



Undergraduate Study
Dentistry

Why study dentistry at Newcastle?

These are exciting and challenging times for dentistry. Where dental disease was once accepted as one of the problems of modern life, we now know that much of it can be prevented. This has stimulated research and demand for better ways of preventing and treating dental disease, and has changed the way that dentists are trained.

At Newcastle we are meeting this challenge with a dental programme designed to give you both the scientific background and the practical skills you will need for a career of lifelong learning, to make the best use of new materials and put into practice the most up-to-date advances in dentistry.

Our teaching has been recognised as excellent. Staff in the School regularly win awards for their teaching and hold seven distinguished scientist awards and two national teaching fellowships. Members of staff are actively involved in world-leading dental research and bring this understanding and knowledge to their teaching.

First-class facilities

The School of Dental Sciences at Newcastle is purpose-built and the most modern and best equipped of any in the country. Hospital clinic equipment is regularly updated, ensuring you gain experience with the most modern facilities. The Clinical Skills Laboratory, where clinical training in the practical skills of dentistry is taught, has been updated to the highest specification.

The School is housed in the same buildings as the Dental Hospital, on the main University site close to the city centre. Together with the adjacent Medical School and the Royal Victoria Infirmary teaching hospital, it forms one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the country.

Outreach clinical training

During your final two clinical years of study in Newcastle, your clinical experience is extended by treating dental patients in primary care clinics located in different parts of Newcastle, an environment quite different from the Dental Hospital. This extended clinical environment is termed 'outreach clinical teaching' and provides unique opportunities to complement the teaching and clinical experience you will receive within the Dental Hospital. In outreach you will:

- treat patients in their own local environment
- provide a wide range of dental care in a primary care setting
- be part of a team, working closely with your outreach teachers, dental nurses, peers and other healthcare professionals.

The experience gained in outreach enables Newcastle students to provide continuing care for a wide range of patients in a productive clinical learning environment.



Our Clinical Skills Laboratory.

Personal development

With such long and complex training it is important that your progress and development is monitored on a regular basis. We are very keen to ensure that this is a constructive exercise, so that you continue to make the best use of your own experiences. You will use a purpose-designed, world-leading e-portfolio to keep a personal record of your work and achievements during the course, helping you to reflect on what you do and see. This will play a major role in expanding your understanding, bringing together theory and practice, and will be the basis of your personal development through regular meetings with your tutor.

Supportive teaching staff

We take pride in the friendly and supportive staff–student relationship at Newcastle and were rated ‘Exemplary’ for ‘team spirit amongst staff and involving students’ by a recent internal subject review. You will be allocated a personal tutor at the start of your degree programme who will offer help and advice, whether personal or academic, throughout your course. Staff–student committees meet regularly and make important contributions to the continuing development of the programme and student welfare. During your time at the clinic you will be working as a member of a clinical team, and will be treated as befits a colleague in training.

Student life at Newcastle

The Dental Students’ Society (DentSoc) is run for students by students to ensure that life as a dental student at Newcastle is fun! It organises a regular social programme, including events at the dedicated dental student bar, *The Crown and Bridge*, day trips, skiing holidays, a Dental Ball, a charity auction, river cruises, barbecues and more. It is a great way to meet your fellow dental students from all years of the course. There is an active sports programme with students participating in many University and local sporting leagues. DentSoc also plays an important role in pastoral care, running a helpline for students in difficulty, as well as providing first-year students with ‘parents’ (second-year students who help you to settle in).

Dental Surgery BDS

UCAS code A206 (5 years)

The first two years of the programme provide the firm grounding in science you will need as preparation for clinical decision making, while the later Stages concentrate on learning and developing the clinical skills necessary to become a dentist.

Stage 1

During the first year, you receive an introduction to dentistry and study topics such as tooth morphology. The majority of your time is devoted to the study of general biomedical sciences including: the biology of cells and tissues; metabolism and homeostasis; cardiovascular, respiratory and gastrointestinal physiology; neurobiology; and head and neck anatomy. In your second term you will also have the opportunity to 'shadow' one of the more senior students as they undertake their clinical duties. This will help you to see the relevance of the first year of the programme and to gain experience of the application of interpersonal skills.

