



National
Institute of
Education

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How can I prepare for the UCAT? What services and products can NIE help you with?

NIE has been the leaders in undergraduate medical admission preparation programs since 1999. Over the past 20 Years, we have helped thousands of successful applicants to realise their dreams and commence their work in the medical industry. At NIE, we pride ourselves in offering the highest level of quality of preparation resources as well as meticulous personal client relations.

Since the introduction of the UCAT in 2018, we have worked hard to provide our clients with the absolute best resources that are available in the market. As the result, the National Institute of Education has partnered with Kaplan Institute and is now a 'Kaplan Certified Education Provider'.

In addition to other services, this arrangement allows NIE to provide products and services in partnership from the leading test preparation provider in the world.



Certified Education Provider

Who is KAPLAN?

Kaplan Test Prep is the world leader in test preparation and has served millions of students since it was founded over 75 years ago. Kaplan offers preparation for more than 90 standardized tests for college and graduate school admissions and English-language proficiency, plus programs to prepare professionals for a variety of licensing exams in various fields. Kaplan students benefit from high-quality academic content and materials, realistic practice experiences, proven score-raising strategies, and a choice of course delivery methods. Kaplan Test Prep is a division of Kaplan, Inc., a subsidiary of Graham Holdings Company

Go to www.nie.edu.au/products-listing



NIE's other services include:

- UCAT Preparation workshops
- UCAT & GAMSAT tutoring
- Medical Interview preparation workshops
- 1-on-1 medical interview training
- Application review and support services
- UCAT, HPAT, ISAT and other practice books and resources

Note: for the most up to date information about our services please go to the NIE.EDU.AU website and sign up for the newsletter. You may also wish to join our Social Media platforms,



UCAT NIE

For help and advice about medical interviews and interview preparation please contact our Interview program coordinator, Mr. Zobair Bary on 0412 439 115 or via email at: medinterviews@nie.edu.au

UCAT Preparation Plan

YEAR 10 Plan – The soft-start preparation approach

UCAT

- Step 1. Visit ucat.edu.au and nie.edu.au websites and familiarise yourself with the UCAT format. Attempt the free trial tests via the official UCAT website.
- Step 2. Purchase some UCAT preparation books. Visit NIE **Book Shop** for the best titles. Also, consider purchasing an interview preparation book as it is another important step of the admission process.
- Step 3. Spend 1 to 2 hours per week on UCAT and few interview questions. The frequency and time spent preparing will have to increase in Year 11.
- Step 4. Recommended – attend the NIE ‘Simulated UCAT Day’ workshop. The workshop is great for gaining a better knowledge of the test, acquiring relevant UCAT strategies, and learning about the medical admission process in more detail. As part of this workshop you will also attempt a full mock test.

YEAR 11 Plan – Important time to start UCAT preparation

- Step 1. Visit ucat.edu.au and nie.edu.au websites and familiarise yourself with the UCAT format. Attempt the free trial tests on the official UCAT website.
- Step 2. Get yourself a UCAT preparation book and work on your foundation skills. By August you will need to start active UCAT practice of about 2 hours per week. Sign up for KAPLAN Online UCAT Course on the NIE website. Strengthen your skills and competency in solving UCAT-style questions by the start of Year 12.
- Step 3. The secret to success in the UCAT preparation is consistency over a longer period of time instead of frequency in short bursts. Hence, avoid leaving your work for weekends and school holidays.
- Step 4. *Highly recommended* – attend the NIE ‘Simulated UCAT Day’ workshop. The workshop is great for gaining a better knowledge of the test, acquiring UCAT strategies, and learning about the medical admission process in more detail. As part of this workshop you will also attempt a full mock test.

YEAR 12 & Older – Efficient & effective preparation time!

- Step 1. Visit ucat.edu.au and register for the test!
- Step 2. Sign up for KAPLAN Online UCAT Course on the NIE website and start preparing immediately. The frequency of preparation will depend on your individual performance and existing skill level.
- Step 3. REMEMBER - The secret to successful UCAT preparation is consistency in practice over a longer period of time over frequency in short bursts. Hence, avoid leaving UCAT work for holidays.
- Step 4. *Highly recommended* – attend the NIE ‘Simulated UCAT Day’ workshop. We also recommend that you attend the ‘2-day Kaplan Classroom Workshop’ to fast track your preparation. It is also imperative to start seriously preparing for the interviews, and not leaving this for the last minute.

For information about available UCAT & Interview Preparation Resources visit:

nie.edu.au



NIE Book Shop

Our online bookshop offers a variety of high-quality books to help you prepare for the UCAT, medical admission interviews and communication skills. The titles have been carefully selected based on their quality and the publisher's reputation in related fields.

