

Applications of CAT in Admissions to Higher Education in Israel: Twenty-Two Years of Experience

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Abstract

The use of CAT in higher education admissions testing in Israel is described. This includes: (1) AMIRAM – a CAT of English as a foreign language that has been used by various institutions of higher education for placement purposes for the past 22 years, and (2) MIFAM – a CAT version of the Psychometric Entrance Test that has been in use for nine years as a higher education admissions tool for examinees with disabilities. Both applications run in parallel with paper-and-pencil test versions. This presentation focuses on the specific procedures used to produce equitable scores across the two media as well as examining the suitability of CAT for examinees with disabilities. Also discussed are a number of practical issues that were encountered during conversion of the Psychometric Entrance Test (PET) to a CAT format. Issues that pertain to the meeting of content specifications, item exposure, item banks, item bank dimensionality, and equating, are identified and discussed in the context of evolutionary changes in the MIFAM program.