideas, drawing appropriate conclusions, and evaluating arguments. Draws on material from the humanities and social sciences.	Analysis and application of information, drawing conclusions, making decisions, and solving problems. Draws on material from mathematics and the sciences.

ISAT does **not** test curriculum-specific subject knowledge — there is no fixed 'syllabus' of topics to memorise. It measures reasoning skills built up over years of reading, thinking critically, and working with data, tables and graphs.

6. Registration Process

- **Step 1:** Read the pre-registration requirements and information on isat.acer.org.
- **Step 2:** Create an ACER account.
- **Step 3:** Register for ISAT through your ACER account and pay the registration fee.
- **Step 4:** Register for a ProctorU account (the remote-proctoring partner).
- **Step 5:** Receive an invitation from the ISAT Office to book your session with ProctorU.
- **Step 6:** Book your test session with ProctorU.
- **Step 7:** Work through official preparation materials.
- **Step 8:** Review test-day requirements (ID, technical setup, permitted items) before sitting.

7. Fees & Practical Details

Item	Detail
Registration fee	AUD 435 (paid online by credit card at registration)
Deferral fee	AUD 72 (a sitting can be deferred once, to a later test window)
Test location	Remote, from any location meeting technical requirements (proctored by ProctorU)
Results turnaround	Released within 2 weeks of the close of the test window
ISAT ID	Issued at registration — must be quoted correctly on every university application

Reasonable adjustments: If you have a disability or health-related need, you can apply for reasonable adjustments (extra time, rest breaks, permitted aids, etc.) after registering. Applications must be submitted well before the close of registration for your chosen window and are assessed case-by-case.

8. How to Prepare for ISAT

Because ISAT tests reasoning ability rather than memorised syllabus content, last-minute cramming has limited value. ACER itself notes that unregulated 'ISAT coaching courses' are not endorsed or affiliated with ACER — approach paid prep courses with caution and evaluate their claims critically.

What actually helps:

- Read widely and regularly — especially analytical, argument-based writing (editorials, research summaries, scientific commentary).
- Practise interpreting graphs, tables and data sets quickly and accurately.
- Work through the two official ACER practice tests (available for purchase via the registration portal) under real timed conditions.
- Learn the test interface in advance: 100 questions in 180 minutes averages under 2 minutes per question — pacing is critical (aim for ~50 questions by the 90-minute mark).
- Read every answer option before selecting one, and mark your best guess rather than leaving a question blank — there is no penalty for wrong answers.
- Flag uncertain questions and revisit them at the end using the review screen, rather than losing time mid-test.

Quick Exam-Day Checklist

- Valid government-issued photo ID with signature, ready to show your proctor.
- Stable internet connection and a quiet, private room meeting ProctorU's technical requirements.
- Confirmation of registration email saved and accessible.
- Login credentials for your ACER and ProctorU accounts tested in advance.
- Arrive/log in early for identity verification before your scheduled slot.

Disclaimer: This guide is compiled from publicly available official ISAT information (isat.acer.org) for educational purposes.

Dates, fees and requirements can change — always confirm the latest details on the official ACER ISAT website and your target university's admissions page before registering.