Dentistry
Undergraduate
Dentistry is an intellectually stimulating career, based on scientific principles. It suits those with excellent academic ability and artistic flair who can demonstrate high standards of professionalism, teamwork and manual dexterity, with the ability to carry out detailed work. The dentistry course at Bristol provides a thorough grounding in biomedical sciences and clinical skills training, with the knowledge and confidence to undertake high quality patient care.

Applicants choose dentistry at Bristol because:

- Students are taught by nationally and internationally respected clinicians and researchers.
- We produce high performing, safe, dental professionals who perform well in Dental Foundation training and beyond.
- Students may undertake an intercalated degree which allows them to follow a specific interest, engage with world-leading research and expand future career opportunities.
- We have state-of-the-art facilities, including clinics, laboratories, an eLearning suite, and the South Bristol Community Hospital Dental Department.

Why study dentistry at Bristol?

The school is co-located with the Dental Hospital and other NHS hospitals, giving students exposure to a broad range of healthcare professionals.

- The University is located in the heart of one of England’s liveliest and greenest cities.
- The University has a distinguished history of learning, discovery and enterprise, and is committed to attracting students with outstanding academic potential from all backgrounds.

Studying at Bristol will not only equip you with the skills you need to become a great dentist, but it will also give you the opportunity to be part of a wider community where you will never feel isolated or alone.

Rafik
President of University of Bristol Dental Student Society 2015
What will I study?

**Single Honours courses**

BDS Dentistry, five years A206
Gateway to Dentistry, six years A208

The BDS degree provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop a broad range of skills for a career in dentistry. The early years of the course equip you with a knowledge and understanding of the human body. This will give you the confidence to practise clinical skills and treat a range of patients from year two onwards. Units of personal and professional development which run throughout the five years of the course to support your understanding of relevant behavioural and social sciences. Alongside this, softer skills are developed such as effective communication, building rapport with patients, and acting in an ethical and professional manner.

Year one is made up of health sciences units – including Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry – to ensure an understanding of normal body structure and function.

In year two, units of Oral Biology, Pathology and Microbiology, Pharmacology, and Dental Biomaterials provide a greater understanding of the science underpinning clinical dentistry and introduce the identification and non-surgical approaches to the management of Oral Disease. Dental Skills and Primary Care Dentistry Units prepare you for clinical practice. You will undertake laboratory-based clinical skills training, and subsequently treat your first patients, and assist senior students in undertaking a range of restorative procedures.

Year-three units include Oral Biology, Dental Skills, Primary Care Dentistry, and Human Disease. Primary Care Dentistry encompasses the prevention and treatment of dental disease, Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics and Oral Surgery. The unit of Human Disease teaches students about Clinical Medical sciences, and over a two-week period you will attend clinical departments, wards, emergency department and operating theatres within local hospitals.

Dental Skills and Primary Care Dentistry continue in year four alongside Advanced Care Dentistry. By year four, you will see patients across the disciplines, practising whole-patient care. Teaching takes place both at the dental school site and at community-based teaching sites, with the majority of the teaching taking place at South Bristol Community Hospital which is a brand new, state-of-the-art facility.

At the end of year four you will undertake a research project at an academic institution of your choice, either in Bristol, elsewhere in the UK, or abroad. Bristol students have visited all parts of the world gaining valuable dental knowledge and life experience.

Through Advanced Care Dentistry and Primary Dental Care units in years four and five of the course you will work in departments under the theme of Advanced Care Dentistry. These include Oral Medicine, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery where you will learn the diagnosis and treatment of oral disease, and advanced surgical management of disease of the mouth and jaw.

Throughout the course you will build up a personal portfolio across all disciplines, which contributes towards a record of achievement at qualification, and will continue to be used through Dental Foundation training after graduation.

Teaching is delivered through a mix of formal lectures and small-group teaching, which complement hands-on training in the Clinical Skills Laboratory and clinical experience. Patient safety is key to our training, so we go to great lengths to ensure that students are confident in their knowledge and clinical skills before treating patients.

91% of students feel that the course has helped them to present themselves with confidence (National Student Survey 2014).
What are my career prospects?

Dentistry is a rewarding profession offering a wide choice of careers. After dental foundational training, graduates can work in private or NHS practices; most dentists will see a mixture of both NHS and private patients. Some graduates work in community clinics or hospitals where they can specialise in disciplines such as oral surgery, restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry or orthodontics. Some may choose to undertake a medical degree at Bristol to enable training in specialties such as Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Graduates may go on to gain postgraduate qualifications which can open the door to a career in academia (in teaching or research). National funding bodies such as the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) will support graduates in undertaking clinical training alongside the development of research interests.

Further information
Find out more about the School of Oral and Dental Sciences: bristol.ac.uk/dental.
Faculty of Health Sciences, intercalated degrees:
bristol.ac.uk/intercalate.
Royal College of Surgeons: www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds/careers-in-dentistry.

Making your application

In addition to meeting our academic requirements, you must be able to demonstrate your interest, motivation and commitment to dentistry by describing the amount and variety of dental work experience you have carried out. You should provide details of your extracurricular interests and other personal achievements, evidence of both teamwork and leadership skills, details of voluntary, charitable and/or mentoring experiences, paid or unpaid work, and any skills that demonstrate your dexterity.

We select students from our shortlist using a system of multiple mini interviews.

All dentistry students are required to undergo health screening and a Disclosure and Barring Service check prior to starting their course.

Please refer to our online course finder for further information: bristol.ac.uk/ug16-dentistry.

£30K average graduate salary six months after completing the course*

*Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2012/13

Typical offer for BDS Dentistry*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug16-dentistry for other qualifications

A-levels AAA (contextual AAB†) including Chemistry and one other lab-based science, preferably Biology. Graduates holding relevant science A-levels at BBB plus 2:1 or above will be considered

AS-levels Biology at grade A required if not taken to A-level

IB Diploma 36 overall (contextual 34) to include 18 points at higher level with 6, 6 at higher level in Chemistry and one other lab-based science, preferably Biology. 6 in standard level Biology is required if not taken at higher level

English Language Profile A††

GCSEs Minimum of five GCSEs at grade A*/A to include English Language, Mathematics and two science subjects

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers

‡For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

Selection UCAS and Multiple Mini Interview

Deferred entry Welcomed on application. Later deferral not usually accepted

*The typical offer is indicative only and is correct at the time of printing (June 2015). The University reserves the right to vary its entry requirements. For the most up-to-date information, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
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bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

Undergraduate study website
bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

@ChooseBristolUG
bristol.ac.uk/vip
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The information contained in this leaflet is correct at the time of printing (June 2015). Courses and facilities are liable to alter or be withdrawn at the University’s discretion.