



UAT-UK Ltd

Annual Reports **2024-2025**

Candidate Data

Published September 2025

Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Aims and Objectives of UAT-UK	3
3. About the tests	4
4. Candidate Numbers for 2025 Entry	5
4.1 Candidate Numbers by Test	5
4.2 Candidate Numbers by Sitting	5
4.3 Candidate Numbers by Geography	6
5. UAT-UK Bursary Scheme	6
6. Access Arrangements	7
7. Candidate Experience	8



1. Executive Summary

UAT-UK was founded as a joint venture between the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London on 1st December 2023. In its first year of operation, UAT-UK offered two undergraduate, computer-based admissions tests: the Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA) and the Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT).

UAT-UK is ultimately governed by the UAT-UK Board, consisting of three Directors from each founding institution. A small, dedicated team manages the day-to-day operations of UAT-UK and oversees content development, test construction, test quality and test delivery via Pearson VUE.

After a competitive tender process, UAT-UK opted to use Pearson VUE as a delivery partner because of its extensive network of over 5500 professional test centres, across 180+ countries and territories. In 2024-25, UAT-UK is pleased to confirm that tests were taken in 120 different countries, thus demonstrating that the tests are truly global. Key markets outside of the UK included China, Hong Kong, France, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Türkiye, the UAE, and the United States.

Separate technical reports have been published relating to performance in both the ESAT and the TMUA. They can be [found here](#). When candidates register for the test, they complete a questionnaire about their demographic characteristics such as gender, ethnicity and school type. Performance by demographic is reported in the technical reports, however, in summary, trends observed in both the ESAT and the TMUA generally follow national trends for mathematics-based exams. UAT-UK will continue to monitor test performance; candidate feedback and other data recorded here and is committed to the continuous improvement of the tests.

This report has been prepared by the Chief Operating Officer, UAT-UK, and signed off by the Board of Directors, including any actions arising.

Any enquiries relating to this report should be directed to UAT-UK [via the form on our website](#).

2. Aims and Objectives of UAT-UK

UAT-UK was set up with the aims of:

- i. Streamlining the applicant experience and ensuring a smooth experience in booking and taking an admissions test,
- ii. Enabling applicants, where feasible, to take a single admissions test per subject area across all of their UCAS choices.
- iii. Providing a fair, robust and reliable way for institutions to differentiate between top applicants, with similar qualifications.

UAT-UK is committed to:

- iv. Maintaining equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). This is reflected in all policies and processes including the facilitation of access arrangements, the UAT-UK bursary scheme and the analyses of test performance,
- v. Minimising bias in respect of gender, age, ethnicity or socio-economic status,
- vi. Reducing financial barriers to entry through the UAT-UK bursary scheme.

3. About the tests

This report relates to the 2025 admissions cycle. UAT-UK offered two tests in two sittings, October 2024 and January 2025. Both sittings were available to all candidates, except those applying to a relevant course at the University of Cambridge who were required to sit in the October sitting. Candidates are only permitted to take a test once per admissions cycle; resits were not permitted in the January sitting.

Each test was offered across two days with appointments available throughout the day. Both tests required the candidate to book and pay for their own test. The cost of a test was £75 for candidates in the UK and Republic of Ireland and £130 for candidates sitting anywhere else in the world.

The ESAT consists of five modules: Mathematics 1, Mathematics 2, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Candidates are all required to take Mathematics 1 plus one to three other modules depending on the courses they are applying for. Each module is 40 minutes in duration and modules are taken consecutively. Each module is scored separately.

The TMUA is a non-modular test, made up of two papers: Applications of Mathematical Knowledge and Mathematical Reasoning. Candidates are given a maximum of 75 minutes per paper and receive one overall score for the test.

