UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

UCC, RCSI, UCD, UL

2026 Graduate Entry Medicine

Guidelines for CAO Applicants

UCD DUBLIN
University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

RCSI UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Contents

Admissions Criteria 2
GAMSAT 2
Application Process 3
Supporting Documentation 3
EU Fees Status Eligibility 4
Sending Documents to CAO 4
Eligibility Screening, Outcomes & Appeals 4
Offers 5
Mature Applicants 5
2026 Timelines 6
GAMSAT cut-offs 2021 / 2022 / 2023 /2024/2025 6
Contacts 7
Checklist 7
Other resources 7
Appeals Frequently Asked Questions 8

Admissions Criteria

1. Candidates must hold, or expect to hold by July 1 2026, a minimum 2H1 (second class honours, grade one, or equivalent) award in their **first Level 8** undergraduate Bachelor Honours degree (equivalent to NFQ Level 8 https://nfq.qqi.ie).

2. Candidates must be eligible for EU fees to compete for a CAO place.

3. If you have at any time ever resided, or are at present resident, outside the EU, then you must contact each institution to which you are applying, well in advance of your CAO application to verify your EU/UK Fee Status eligibility. You should include copies of your correspondence with each Higher Education Institution (HEI) as part of your application which confirms your EU fees status. This is usually an email from the Fees or Admissions Office.

4. For candidates who meet the above requirements (2H1 Honours Level 8 degree award and EU fees status), the GAMSAT (Graduate Medical Schools Admissions Test) will be the sole instrument to select students. A minimum score of 53 University of Limerick (UL) was required in 2025 to receive an offer of a place.

5. Applicants who previously started a medical programme must be in good academic standing at the institution previously attended. Applicants who have withdrawn from any other medical programme should contact the Admissions Office before applying

6. ***CAO CANNOT verify your eligibility or comment on your documentation*.** Academic eligibility queries must be directed to the Admissions Office of the institution concerned and NOT to CAO.

GAMSAT

7. The GAMSAT test takes place in March and September each year. The testing window for the March 2026 sitting is 1-2 March and 21-23 March. Application to sit the GAMSAT (Ireland) test in March 2026 should be made to the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) www.gamsat.acer.org before 10am GMT on January 30, 2026.

8. For entry to Graduate Medicine in 2026, only results from the following GAMSAT sittings are acceptable: September 2024, March 2025, September 2025, and March 2026. (Results of the September 2026 test cannot be used for courses commencing in 2026).

9. For your GAMSAT results to be forwarded to the CAO by ACER, you must indicate on your GAMSAT registration for any of these sittings, that you are an applicant to an Irish programme.

10. You must also provide your correct 2026 CAO application number in your GAMSAT account. Failure to do so may affect the delivery of your GAMSAT results to the CAO and the institutions.

11. In late May 2026, GAMSAT results can be viewed under “My Application” at www.cao.ie . CAO will notify all applicants when GAMSAT results are available in their CAO account. If no score (or an incorrect score) is recorded for you, you will need to submit your results to CAO (by post) before July 1, 2026.

12. To be eligible for an offer in early August 2026, all GAMSAT results must be recorded at CAO by **July 1, 2026.**

Application Process

13. Candidates must submit a CAO application at www.cao.ie. The normal closing date for applications is February 1 at 5.15pm of the year of entry. The late closing date is 1st May of the year of entry. Your 2026 CAO number must be added to your GAMSAT account for ACER to submit your GAMSAT results to CAO.

Supporting Documentation

14. Supporting documentation must include complete/full set of ORIGINAL transcripts or Diploma Supplement (not a certified photocopy), including all years of study and all third-level exams taken, printed on the institution's official headed paper, showing the class of degree awarded (2H1 minimum) and award/conferring date. If the award/conferring date is not detailed on the original transcript, a certified A4 photocopy of your graduation parchment is required. Supporting documentation must be posted to the CAO as per the instructions outlined below.

15. Applicants due to graduate in 2026 must submit **COMPLETE ORIGINAL** transcripts, displaying the same details as outlined in point 14 above, well in advance of the closing date of July 1, 2026. If the award/conferring date is not detailed on the original transcript, please provide a note from your institution indicating your scheduled conferring date. Applicants are advised to contact the Registry / Examinations Office of the institution from which they will be graduating to request their full transcript, well in advance of this closing date.

16. An online electronic transcript issued by an awarding institution, whose contents can be securely and independently verified online is also acceptable. The applicant must enable the transcript for viewing and details of the verification process must be supplied to CAO in writing, well in advance of the closing date July 1, 2026. Do not supply your own personal login details in any circumstances as these cannot be used to verify electronic transcripts.

17. In cases where the full set of original transcripts or Diploma Supplement or the online/digital transcript (as outlined above) are not available to you from your awarding institution, a printed copy of transcripts will be accepted if accompanied together with confirmation issued from the awarding institution, such as an official letter or a Qualification Statement. This confirmation should be on original headed paper or be sent directly from the awarding institution and clearly indicate the following:

    a. The specific service/office, which is providing the transcript, e.g. Registry Office, Examinations & Records Office, etc.
    b. An original or digital signature[1] and/or original stamp from this service/office.
    c. The degree award title, e.g., 'BSc Biomedical Sciences'.
    d. The class of degree awarded, e.g., 2H1.
    e. The date of the award/conferring (can be prospective for current year graduates).

18. All documentation must be submitted in English, or if not, an official certified translation in English must be provided along with the original documentation. If your documentation records a different name, by either marriage or deed poll, then a certified (A4) photocopy[2] of your marriage certificate or deed poll and birth certificate must also be provided.

[1] A digital signature is a digital code (generated and authenticated by public key encryption) which is attached to an electronically transmitted document to verify its contents and the sender's identity.

[2] A certified photocopy means that you photocopy the documents and then bring both the originals and the photocopies to a reputable person or body (School, University, Police Station, Admissions Office etc.) where they will sign and stamp the photocopy as being a true copy of the original.

EU Fees Status Eligibility

19. Candidates must be eligible for EU fees to compete for a CAO place.

20. If you reside (or have previously resided) outside the EU, evidence of your EU fees status must be provided. Please check with the Admissions or Fees Office of the institution for acceptable supporting documents.

21. If you have been assessed for fees status by any of the institutions to which you are applying, you should submit the email(s) confirming your fees status with your supporting documentation.

Sending Documents to CAO

22. The CAO Address is Graduate Medicine Applications, CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland Telephone: 091-509800 – **Uploaded documents will not be accepted for Graduate Medicine.**

23. When sending supporting documents to CAO, enclose a stamped addressed card / envelope giving details of documents submitted. This card / envelope will be date stamped when received by CAO and posted back to you.

24. If you would like your documents returned, then you should request this after the Graduate Entry Medicine screening is complete. You should send a stamped addressed envelope giving details of documents that are to be returned. **Documents will only be returned from September 2026.**

25. If you are graduating in 2026, you must submit your documentation as early as possible and before July 1, 2026, at 5pm.

26. If you have graduated from your primary degree prior to 2026, your full set of documentation (transcripts etc., see below) should be submitted to the CAO no later than **March 15, 2026**.

27. If applying for Graduate Medicine only, documents relating to second-level or high-school qualifications are **not required**. Please do not submit these.

Eligibility Screening, Outcomes & Appeals

28. The Graduate Medicine institutions will meet in July to jointly screen all GEM applications for eligibility.

29. Assessment outcomes are communicated to you via your CAO "My Application" portal. CAO will send an email (July 26) indicating that the outcome of your assessment is available to view on the portal. Please log in to your CAO account, scroll down and view the outcome.

30. If you are deemed ineligible to be considered for an offer (following eligibility screening), you will have an opportunity to appeal that decision. Any supporting documentation needed for your appeal must be submitted before the final date of the appeals window (22 July 2026).

31. It is your responsibility to monitor all e-mails received by CAO and respond in a timely manner.

Offers

32. Applicants who have been deemed eligible during eligibility screening according to the criteria as detailed throughout this document are then made offers based on the GAMSAT score only. If a candidate presents more than one valid GAMSAT score, the best score is used. Each HEI will make offers to the highest scoring candidates. Due to the high demand for this programme, it is not anticipated that a GAMSAT cut-off score below 50 will be assessed. However, should the cut-off fall below this score, your application will be assessed for eligibility to compete.

33. Applicants are placed on a list in order of merit for each course for which they are eligible. For example, if you have the highest points score you go to the top of the list and the applicant with the second-highest points score goes second on the list, and so on.

34. The HEIs then instruct CAO on how many offers to make for each course. If you are in 20th position for a chosen course, and the institution instructs CAO to offer 25 places, then you will receive an offer of a place on that course, unless you have received an offer of a course higher up on your preference list. You will not be offered a lower preference course if you receive an offer of a course higher up on your preference list.

35. Random number selection may also be a factor. Before applicants are placed on the Order of Merit lists for courses, they are assigned a random number for each course choice. If there are five applicants with identical points score competing for one remaining place, random number selection applies, and the place will be offered to the applicant with the highest random number.

36. Offers are made through the CAO in Round 0 in early August (exact dates TBC) and there will be approximately one week in which to accept the offer through the CAO 'My Application' portal. If you do not receive an offer in the first round you may receive an offer in subsequent rounds.

Mature Applicants

37. Mature applicants to Graduate programmes through CAO are not required to complete Mature Applicant Sections 1-11 in their CAO application UNLESS they are also applying for other courses and wish to be considered on the grounds of mature years for those courses.

2026 Timelines

Applications	CAO Closing dates: 5pm 1 February, 5pm 1 May
GAMSAT Sitting 2026	1-2 March and 21-23 March**
Documentation Deadlines to CAO	Graduates Pre-2026: 5pm March 15 2026 graduates: 5pm 1 July
Eligibility Screening	7 to 9 July
	Outcomes notified following screening, 10 July
Appeals Deadline	22 July
Appeals Outcome	24 July
Offers	Early August 2026
	Reply date for offers is ordinarily 5-7 days after offers are issued, dates TBC
GEM Start Dates (Teaching)	RCSI: August 31 UCD: September 7 UCC: August 31 UL: September 7

** Different components of the GAMSAT will take place during these dates – refer to https://gamsat.acer.org/ for detail

GAMSAT cut-offs 2021 / 2022 / 2023 /2024/2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
University of Limerick	57*	55*	52	52	53
University College Cork	60*	58*	54	55*	57*
University College Dublin	61*	60*	58	57	58*
Royal College of Surgeons Ireland	62*	62	63	57	58*

*Random selection applied

Contacts

University of Limerick	University College Cork
www.ul.ie/academic-registry/about/contactus	Fees queries and assessments: www.ucc.ie/en/financeoffice/fees/free-fees/ For Admissions-related queries: www.ucc.ie/en/ask/prospective/
University College Dublin	**Royal College of Surgeons Ireland**
www.ucd.ie/askus	admissions@rcsi.ie
CAO contact	
www.cao.ie/index.php?page=contact	

Checklist

CAO Application	
GAMSAT Application	
Complete Original Transcripts	
Evidence of EU/UK Fees Status	
Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope	

Other resources

Graduate Entry Medicine UCC: https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck791/

Graduate Entry Medicine RCSI: https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/undergraduate/gem/

Graduate Entry Medicine UCD: ucd.ie/medicine/studywithus/undergraduate/graduateentrymedicine/

Graduate Entry Medicine UL: https://www.ul.ie/gps/course/medicine-graduate-entry

GAMSAT: https://gamsat.acer.org/

Appeals Frequently Asked Questions

What is the appeals process?

After eligibility screening takes place in July, CAO will email all candidates with scores over 50 with the outcome of the screening. Candidates deemed ineligible will have 2 weeks in which to submit an appeal. Appeal documents are submitted to the CAO during the 2-week period.

How do I submit an appeal?

Follow steps 15-19 and 23-28 regarding which documents need to be submitted and how to submit. Clearly indicate that the documentation is being submitted to support a GEM eligibility screening appeal.

What is the appeals deadline?

2026 Appeals date deadline is the 22 July at 5pm. All documentation must be at the CAO offices by this date and time.

My institution will not send original documents via post, what do I do?

They can contact one of the admissions offices to which you have applied with the information if they wish. We will send this through to the CAO on your behalf during the appeals window. Contact details are provided for each admissions office under the Contacts section of this document. There is no need to contact each admissions office separately.

Why was I deemed ineligible?

The following provides guidance regarding the reason(s) that a GEM candidate may need to appeal the outcome of the eligibility screening:

1. No documents

Supporting documentation must include complete/full set of ORIGINAL transcripts or Diploma Supplement (not a certified photocopy), including all years of study and all third-level exams taken, printed on the institution's official headed paper, showing the class of degree awarded (2H1 minimum) and award/conferring date. Please refer to page 3 of this document.

2. Incomplete documents

Supporting documentation must include complete/full set of ORIGINAL transcripts or Diploma Supplement (not a certified photocopy), including all years of study and all third-level exams taken, printed on the institution's official headed paper, showing the class of degree awarded (2H1 minimum) and award/conferring date. Please refer to page 3 of this document.

3. No proof of Conferring

A certified copy of the Award must be submitted

Or

An official letter (such as a Qualification Statement) issued from the awarding institution, providing confirmation from the awarding institution. Such a confirmation should clearly indicate the following:

a. The specific service/office, which is providing the transcript, e.g., Registry Office, Examinations & Records Office, etc.
b. An original or digital signature1 and/or original stamp from this service/office.
c. The degree award title, e.g., 'BSc Biomedical Sciences'.
d. The class of degree awarded, e.g., 2H1.
e. The date of the award/conferring (can be prospective for current year graduates

4. Copy transcripts/No original transcripts

Copy transcripts provided, not original, require the following as set out in point 18 on page 4 of this document. In cases where the full set of original transcripts or Diploma Supplement or the online/digital transcript (as outlined above) are not available to you from your awarding institution, a printed copy of transcripts will be accepted if accompanied together with an official letter (such as a Qualification Statement) issued from the awarding institution, providing confirmation from the awarding institution. Such a confirmation should clearly indicate the following:

a. The specific service/office, which is providing the transcript, e.g., Registry Office, Examinations & Records Office, etc.
b. An original or digital signature1 and/or original stamp from this service/office.
c. The degree award title, e.g., 'BSc Biomedical Sciences'.
d. The class of degree awarded, e.g., 2H1.
e. The date of the award/conferring (can be prospective for current year graduates

5. Does not have a 2H1

The first level 8 degree is not the equivalent of a 2H1 minimum which is a requirement for GEM. Please provide further evidence to support your appeal or contact the relevant admissions office. Contact details are provided in the Contacts section on this booklet.

6. Evidence of EU Fee Status Query

Required to provide evidence of EU fee status. Please contact each institution to establish fee status per page 4 points 19, 20 and 21 on this document.

7. Good Academic Standing

Applicants who previously started a medical programme must be in good academic standing at the institution previously attended. Applicants who have withdrawn from any other medical programme should contact the Admissions Office before applying. Applicants that provide inaccurate information can have their offers withdrawn.

8. No Level 8 Degree

The degree awarded is not considered to be at Level 8 per the standards set out by the National Qualifications Framework NQF https://www.qqi.ie/what-we-do/the-qualifications-system/national-framework-of-qualifications

The degree awarded is not considered to be at Level 8 per the standards set out by the National Qualifications Framework NQF https://www.qqi.ie/what-we-do/the-qualifications-system/national-framework-of-qualifications or ECCTIS.

A diploma supplement is required in this case outlining the level of the award to support the applicant's appeal.

9. First Degree Query

If the applicant has a gap between their second level education and the first degree, they are asked to provide evidence that it is their first level 8 degree.

- A statement outlining that they did not take another course and let us know what they did for the period of time. The statements are on their honour and should any false information be provided any offers issued will be rescinded.
- If they were working, they can provide evidence of same with tax documents, contracts etc.

- If they did take another course, we require a transcript from that institution. If they did not sit exams, they will need to get a letter from that institution stating that they did not continue on their course and did not graduate.
- Applicants that provide inaccurate information can have their offers withdrawn.