



THE dMAT CHEAT SHEET

DIGITAL MASTER TEST | MASTER'S IN GERMANY | 2026 EDITION

Everything a Master's applicant needs in one place - eligibility, exemptions, structure, scoring, preparation and deadlines. Compiled by Rising Careers, Jalandhar.

THE 60-SECOND SUMMARY

- The Digital Master Assessment Test (dMAT) is a standardised study-aptitude test developed by German universities with g.a.s.t., the body behind TestDaF. Exams are marked centrally at the TestDaF Institute in Bochum.
- From 2026 it is an additional element of the APS India documentation and verification process for certain Master's applicants. It does not replace APS document verification.
- For APS India applicants it is documentation, not an entrance exam, and it is not a language test. Universities decide individually how much weight to give the result. Separately, a few German universities - RWTH Aachen and Goettingen - use the dMAT with their own subject modules as a selection criterion for specific programmes.
- It is not pass/fail. You get a dMAT score (0-200, average 100) and a percentile rank. There is no cut-off you can fail.
- It is a reasoning test, not a syllabus test. Nothing to memorise - and no notes at any point. The official rules class rough paper as a prohibited aid.
- Your certificate is issued by g.a.s.t., must be enclosed with your APS application, and is valid indefinitely.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE IT?

YES - IF ALL FOUR ARE TRUE

1. You are applying for a Master's (graduate) programme in Germany.
 2. Your bachelor's degree is in Engineering; Commerce, Accounting, Finance or Economics; or Business / Management.
 3. You are targeting Summer Semester 2027 or a later intake.
 4. None of the four exemptions below applies to you.
- You take the General Academic Module.

NO - IF ANY ONE APPLIES

You are applying for Winter Semester 2026/27 or earlier.
You are a Bachelor's or PhD applicant rather than a Master's applicant.
Your degree falls outside the affected fields in the 2026 introductory phase.
You meet one of the transitional exemptions.
Interdisciplinary degree title? Confirm with APS India rather than assuming either way.

THE FOUR EXEMPTIONS

- 1 You completed your APS online registration before 29 June 2026.
 - 2 You shipped your complete APS application documents before 29 June 2026.
 - 3 You have already completed the APS procedure and hold your APS certificate.
- Separately from these three, you are simply out of scope if your degree field is not on the affected-fields list, or if you are not a Master's applicant.

The cut-off is the date you SUBMITTED, not the date your APS certificate was issued. Documents couriered on 27 June with a certificate arriving in July still qualify. Keep your registration confirmation and courier tracking - they are your proof of when the process began. An exemption does not carry over to a fresh APS application filed later.

WHAT IT COSTS

EUR 150	dMAT exam fee, paid to g.a.s.t. at registration (roughly INR 16,300 - the rate moves daily)
INR 18,000	APS India verification fee - entirely separate, and non-refundable once paid
Re-score	EUR 30 to have one module reviewed, EUR 60 for both - refunded if the review changes your result

Refunds, per the official g.a.s.t. terms: you may withdraw within 14 days of the contract being concluded and be refunded in full. After that you can still deregister through the participant portal until the registration deadline, but up to 15% is deducted as an administrative fee. Deregister after the deadline, fail to attend, or break the exam off part-way, and nothing is refunded and no certificate is issued.

TIMELINE - THE 2026 CYCLE

29 June 2026	Registration opened; also the transitional exemption cut-off date
15 September 2026	Registration deadline for the first sitting
26 September 2026	dMAT test date
12 October 2026	Results published and certificate issued in the g.a.s.t. portal

No additional 2026 sitting has been confirmed at the time of writing. If you miss the September window and no further date is announced, your German Master's entry can slip by a full intake cycle. Check d-mat.de for updates.

WHERE THE dMAT SITS IN YOUR APS PROCESS

- 1 Check whether the requirement applies to you - degree field, intake and exemptions decide it, not any single factor.
- 2 Register through the official g.a.s.t. portal linked from d-mat.de. Registration is binding once confirmed and paid, so check your details first - your name must match your passport exactly.
- 3 Book your test centre and pay the fee. Slots in the larger cities fill up first.
- 4 Sit the exam, then wait for the certificate to appear in your participant portal.
- 5 Complete your APS online registration and pay the APS fee.
- 6 Courier your APS documents WITH the dMAT certificate enclosed. The certificate is then referenced on your APS certificate.
- 7 Apply to your universities. Sequence this so your certificate lands before their deadlines, not after.