A first-year student studying cell biology.



Stage 2

In your second year you move on to study more specialised oral science topics including: histology, embryology and development; oral environment; dental materials science; applied biomedical sciences; nutrition and diet; pharmacology; immunity and health care; and behavioural sciences. These topics are integrated with clinical subjects, and clinical specialists and scientists join forces to provide the teaching. From the third term, you begin your clinical studies by learning key skills in a simulated clinical environment.

In Stages 1 and 2, we use a variety of teaching and learning methods including lectures, practicals and seminars, but for about half of your time you will be undertaking directed self-study and developing teamworking skills.

Stages 3, 4 and 5

In Stages 3, 4 and 5, lectures, seminars and practical laboratory work cover all aspects of clinical dentistry, but the core of teaching takes place in the clinics of the Dental Hospital. For clinical work, students are divided into small groups and clinical allocations cover all departments of the Dental Hospital where, under supervision, you take responsibility for treating patients. You develop an understanding of the application of the science that underpins clinical dentistry, including the disease processes and the relationship between dental/oral health and general health. You also acquire an appreciation of the development and behaviour of the individual from birth to adulthood and the nature and role of families, communities and authorities in controlling or influencing public health.

Clinical competence is achieved by the development of a wide range of skills in diagnosis and patient treatment, including the use of safe working practices. You enhance your development of critical and transferable skills acquired during the earlier part of the course. An attitude of professionalism and experience of working with other members of the dental team is developed through work in the dental clinics, where you take increasing responsibility for your own learning and decision making.

Dental Surgery BDS Degree Structure		
Year 1	Stage 1 (31 weeks)	General biomedical sciences and clinical introduction Lectures, practicals, key clinical skills, seminars, clinic shadowing and project work.
Year 2	Stage 2: part I (21 weeks)	Biomedical sciences as applied to dentistry Lectures, practicals, seminars and project work.
	Stage 2: part II (15 weeks)	Key clinical skills Lectures, practicals and seminars.
Year 3	Stage 3 (42 weeks)	Clinical techniques Lectures, practicals and seminars.
		Additional clinical subjects Lectures and seminars.
		Patient care Integrated human disease Lectures, practicals, seminars and patient contact.
Year 4	Stage 4 (42 weeks)	Patient care
		Clinical techniques Lectures, practicals and seminars.
		Integrated human disease Lectures, practicals, seminars and patient contact.
Year 5	Stage 5 (38 weeks)	Patient care Plus clinical lectures, seminars.

Assessment

Formal assessment during the first two years takes the form of examinations in January and at the end of each year. A continuous assessment element in the form of essays and projects also takes place, which allows for feedback on your progress.

Assessment of clinical skills is carried out on a continuous basis, with careful feedback so that you can constantly improve your performance and continue to learn.

Formative assessments are held to help you monitor your own performance in theoretical aspects of your learning, whilst professional examinations cover the major teaching themes for each year and contribute to your final degree result.



Admissions requirements

Immunisation

The School of Dental Sciences has an overriding duty of care to the public with whom students come into close contact. In accordance with current Department of Health Guidelines (March 2007), all applicants who are made an offer of a place on the course will be required to complete a screening process for blood-borne viruses as a condition of their offer. All successful applicants must produce satisfactory evidence of immunisation against hepatitis B (or evidence of non-infectivity) and evidence of non-infectivity for HIV and hepatitis C virus prior to confirmation of a place and becoming registered as a dental student. In addition, you will be required to provide evidence of immunisation against polio, heaf test/BCG, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria and varicella. In addition, all applicants who take up an offer from Newcastle University are required to complete an NHS occupational health questionnaire. From the information provided, the Occupational Health Service will assess your immunisation status and you will be required to fulfil any stipulated requirements identified from this assessment. Any required immunisations will be provided by the Occupational Health Service.