Year 10 Students: Preparation Books are a good place to start. At this stage your preparation towards UCAT and interviews should be relaxed but regular enough to ensure a higher level of readiness by the time you sit the UCAT. We recommend, that you work on your communication skills, while keeping the medical interviews in mind. As for the UCAT preparation, it is recommended that you spend about 30 minutes 2 to 3 times per week, going through some practice questions.



Workshops

Simulated UCAT Day (SUD) workshop: The SUD workshop is a highly popular service offered by our company. During this 1-day intensive program, you will learn the most fundamental strategies of approach to all 5 sections of the UCAT. You will also attempt a full UCAT-style mock test, which will allow you to identify your strengths and weaknesses. The day is concluded with feedback and information session titles 'pathways into medicine'.

Kaplan Classroom 2-Day Advanced Workshop: This is an advanced 2-Day UCAT preparation program run in small group environment (25 max). As part of this package students also gain access to the Kaplan Online Course. These resources include well over 4000 practice questions, 6 practice tests and 10 hours of additional recorded tutorials. You will also receive the Kaplan UCAT Strategy hardcopy textbook.

This program is also available as a Live-online course to cater for those that cannot attend the in-person classroom. For more information please [visit nie.edu.au](http://nie.edu.au).

Interview Training Workshop: Our Interview training workshops have helped hundreds of successful applicants to competently pass their medical admission interviews and have a very high success rate. These workshops are limited to a small group of 14 students and are conducted by high level specialists including experienced health professional and Government Accredited Teachers. Participants have to be at least in Year 10 of school or above. As the numbers are strictly limited, the workshop needs to be booked well in advance.



Online UCAT Training Courses

In order to provide our students with the best service, we have partnered with the leaders in the UCAT test preparation. With over 50 years of experience in various test preparation, Kaplan is by far the biggest name in the industry. The Kaplan UCAT Online Course provides the most comprehensive platform for UCAT preparation.

Kaplan Question Bank: This is a great resource, especially if you do not have much time left to prepare for the test. The Q.Bank provides students with access to over 3700 practice questions (including 3 full practice tests). The user can also create their own mini tests from a bank of over 2500 questions.

Kaplan Online Course: The Kaplan Online Course entails a full-structured course, within which students have access to over 3600 questions, practice tests and recorded tutorials. With the online course you are also given complementary access to the Question Bank, hence the total number of practice question at this course is in excess of 7000.

Training Packages

While you can purchase products or enrol into any of our services individually, NIE also offers complete UCAT training packages, which include a variety of products and services.

UCAT Advanced Training Package



Package includes:

- ✚ Kaplan – “Score Higher in the UCAT” textbook with theory, 1500 practice questions, detailed explanations and online access to practice questions.
- ✚ Kaplan Online UCAT Course including 7000+ questions.
- ✚ Simulated UCAT Day Workshop.

UCAT Comprehensive Training Package



Package includes:

- ✚ All three inclusions (components) of the UCAT Advance package plus;
- ✚ Interview Training Workshop.
- ✚ Interview Techniques textbook by NIE.

Important changes to the Admissions Test for Medicine/Dentistry/Clinical Sciences applicants

2018 was the final year for students to sit the UMAT. The current admission test is called the UCAT or (University Clinical Aptitude Test).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The UCAT is now the mandatory admissions test for the courses and programs listed for 2020 entry onwards.

WHEN DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE UCAT?

Registration for the UCAT will open in March of the year, that you will be sitting the UCAT in. It closes in mid-May. Details of the test, including how to register, are available on the UCAT website ucat.edu.au

WHAT IS TESTED IN THE UCAT?

The UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) is a 2-hour computer-based test. Candidates will sit the test at Pearson VUE test centres located in Australia, New Zealand and some overseas centres.

The UCAT will be offered on a choice of dates throughout the entire month of July.

The test consists of five, separately timed, subtests:

- Verbal Reasoning
- Decision Making
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Abstract Reasoning
- Situational Judgement Test



The Australian University courses, which will require the UCAT for 2021 entry include:

The University of Adelaide	Medicine, Dental Surgery, Oral Health
Curtin University	Medicine
Monash University	Medicine
The University of Newcastle/UNE	Joint Medical Program
The University of New South Wales	Medicine
The University of Queensland	Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science
University of Tasmania	Medicine
The University of Western Australia	Medicine (Direct Pathway), Dental Medicine (Direct Pathway)
Western Sydney University	Medicine
Charles Sturt University	Dental Science, JMP (CSU & WSU)
Flinders University	Clinical Sciences / Medicine
La Trobe University	Dental Science

The third and final step in your journey into an undergraduate medical degree is the medical interview. This step is paramount and just as important as the required ATAR and UCAT scores. Applicants quite often overlook this step, as they assume that the skills in the interview are natural and that they either have it or they don't. Others assume that the interview is merely about the university wanting to get to know you and that the questions will be straightforward.

