



Dentistry



OVERVIEW

You will need top grades, preferably in Chemistry and Biology, to train as a Dentist you also need to do well in the [UCAT](#) an assessment test that you need to take in addition to your UCAS application. The closing date for UCAS applications to Dentistry is early October, be sure to know your UCAS dates and timeframes. You can only apply to 4 Dental Schools, but you can apply for a fifth related subject (such as Biomedical Sciences).

SKILLS

Manual Dexterity is a very important skill for Dentists to have due to using precision medical tools in a delicate place. If you have a hobby which shows your manual dexterity such as art, model making, dressmaking, playing drums, etc. you should refer to this in your personal statement. You may also be asked about this at an interview. For a list of other possible interview questions see [Dentistry interview questions](#)

Routes to qualification and professional accreditation

Becoming a dentist involves at least five years' study at dental school, followed by one or two years of supervised practice. Most entrants will require three As at A-Level, although one-year pre-dental courses are offered by some dental schools at universities. Becoming a dentist comprises three stages:

- [undergraduate dental education](#)
- [postgraduate dental training](#)
- [continuing professional development](#)

Once you have successfully completed your undergraduate dental education, you will need to register with the [General Dental Council](#) (GDC) so that you can practice as a qualified dentist. As soon as you have registered with the GDC and throughout your career, you will need to undertake continuing professional development.

Entry Requirements to degree courses and degree apprenticeships

Typical entry requirements for university courses include A-Level Chemistry and Biology with grade expectations of A—A*.

Alternatively, a BTEC Extended Diploma (Level 3) DDD in Applied Science, with Distinctions in six specified Chemistry units as well as GCSEs grades 7-9, including a 9 (A) in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent and standard literacy requirement grade 4 (C) in GCSE English or equivalent. Applicants are also required to take the [UCAT](#) assessment test in addition to making a UCAS application.

If you want a dentistry-related career without going to university, you'll still be able to do an apprenticeship in the following areas:

Dental Nursing
Dental Hygiene
Dental Technician

Work Experience

Before you apply for a Dentistry degree, it is also essential to gain work experience and the more the better. Try to get a range of experiences with your local dentist, a hygienist, technician, community work or in a hospital setting.

See more on [Beyond the Syllabus: Prepare for Dentistry](#)

What can it lead to?

The vast majority of dental graduates' work in general dental practice or the dental salaried services.

Dentists in general practice typically work in NHS, private or, more often, mixed dental practices.

Typical employers in the salaried services include:

- academic and research institutions
- armed forces
- community dental services
- hospital dental services
- public health organisations.

Find out what other dentistry graduates are doing 15 months after finishing their degrees in [What do graduates do?](#)

Useful websites

[General Dental Council](#)

[Royal Navy Dentist](#)

[British Dental Association](#)

[British Army Dentist](#)

[Prospects: Dentist job profile](#)

[RAF Dentist](#)