

Important information for students applying to the RCSI undergraduate medical course from Canada and the USA for the academic year commencing September 2025.

INTRODUCTION OF CASPER SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TEST

WHAT IS CHANGING?

RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences is introducing the Casper Situational Judgement Test (SJT), as part of the admissions process for direct entry to 5 and 6 year undergraduate Medicine.

Students who are applying to RCSI via Atlantic Bridge for entry to Medicine in September 2025, and whose transcripts to date show that they are on track to meet the minimum academic entry requirements for entry to Medicine, will be invited to register for and sit the Casper SJT as part of the admissions assessment. The Casper score will be reviewed alongside application documents in order to shortlist applicants for the next stage in the process, the admissions interview.

WHAT IS A SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TEST?

Situational Judgement Tests are a type of psychological test used to assess social intelligence and professional characteristics, such as empathy, communication and collaboration. Casper presents test-takers with hypothetical dilemmas and asks them to respond based on their ethical judgement and personal values. These scenarios do not require any clinical training to complete.

WHY IS THE CASPER TEST BEING INTRODUCED?

RCSI has undertaken significant research into 'admission best practice' and determined that the Casper Situational Judgement Test will further strengthen fairness, equality, inclusion and transparency in our application process.

Research indicates that assessing professional attributes is critical in ensuring medical schools produce physicians who provide patient-centred care. By broadening the characteristics assessed at the admissions stage, we are aiming to create a more holistic overview of the applicant and offer a fairer and more reliable selection process.

WHY CASPER?

The Casper test is the most widely used SJT in higher education. Most other SJTs are multiple choice (closed response), which means they only assess if someone knows what the expected behaviour is. The Casper test is open response, allowing test-takers to answer authentically in their own words, about not just what they would do but WHY they would take that course of action via both video and text responses. This means there is no single right answer, allowing diversity of perspective based on the test-taker's individual experiences.

Among other areas the test assesses empathy, self-awareness, professionalism, motivation, problem-solving, resilience and collaboration & communication.

I HAVE ALREADY STARTED MY APPLICATION TO RCSI FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 - WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

The application process will remain unchanged and you should submit your completed application to Atlantic Bridge as normal. If your submitted transcripts show that you are on course to meet the minimum academic entry requirements for Medicine, you will be contacted by Atlantic Bridge in early January 2025 and invited to register for and sit the Casper test. The test is proctored online and can be taken from anywhere, once the test-taker has access to a computer (laptop or desktop) and strong internet connection. The first sitting of Casper will take place in early February 2025. When invited to register for Casper, students will be able to do so online via a link provided in the invitation. A test fee of \$85 is payable upon registration.

Following the February Casper, RCSI will have access to the test scores and these will be used as part of the process to shortlist candidates for interview. Interviews will then be held at their usual time of late February/early March. Students who miss the February Casper test date will take the next sitting in March with interviews to follow in April. As is always the case, early applications are encouraged as demand for medical seats is strong and places fill up quickly.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR CASPER?

There is no preparatory course recommended for the Casper test. It is constructed using evidence-informed principles and coaching will not increase your test performance. Once you register to take the test, you will have access to a full practice test, which will help you to become familiar with the format of Casper. There is no additional preparation required other than ensuring your computer system can support the test, which you will be guided through once you register.

HOW WILL THE TEST WORK?

The Casper test takes 110 minutes to complete (inclusive of a break). Students are presented with a series of real-world situations, presented in either video or text-based formats, and students will be asked to respond in their own words via text and video responses.

The test is proctored remotely by a human proctor, and real-time support is available throughout the test. It is scored by a team of trained examination assessors from diverse backgrounds and geographies.

The QR code below will take you to further information about Casper.

**Learn
more
about
Casper**

