

Frequently Asked Questions for schools



1. About UKiset

What is it?

UKiset is a set of assessments that many British independent schools ask overseas students to take. The results show how the candidate compares to students of the same age in the British school system and more specifically, within independent schools. The evaluation tests the child's underlying learning skills – through tests of verbal, non-verbal and mathematical reasoning; and their level of English - in reading, listening and writing.

How does it work?

Candidates register for UKiset online. A test is arranged locally for the student – UKiset has a large network of test centres worldwide, and will endeavour to find an appropriate test centre location for every candidate. The candidate chooses which schools they would like to send their results to. Within 48 hours of the test taking place the UKiset profile report is sent to you, and the family/academic agent. School choices can be made either before the test takes place or after the results have been generated.

How does it benefit our selection process?

UKiset is a single, comprehensive evaluation of an applicant's academic potential and English skills. It provides a level playing field for students applying to your schools from anywhere in the world – regardless of their previous academic experience.

By asking overseas applicants to sit UKiset, we will send student profiles (with results) directly to your admissions teams, fully marked, with standardised scores comparing the candidates against British students and British independent school students.

The reasoning tests (powered by Durham University's CEM assessments) focus on learning potential rather than learned knowledge – helping you identify the most suitable candidates for your school. The Cambridge English assessment provides an internationally recognised language score with equivalent scores to the IELTS scale.

For more information and/or a demonstration, contact UKiset
enquiries@ukiset.com

Does it benefit the families using it?

The enormous benefit for families is that UKiset is a single assessment that can be used to apply to multiple schools. Before UKiset, students would have to prepare for

and sit unique tests for every school they applied for – this could mean hours of preparation and testing over a number of weeks. Also, UKiset can be sent to schools prior to registering with them. This means that applying for competitive places at selective schools becomes much cheaper – as families only pay registration fees at the schools where their child has a chance of gaining a place.

Secondly, by using UKiset to assess an applicant's learning potential and English, you (the school), have an independent, internationally-recognised evaluation to base your admissions decision on. You may wish to advise a family on additional English support or tutoring; or guide the family towards more realistic school choices; or help them aim for the very best school. UKiset provides the evidence to back up this decision and advice.

What is the cost?

To schools: absolutely nothing. It's free. No sign-up or service contract. Use it once, or for every international applicant, how you use it is entirely up to you.

*UKiset costs £295 (inclusive of all applicable taxes) and this is paid by the applicant. The UKiset fee includes registration, the tests, invigilation at an accredited test centre, the UKiset profile report and the schools package sent to up to 5 schools.

Who accepts UKiset?

Some 270+ UK independent schools have received UKiset Profiles since its launch. This number includes a wide range of school types and different ways of using UKiset. Some (around 30%) insist that all overseas pupils provide a UKiset profile, others (around 40%) use it as part of their admissions process, or for specific parts of the world. UKiset does not specify how you use the information, but can support schools in extracting the most from profiles, and alleviate some assessment strain on admissions teams.

2. How do interested families apply our school with UKiset?

Firstly they need to register online at www.ukiset.com. Registration for UKiset can be completed by the family or their agent/consultant. School choices can be made during registration or after the test results are made available. If they select your school prior to the test taking place, the result will be automatically sent upon completion of the assessment.

If the applicant has already taken UKiset, simply ask the family to email enquiries@ukiset.com and request that the school profile package is sent to you.

How do families register to take UKiset locally?

When a candidate is registered online, the UKiset team will contact their nearest

test centre to find out about available dates and times to take the test. UKiset will then coordinate with the candidate to confirm a convenient test date for them. If you are unsure whether an area has a nearby test centre, just email us and we'll find out for you. We work closely with the British Council and Cambridge English to provide test centres globally.

Where can candidates take the test?

We have a large network of UKiset test centres worldwide – especially within capital and major cities. However if you want to know about your local area and what options are available send us an email and we will discuss what options are available. Sometimes it is possible to arrange for the candidate to sit the test at their current school if there is not another test centre available locally.

How quickly can we get the results?

Normally results are available within 3 business days of the test being sat. During busy periods this may take a little longer; it is also dependent on the test centre promptly sending the student's English essay through to us here at UKiset HQ.

3. The UKiset school profile package

What information is included in the school profile package?

The UKiset profile consists of four key pieces of information:

a) **The UKiset Profile** - this document provides a full overview of the candidate. This includes their personal details, a photo and identification information (this is required to verify the candidate's identity at the test centre). It also provides complete contact details for you to respond to the family/agent.

b) **The Reasoning score** - this assessment looks at the candidates learning potential in quantitative, non-verbal and verbal processing. The students score is standardised for their age and compared to British students in the same Year group.

Please note: For students with English as their second language, we are very aware that the verbal reasoning test will be more difficult (than for a British student), therefore UKiset provides two averages; one overall average, and one excluding the verbal score. This way schools can see the candidate's potential when language is not a factor.

The assessment also provides predictive analysis on what the candidate might go on to achieve at GCSE and (if appropriate) A-level/IB. This information is extremely valuable if your school is already using baseline assessments like GL's CAT4, or CEM's MidYIS/YelIS/AlIS. This information is not provided to the families as part of the UKiset Profile they receive as this information can be misconstrued.

c) **The Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT)** – This test provides the student’s academic English level for reading and listening. The CEFR level refers directly to the IELTS scale and helps schools assess how easily they might be able to access the UK curriculum. For a rough guide on what schools might expect at different age groups please email enquiries@ukiset.com

d) **The candidate’s English essay.** This piece of expressive writing is on an expository topic, and given to the candidate on the day of the test. The topic is age-appropriate and we provide it in its raw form (unmarked) as a demonstration of their opinion and ability to express themselves in English.

What is the next step after receiving the candidate’s UKiset result?

Please contact the candidate (their parent/guardian or agent) directly with your decision on whether you wish for them to register with you, or arrange a Skype interview, or arrange some subject-specific testing (this is common for A-level entry). Alternatively, you may wish to inform the candidate that they may wish to pursue other school choices at this time.

4. Additional support

Do you offer training for schools on using UKiset?

Yes, and its free. Contact the UKiset team and we will come and train your admissions team on how to extract the most from the profiles.

How do I find out about global trends and new UKiset schools?

UKiset will regularly produce reports on how the UKiset test is being used globally and which schools are joining the network. Simply email enquiries@ukiset.com and ask to join this mailing list.

Can you explain the relationship between UKiset and Gabbitas?

Certainly. UKiset has been designed and developed by Gabbitas Educational Consultants. The system has been continuously developed and refined since it was first devised in January 2013. During the pilot scheme in early 2014 it became clear that for UKiset to be a wider success, it needed to be adopted by a wide range of academic consultants, agents, schools and other institutions, hence our outward disassociation from Gabbitas.

Since launch, UKiset has become increasingly independent. Its data, clients, systems and network are all separate to the rest of the Gabbitas’ operations, and no student data is ever shared amongst other departments. UKiset is proud to work with a network of over 300 academic agents and consultants all over the world; *and we do not promote the work of Gabbitas through any of UKiset’s services.*