For 2025 entry, there were five institutional users of tests. The University of Cambridge and Imperial College London used both tests. Durham University, the London School of Economics, and the University of Warwick all used the TMUA. Although all institutions use the test scores in conjunction with various other aspects of a candidate's UCAS application, UAT-UK does not dictate how each institution uses test scores and hence this might vary from university to university.

4. Candidate Numbers for 2025 Entry

For 2025 entry, 27,052 candidates booked a UAT-UK test¹.

The following tables set out the split across home and overseas candidates, the October and January sittings, and across the two different tests.

4.1 Candidate Numbers by Test

Table 1 Division of Candidates Across the ESAT and the TMUA.

Test	Total Booked	Percentage (%)	Total Delivered
ESAT	12,466	46.1	11,858
TMUA	14,586	53.9	13,845

4.2 Candidate Numbers by Sitting

Table 2 Division of Candidates by Sitting and Test.

Sitting	Test	Total Booked	Percentage of Sitting (%)	Total Delivered
October	ESAT	9487	50.3	9090
	TMUA	9354	49.7	8982
	Total	18,841		
January	ESAT	2979	36.3	2768
	TMUA	5232	63.7	4863
	Total	8211		

¹ Inclusive of 'no-shows' where a candidate did not cancel their booking but was not present for their test and hence no test score will be reported.

4.3 Candidate Numbers by Geography

Table 3 Division of Candidates by Sitting, Test and Geography.

Sitting	Test	Total Booked UK	Total Booked Overseas
October	ESAT	5352	4135
	TMUA	5656	3698
	Total	11,008	7833
January	ESAT	1500	1479
	TMUA	3016	2216
	Total	4516	3695

Table 3 Division of Overseas Candidates by Continent.

Geography	Candidate Count
Africa	173
Asia	8745
Europe	1789
North America	650
Oceania	135
South America	36

5. UAT-UK Bursary Scheme

UAT-UK offered full bursary vouchers, covering the entire cost of registration, to candidates in the UK that could demonstrate financial need through one of the following criteria:

- Eligibility for free school meals
- Eligibility for the 16-19 Bursary or EMA
- Eligibility for (either the candidate or a parent/guardian living at the same address) one of the following government-issued, means tested benefits:
 - Universal credit

- Working tax credit
- Child tax credit
- Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

UAT-UK is committed to keeping the list of criteria under review each year to ensure that it is in line with sector practice and is maximising the number of candidates awarded a bursary. For 2025 entry, across both sittings, UAT-UK approved requests for a bursary voucher for **96.7%** of candidates who made an application.

Table 5 Bursaries Issued in the UK by Sitting.

Sitting	Bursaries Issued	Percentage of UK Candidates (%)
October	843	7.7%
January	528	11.7%
Total	1371	8.8%

6. Access Arrangements

Access arrangements are pre-approved adjustments that enable candidates to sit assessments without unnecessary barriers, while ensuring no unfair advantage is given. UAT-UK uses a single marking scheme for all candidates, so results remain valid and reflect true attainment.

Candidates requiring access arrangements must submit requests earlier than those booking standard appointments, to allow UAT-UK and Pearson VUE sufficient time to identify a suitable test slot and implement the necessary adjustments. Each request was reviewed by UAT-UK in line with Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance.

Reasonable adjustments that could be made as standard included:

- Additional time
- Supervised rest breaks (clock paused)
- Adjustable height desks
- Use of earplugs
- Use of a screen overlay
- Invigilation in a separate room
- Use of a human reader and/or recorder

In addition, all tests had zoom-in/out functionality as standard and the ability to change the background colour for enhanced contrast.

All requests were considered on a case-by-case basis, and the list above was not exhaustive of the adjustments made over the admissions cycle.

Table 6 Total Bookings Made with Access Arrangements by Sitting.

