

Comparison Between Access Arrangements and Special Consideration

Guidance on Choosing the Right Application

Access Arrangements

Access Arrangements are pre-planned adjustments to the exam environment to enable (as much as possible) candidates with known/existing disabilities, health conditions, or specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) to sit the exam comfortably and equitably.

Access Arrangements are tailored to the individual's needs and **must** be set in place before the exam sitting. These can include arrangements such as rest breaks, extra time or having a scribe (writer) or someone to read the exam.

What is the purpose of an application for Access Arrangements?

Access arrangements are designed to:

- prevent difficulties during the exam by organising the necessary accommodations in advance of the exam;
- thus providing certainty/reassurance in advance of the exam that an individual's needs will be addressed, reducing stress and potential disruption.

Who might be eligible to make an application for Access Arrangements?

Eligibility is wide ranging and includes candidates with long-term or short-term impairments, health conditions (including pregnancy and breastfeeding), or diagnosed SpLDs. All applications must be supported by robust evidence from qualified professionals.

When should an Application for Access Arrangements be made?

As soon as possible – ideally when you register to sit for the exam – and certainly **by the closing date for exam applications of that year (“the deadline”)**. Where eligibility arises after the deadline, an application for Access Arrangements should be made as soon as possible, and in advance of the exam itself. All applications must be supported by proper evidence.

When is an application for Access Arrangements not appropriate?

Access Arrangements **cannot** be put in place to address issues that arise suddenly during or immediately before the exam; in such situations consideration should be given to either withdrawing from the exam or make a Special Considerations application, discussed further below.

For further information on how to apply please visit [Access Arrangement](#)

Special Consideration

Special consideration applies retroactively to candidates who experience significant extenuating circumstances during an exam that affected their performance. The application is then drawn to the attention of the Senior Moderator and the JIE Board. For more information on Special Consideration, please visit [Special Considerations](#)

Why Apply for Special Consideration?

- Reactive Measure: For unforeseen issues such as personal emergencies or exam environment problems that occur during or immediately before the exam.

Limitations

- No Adjustments for Passes: If you pass the exam, no action will be taken under special consideration.
- Strict Criteria: **Applications are limited to significant issues supported by detailed evidence within seven days of the exam.**
- Exclusions: Minor issues, travel problems, or late applications are not eligible.

How to Decide?

- Choose Access Arrangements if: You have a known condition or disability that requires accommodations to sit the exam comfortably. Apply proactively (**remember that your application together with supporting evidence must be provided before the closing date for the JIEB examinations**) to avoid stress and disruptions.
- Choose Special Consideration if: You encounter significant, unforeseen circumstances during or right before the exam that affect your performance, and withdrawing was not an option.

Summary

Access arrangements focus on pre-emptively addressing known challenges, ensuring you can perform your best during the exam. Special consideration, on the other hand, is a reactive policy designed to mitigate the impact of unexpected and significant difficulties encountered during the exam. Applying for the correct option depends on whether your challenges are predictable (access arrangements) or unexpected (special consideration).