The dMAT certificate does not replace APS document verification, degree recognition, university admission requirements, or the admission decision itself. It is one document inside a larger file.

THE EXAM AT A GLANCE

MODULE / SUBTEST	ITEMS	TIME	WHAT IT MEASURES
Core: Figure Sequences	20	25 min	Visual pattern logic - movement, rotation, colour
Core: Mathematical Equations	20	25 min	Solving small systems of equations mentally
Core: Latin Squares	20	25 min	Constraint logic on a 5x5 letter grid
General Academic Module	varies	90 min	Applying analysis to an unfamiliar academic text

Total sitting is about three and a half hours including a 30-minute break between the two parts. All questions are single-choice and the language is English. The official instructions tell you to guess rather than leave an item blank.

CORE MODULE - THE THREE SUBTESTS

1. FIGURE SEQUENCES - 20 items in 25 minutes

You see a series of matrices. Figures inside them change position, colour and/or orientation from one matrix to the next according to a rule. You work out what the next two matrices look like.

The published rules:

- Figures can change colour, and can rotate around their own axis.
- Figures can move vertically, horizontally or diagonally - but a diagonal mover cannot switch to another type of movement.
- Movement, colour change or rotation can accelerate by $x+1$: one step, then two, then three, and so on.
- Figures never disappear and never overlap.
- Figures cannot leave the matrix. At a boundary they either bounce off it or travel along it.

2. MATHEMATICAL EQUATIONS - 20 items in 25 minutes

You are given a small system of equations using letters as unknowns, and you find the values that satisfy every equation at once.

Each letter is a whole number between 1 and 20. There is exactly one valid solution per letter.

Difficulty rises with the number of equations and unknowns - the published high-difficulty samples run to four equations and four unknowns.

Worked example: $7 + A = 14$ and $B - 3 = A$ gives $A = 7$, $B = 10$.

This is substitution and rearrangement done mentally. No calculator, no rough paper.

3. LATIN SQUARES - 20 items in 25 minutes

You see a 5x5 grid, partly filled with letters. Each letter may appear only once in any row and only once in any column - and only the letters shown in the answer row can appear at all.

One cell carries a question mark. You decide which letter belongs there.

Harder items require you to deduce two or three other cells first, in your head, before the marked cell can be resolved.

GENERAL ACADEMIC MODULE - 90 MINUTES

- You are given an academic text, which may include figures, tables and formulas, followed by a set of questions on it. Each question has four options and exactly one correct answer.
- It tests transfer and application - reading an unfamiliar explanation and reasoning from it - rather than recall of anything you studied.
- The same module is taken by every APS India applicant regardless of degree field, so the passages are deliberately drawn from across the disciplines.
- Published topic range: mathematics, computational sciences, natural sciences, engineering, business administration, economics, social sciences and humanities.
- The four official sample sets cover vector calculations, hydrostatics, optimal order quantity, and research strategies in the social sciences - a fair indication of the spread.

Read the official preparation PDF before you practise anything. It carries the full instructions for each task type; in the exam itself you only see a short reminder on screen. It also contains six graded exercises per subtest with full solution paths, plus four complete General Academic Module practice sets.

SCORING AND THE CERTIFICATE

- dMAT score: your correct answers converted to a standardised 0-200 scale where 100 is the average. Reported separately for the Core Module and the Subject Module; the total is the sum of the two.
- Percentile rank: the share of all test-takers who scored the same as you or lower. A rank of 70 means 70% did the same or worse. Universities can use this to set their own cut, for example the top 10%.
- Because the test is standardised, both figures compare you against every participant at every centre and every date - not just your own room.
- Results appear only in the participant portal - never by phone or email. You download the certificate there and can forward it as a PDF to a university or to uni-assist.
- There is no pass mark, no published limit on attempts, and the certificate is valid indefinitely.
- If you want a result reviewed, you have four weeks from publication to object in writing to the g.a.s.t. Examination Board.
- A strong score cannot guarantee admission and a weak one does not automatically block it - but it does help at programmes that actively weigh it.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Train without notes from day one. No rough paper is allowed, so any method that depends on writing things down will fail you on the day. This is the single biggest adjustment for most Indian test-takers.
- Practise against the clock. Twenty items in twenty-five minutes is 75 seconds each. Accuracy without pace scores nothing.
- Master three fixed question types rather than covering a syllabus. An hour of format-correct practice beats five hours in a CAT or GRE book, which drill different formats.
- Watch the official on-screen demo videos early - one per subtest plus a general walkthrough - so the interface costs you nothing on test day.
- For the General Academic Module, build the habit of reading a dense unfamiliar passage and answering from it alone, without importing what you think you know.
- Run all of this alongside university shortlisting, documents and SOP work. It is one strand of the application, not a separate project to start afterwards.

SEVEN MISTAKES THAT COST STUDENTS THE MOST

- 1 Assuming the requirement applies - or doesn't - from subject overlap instead of checking the official affected-fields list.
- 2 Treating it as pass/fail, and either panicking or not preparing at all.
- 3 Confusing the 29 June cut-off with the date the APS certificate was issued.
- 4 Assuming an earlier exemption carries over to a fresh APS application filed later.
- 5 Practising with rough paper, then meeting a screen with no notes allowed.
- 6 Preparing from CAT, GRE or GMAT material, which does not match these three question types.
- 7 Leaving answers blank. The official instructions say to guess when unsure, so a blank is a wasted item.

TEST-DAY RULES - STRAIGHT FROM THE OFFICIAL TERMS

- Bring the valid passport or ID card you registered with. It must be the same document, and your name must match. Without it you are not admitted.
- Arrive on time. Once the exam materials have been handed out, latecomers are not admitted. Venue and reporting time appear in the participant portal about five days before.
- Only your identity document may be on the desk. No notes may be taken, and rough paper counts as a prohibited aid.
- No phones, tablets, calculators, mp3 players or watches of any kind - including smartwatches and fitness bands. Everything goes in your bag before you sit down.
- You cannot leave the building during the exam, or visit a canteen during the break. Bring whatever food you need with you.
- Consulting notes during the break, or being caught with aids, means exclusion - fee retained, no certificate.
- If you have recognised special needs, you must register at least ten weeks before the test date so arrangements can be made.
- Discussing or posting exam content afterwards is prohibited, and g.a.s.t. can revoke a certificate obtained irregularly.

QUICK ANSWERS

Can I retake the dMAT?

Yes. g.a.s.t. publishes no ban or lifetime limit on attempts. Each sitting means a fresh fee and a fresh test date, though, so treat the first attempt as the real one.

Does a bad score mean my application is rejected?

No. There is no pass mark and no automatic rejection. Universities weigh the result alongside your transcripts, and many will not weigh it heavily at all.

Do I have to wait for my certificate before applying to universities?

No - but the certificate must reach APS with your documents. Delaying the whole application on the assumption that the certificate comes first is a common and costly mistake.

My degree title is interdisciplinary. Am I covered?

Check with APS India directly against the affected-fields list. Interdisciplinary titles such as Business Analytics are the single most common source of error in either direction.

Is the dMAT the same thing as TestAS?

No. TestAS is the long-standing aptitude test for Bachelor's applicants. The dMAT is the Master's-level equivalent, from the same organisation, with its own structure and its own certificate.

Is the dMAT a language test?

No. It is written in English but it assesses reasoning, not language proficiency, and it does not replace IELTS, TOEFL or any German-language requirement your university sets.

YOUR TWO-MINUTE SELF-CHECK

- ☐ My degree field is on the official APS India affected-fields list (or I have confirmed with APS that it is not)
- ☐ My target intake is Summer Semester 2027 or later
- ☐ None of the three transitional exemptions applies to me
- ☐ I have my passport ready, and I will register in exactly the spelling it shows
- ☐ I have registered on the g.a.s.t. portal and booked a centre before the deadline
- ☐ I have downloaded the official preparation PDF and watched the four demo videos
- ☐ I have started practising without notes or rough paper, against a timer
- ☐ I have saved my registration confirmation and courier tracking as proof of my submission dates
- ☐ I know my dMAT certificate must reach APS together with my other documents

TEST CENTRES, LINKS AND HELP

India: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Kolkata, Mananthavady, Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune. The dMAT is also offered in Berlin (Germany) and Kathmandu (Nepal). Centre availability can change between sittings.

d-mat.de/en/dmat-in-india

Official information, preparation PDF and demo videos

gast.de

Registration, centre booking, payment and certificates

aps-india.de/dmat

The affected-fields list and how the requirement fits APS

Not sure whether the dMAT applies to your case?

Send us your degree title, your field and your target intake and we will check it against the official requirement - no charge, no obligation. Call +91 8360220476 or DM @risingcareers.

Compiled by Rising Careers from official g.a.s.t. and APS India sources, accurate as of August 2026. Requirements, dates, fees and centre lists can change; always confirm on d-mat.de and aps-india.de before registering. This sheet is guidance for applicants, not an official document of g.a.s.t. or APS India.