Sitting	Candidates with Access Arrangements	Percentage of Candidates (%)
October	776	4.1
January	450	5.5
Total	1226	4.5

Table 7 Summary of Access Arrangements by Type

Sitting	Access Arrangements	Percentage of Arrangements in Place (%)
October	Extra time only (inc. rest breaks)	71.0
	Extra time and separate invigilation (inc. rest breaks)	10.1
	Three or more adjustments	16.1
	Other, non-standard arrangements	2.7
January	Extra time only (inc. rest breaks)	75.0
	Extra time and separate invigilation (inc. rest breaks)	10.8
	Three or more adjustments	12.8
	Other, non-standard arrangements	1.5

7. Candidate Experience

At the end of every test, candidates were asked to complete an optional survey about their experience booking and sitting a UAT-UK test. This took place at their workstation in the Pearson

VUE Test Centre and each survey consisted of four multiple choice questions with answers ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree and one free-text field for additional feedback.

Across the two sittings, 20,805 individual candidates opted to complete the survey, giving a **participation rate of 80.9%**. Both tests and both UK and overseas candidates were well represented in the participant pool.

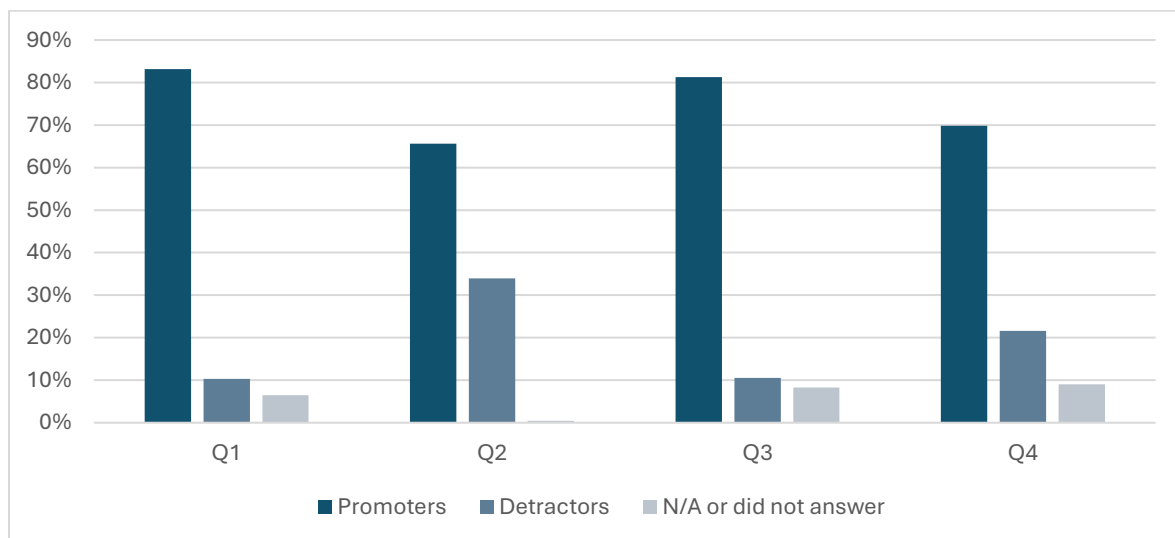
Table 8 End of Test Survey Respondents by Test and Location.

Test	Geography	Participants
ESAT	UK	5587 (85.2%)
	Overseas	4619 (87.2%)
TMUA	UK	6331 (76.1%)
	Overseas	4377 (79.1%)

The questions asked were as follows:

1. Booking a test on the Pearson VUE website was a straightforward process.
2. I was able to my first choice of test centre.
3. I found the experience at my test centre, on the day of my test, to be a positive one.
4. I found the preparatory materials on the UAT-UK and Pearson VUE websites to be useful.

Figure 1 Survey Responses by Question.



In all cases, the vast majority of candidates answered positively. The question with the lowest positive response rate of 66% was related to a candidate being able to book at their first choice of Test Centre. The candidate experience at the Test Centre was notably high, and improved between the October and January sitting, with 90% of UK candidates who sat in January responding positively to this question.