The truth is very different. Although it is true that there will be questions in the interview that allow the interviewer to get to know you better, many other trick questions are asked to test you on many different character facets and attributes. This would be less of a problem if the applicant were given sufficient time in a relaxed environment to calmly and comfortably exhibit their best attributes. The reality is that only very few naturally have the character capacity and the required skill to keep them calm and collected in an interview of this calibre, where their future depends on it. Furthermore, many universities are now opting for an MMI (Multi Mini Interview) setting, which really makes it difficult to build a rapport with the interviewer, as you are only given 6-8 minutes to answer a question. Further to this, many stations are scenario-based, where the interviewee is put in an unfamiliar or uncomfortable position with two or more seemingly obvious pathways before them. Scenario questions really push the boundaries of character attributes and skill.

In short - preparing for your interview is just as important as preparing for your school exams and the UCAT. So do not leave this important step until it is too late.

How do I prepare for the interview?

The best way to prepare for the interview, is by firstly learning how NOT TO prepare! In short, interview preparation is not about learning and practicing rote answers. In fact, learning answers by rote is the most dangerous type of interview preparation and only very incompetent and inexperienced interview coaches would teach this method. *One of the main reasons that universities strongly oppose these types of interview preparation organisations is that they are worried that students will be taught and prepared poorly,* affecting both the university and the interviewee.

When a student has been prepared badly, the university may miss out on a good and valid applicant simply because they came across as overly prepared and therefore non-genuine. This is a very real possibility, as most scholars take the default option of over-preparing when under stress. If you are taught answers by rote, it is likely that you will start answering question during the real interview with your pre-rehearsed answers – which additionally unfold in a mechanical and unintentional manner. An experienced interviewer picks up on this very quickly and can respond with a mark of zero. In a structured panel interview you may be given a fighting chance to rephrase and improve your replies, but in an MMI situation time will be against you and failure becomes immanent. This results in a lose-lose situation for all involved.

Also, remember that at the end of the day, a career in medicine requires a massive amount of physical, mental and emotional strength, and the only people that will enjoy this career and excel in it are those who really have the passion for the field, along with a complimentary character. If you are not the right person for a place in the course you apply for, it is better to find this out during your interview preparation as we encourage you to dig deep within yourself, rather than mid-interview, or even mid-course. The best way for you to prepare for your medical interview is to

consult with NIE, explore your Interview Techniques Manual, follow our mental training processes, go over your practice interview questions, and attend NIE interview training.

Correct interview preparation technique

At NIE we take a grass-root approach when it comes to preparing students for their medical interview. The interview process is essentially a sales process, except the salesperson is also the product that is being sold. In order to successfully sell any product, the salesperson not only needs to know the product really well, but also genuinely believe in its performance. This means, that the interviewee must know all of their own attributes in detail, including special skills, interests, strengths, weaknesses, and experiences. *Hint: the first attributes that spring to your mind may not be the appropriate ones.*

We also teach a range of strategies that help interviewees arrange their answers in a more presentable and structured manner. The biggest problems during the interviews are thought patterns and behaviours caused by stress and high anxiety. Interviewees forget important information about themselves, miss key opportunities to maximise impact, deliver their message mechanically or in a forgettable way, or present in a manner that does more harm than good.

NIE conducts a range of different interview training sessions as per the list below:

- **One Day group workshop (limited to 14 students)** - This is a great starting point for people of all ages and levels of experience. Most students find this structure sufficient and do not require any further training.
- **Advanced Interview workshop** – Subject to availability, this workshop is ideal for those that would like to learn more about the interviews, the psychological aspects, in-depth understanding of marking criteria and selection process.
- **Intensive MMI Drill workshop – intensive 3 hour program**, which includes mock stations, marking criteria and feedback. Ideal for those who have had some level of training and practice and just want to specifically focus on MMI type scenarios.
- **One-on-one interview training (in person or via Skype)** - this style of training is available for those who may require some extra assistance, or were not able to attend a workshop. NIE offers one-on-one interview training programs in person in various cities, or via Skype.

For more information about the NIE Medical Interviews Program, please visit www.nie.edu.au or call **1300 974 187**

