



## THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

The International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT) is the result of a close collaboration between the Italian Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MIUR), Cambridge ESOL's Admissions Testing Service and major Italian universities. The universities, with MIUR, offer undergraduate courses that are taught in English and open to applicants within and outside of Italy. As part of this initiative, there are a number of places for both home and overseas students who wish to study medicine and surgery.

Applicants for existing courses taught in Italian take an Italian admissions test, with the available places awarded to those scoring highest on the test. MIUR approached the Admissions Testing Service in April 2011 to develop and deliver the English language equivalent of the Italian admissions test, called the International Medical Admissions Test (IMAT). The first live test was delivered in September 2011.

In 2011, the Universities of Rome "La Sapienza", Milan and Pavia used the IMAT for entry to medicine and surgery courses. The number of Italian universities using IMAT has doubled in 2012, with



**“We have developed the IMAT to help universities select the best students from all over the world.”**

Bari, Rome “Tor Vergata” and the Second University of Naples joining the group.

On 5 September 2012, the test was administered to over 4,300 students from all over the world; more than double the number who took the test in 2011.

The Admissions Testing Service worked in conjunction with the universities to share marketing

plans, helping to maximise the number of applicants from specific regions around the world. The test took place at all six Italian universities, and at secure test centres sourced by the Admissions Testing Service in five other countries. Answer sheets for scanning were processed in Cambridge and Bologna within 48 hours of the test taking place, with provision of results to the universities in less than one week.

The Admissions Testing Service has extensive experience in designing and delivering admissions tests for medicine: the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), used by UK and Singaporean medical schools, has been in operation since 2003. This experience enabled the Admissions Testing Service to meet the specific requirements of Italian universities.

The test development process was rigorous and robust, with multiple quality checks from experienced item writers, software to generate randomised paper-based tests for improved security, and the use of negative scoring. The 2-hour test consists of 80 multiple-choice questions divided into two sections: 40 problem-solving and critical thinking questions, and a further 40 evaluating scientific expertise in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics.

“Italian universities are recognised as an attractive alternative for students around the world who seek a high-quality education in a congenial environment,” said Nick Beer, Cambridge ESOL’s Regional Manager, Italy & Malta. “Along with many other universities that offer courses in medicine in English, we have developed the IMAT to help them select the best students from all over the world.”

Daniele Livon, Director General at MIUR, commented: “We are pleased to be working with the Admissions Testing Service and will ensure that our joint efforts continue to deliver useful information for the universities involved.”

### About the Admissions Testing Service

The Admissions Testing Service is part of the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge. It offers a range of tests and tailored assessment services to support selection and recruitment for governments, educational institutions and professional organisations around the world. Underpinned by robust and rigorous research, its services include:

- assessments in thinking skills
- admissions tests for medicine and healthcare
- behavioural styles assessment
- subject-specific aptitude tests.

*If you would like to talk to someone about how the Admissions Testing Service can support you with the international recruitment and selection of students, please contact us:*

The Admissions Testing Service  
University of Cambridge ESOL  
Examinations  
1 Hills Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 2EU  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1223 553366  
Email: [admissionstests@cambridgeassessment.org.uk](mailto:admissionstests@cambridgeassessment.org.uk)  
Website:  
[www.admissionstestingsservice.org](http://www.admissionstestingsservice.org)



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
ESOL Examinations



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca