FRASER'S UCAT

STUDENT PREP PACK

2021/22

Your Preparation Timeline

	Foundation Phase		Application Phase		Strategy and Simulation Phase
Phase	Foundation Phase		Application Phase		Strategy and Simulation Phase
What	Strategy Weekend Diagnostic Mock	→	Problem Based Learning Classes; Mentoring Sessions	→	Simulated Mocks Weekly Applications Classes Mentoring Classes
When	Year 10, 11 or 12		Late Year 11, Year 12		Mid Year 12
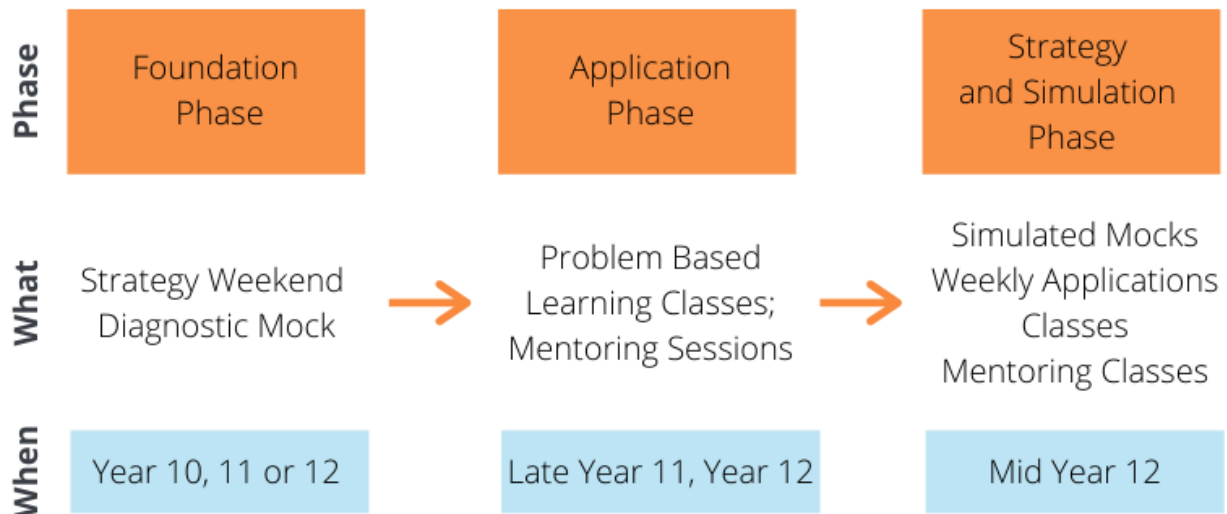
The UCAT is a test that requires a clear developmental process. When this begins is quite flexible, it can be as early as Year 10 or as late as the start of Year 12 - neither circumstance provides any distinct advantage to students taking the exam. What is clear, however, is that the lead-up to the exam has to peak at the right time as psychometric skills are often lost when students return to the classroom and neglect their UCAT studies. As such, we recommend students undertake this program over a 6 - 9 month period to achieve optimal results and this is supported by published studies undertaken globally on over 16 years of UCAT/UKCAT performance in the UK/Australasia.

The flexibility in the programs allows students to manage their external commitments around their UCAT study - always feeling like they're in control and with the help of their mentors, on track to peak on exam day.

Psst! We have some top-secret tips from our tutors to you...

Verbal Reasoning Tips

VR is considered the hardest Section of the UCAT and most difficult to improve. Fraser's specialises in VR more than anyone else.

- For shorter passages (approximately two to three paragraphs), it's better to read the entire passage than to use skimming and scanning as shorter passages tend to have more nuanced information in contrast with larger passages.

- For larger passages, over three paragraphs, it's best to read the topic sentences to get a general idea of the passage and then immediately go to the question.

- If you read the opening sentence of the passage and the concluding sentence of the passage, you can get a broad understanding of the entire passage quickly. This can be very helpful for broad question types.

- Even though tonal questions are few-and-far between in Verbal Reasoning, understanding tone can be very helpful especially for questions that ask you to choose an option that the passage author would most likely agree with. By understanding the broad tone of the passage, you can quickly eliminate answer options that do not align with the tone of the passage.

- Don't underestimate the power of practice with Verbal Reasoning - try giving yourself a lot of time in the beginning (such as 10 minutes to practice 4 questions) and shortening this time down over a period of time (from 10 minutes to 8 minutes to 6 minutes to 4 minutes and so-on for 4 questions each).

Decision Making Tips

- Experiment with different reasoning skills in the exam and focus on perfecting the ones that work best for you.

- Your whiteboard is your best friend in Decision Making -it is extremely helpful in keeping track of your reasoning.

- Practice using venn diagrams to solve syllogism-type questions.

- Try to avoid fallacies and confirmation bias in recognising assumption-type questions.

- Try to avoid using the calculator and put your emphasis into quickly adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing (especially for probability-related questions).

- Understand the difference between independent and dependent events and how they will affect probability-related questions.

Qualitative Reasoning Tips

- Don't be afraid to move on - if there is a daunting graph or an overwhelming bunch of numbers, just pop an answer, skip it and get the easy marks first before circling back!

- Keep your focus on the questions and what it is you are trying to find/solve, rather than in trying to fully comprehend the data set or stem.

- Read the questions first before looking at the data set because this will be a time saver in some questions when looking for specific numbers.

- Use the whiteboard given to make quick notes, write down important values and multi-step calculations.

- If you don't have a lot of time left, skim through the question and look for the numbers alongside what they represent and read the question. Use the numbers and try to manipulate them to help you answer the question.

Abstract Reasoning Tips

- Understand the difference between visual patterns (such as symmetry or clockwise/anti-clockwise rotation) that may require a broader observation as opposed to numerical patterns which may require you to focus on whether the patterns are odd, even or sequential in their ordering.

- Break down questions, start with simple elements in the patterns to avoid information overload.

- Try to note the difference between shading and arrangement of certain shapes.

Situational Judgement Test

- Familiarise yourself with the four pillars of medical ethics, autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice.

- Avoid bias and focus on objectivity.

- Be conscientious of the different positions in a medical team and what is expected of each team member, such as a medical student versus a junior doctor.

Generalised Tips

- Avoid using the calculator unless absolutely necessary. Guesstimation and mental maths are highly recommended in such a time sensitive exam.

- Focus on the question, not text comprehension.

- Focus on practicing the question types you are weaker in as well as those you are strong in! It is easy to forget to practice your weaker question types, however, you want to strengthen your weaker question types, so use untimed and timed practice to improve these areas!

- Always put an answer down for a question, whether you are sure or unsure, as there is no negative marking! Very important, especially when you may be running out of time!

- For each section, try to create a question log - that is, logging each and every question you do for the respective questions, noting down your strategy, time and any evidence as well as whether you answered it correctly. This can help you decipher whether the strategies/techniques you are using are objectively working for you, as well as tracking your progress over time.

- Have goals for how many questions you will complete at each intra-exam milestone Most students break the exam into thirds and have goals for each

- Use the 1 minute reading time before each section to remind yourself of the various question types present and your strategies for tackling them

- Remember that most students don't finish so have a low threshold for skipping a questions - you don't want to waste time and miss any easy questions towards the end

Fraser's UCAT average vs. National
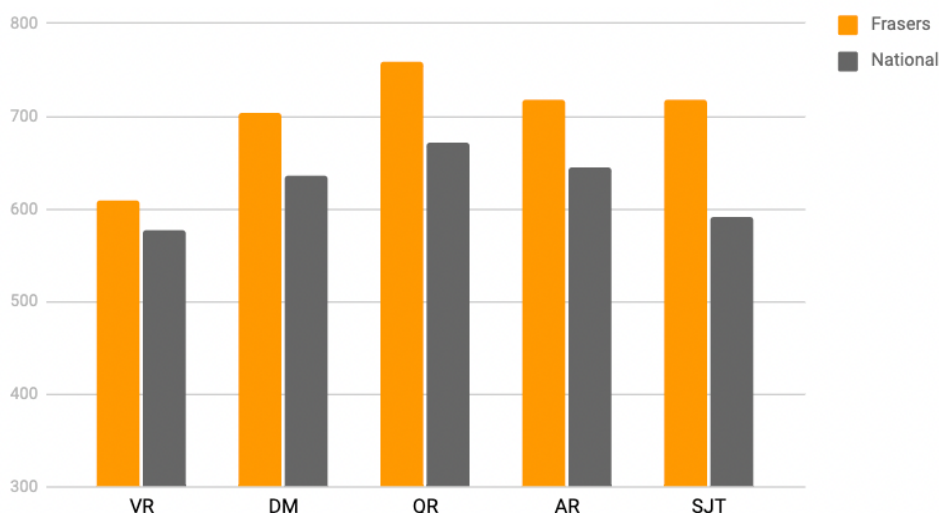
Fraser's UCAT overall average: 82nd percentile
National overall average: 50th percentile

SCAN HERE
FOR CONSULT