Occupational Health

In certain circumstances, it may also be necessary for applicants to undergo an occupational health assessment with an NHS occupational health consultant in the Newcastle Hospitals Trust before we are able to confirm their offer of a place. This assessment is designed to help us ensure that applicants are not only able to undertake the rigours of the BDS programme, especially with respect to working with patients in the clinical setting, and meet its outcomes in line with the statutory requirements of the General Dental Council, but also to ensure that we provide any reasonable support necessary.

Criminal Records Bureau

All dental schools are required to ensure that students, who will have a high level of unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults, obtain a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure. The School of Dental Sciences reserves the right to discontinue your studies on receipt of an unsatisfactory disclosure.



Work experience

All applicants are required to have undertaken a minimum of two weeks' dental work experience/work shadowing prior to submitting their UCAS application. Our preference is for this to be carried out in a General Dental Practice but other types of dental work experience may also be considered.

UKCAT Test

Prior to submitting your UCAS application, you will be required to complete the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). The deadline for registration to take the test is 27 September. More information is available at www.ukcat.ac.uk

UCAS admissions procedure

You are permitted a maximum of four choices on the UCAS application form for Dentistry. The deadline for applications is 15 October.

Interview

Applicants who are considered to be particularly promising, on the basis of their application, are considered for interview before being offered a place. This provides you with an opportunity to ask us about the degree programme, visit the School of Dental Sciences and meet our current students, as well as help us to find out about you and your reasons for entering a career in dentistry. For example, you may be asked about what you have learnt from work experience, extracurricular activities that involve working with people or any hobbies that demonstrate that you like working with your hands.

Entrance requirements

We consider each applicant on an individual basis, taking into account the information on your UCAS application including past academic performance and potential. The following information gives an indication of the type and level of entrance qualifications, but we encourage you to contact us to discuss your position if you are offering qualifications other than those described below. We are happy to accept deferred entry.

Entrance requirements can vary from year to year, so you should check the University's website for up-to-date details.

www.ncl.ac.uk/ug/dental

A levels: AAA including Chemistry and Biology. General Studies, Critical Thinking and a foreign language which is the applicant's first language are not accepted. AAAAA at GCSE including Biology and Chemistry or AA in Dual Award Science also required.

Scottish qualifications: AAAAA at Higher Grade, normally including Chemistry and Biology. Two Advanced Highers also normally required at minimum AB, to include Biology and/or Chemistry. If only one out of Biology and Chemistry is offered at Advanced Higher, the grade A is required in that science. Candidates offering only one out of Higher Chemistry and Biology will be required to take the other in their final year along with Advanced Higher in the first, and achieve A grades in both the Advanced Higher and the Higher. English and Mathematics required at grade 2 Standard Grade (or Intermediate 2 equivalent).

International Baccalaureate: Minimum 35 points with Higher Level Chemistry and Biology at grade 6 or above.

We welcome applications from students with qualifications other than the ones described above, including a full range of European and international qualifications, and are pleased to advise anyone interested with regard to choosing a preparatory course of study.

Further information regarding admissions policy for dentistry is available at

www.ncl.ac.uk/documents/dentistryadmissions.pdf



Students observe their tutor at work via a live video feed.



“I really enjoyed my first year, especially the anatomy part of the course which involved dissections. We also spent some time clinic shadowing. We learnt some basic skills to give us a taste of what is to come later in the course.”

Julia

Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Frequently asked questions

When will I start treating patients?

Although you will have seen patients in the clinics during your experience of shadowing in the first year, the teaching of clinical techniques increases towards the end of the second year, to prepare you for taking responsibility for your own patients early in the third year.

What sort of treatment will I learn?

You will start managing your own patients by providing simple items of treatment under close supervision. At this stage you will learn how to prevent disease, plan treatment, treat dental decay and place fillings, undertake root treatments, treat gum disease and make dentures. You will also learn how to extract teeth and may even undertake simple surgery. You will be taught the safe use of radiographs (X-rays), local anaesthetics, and how to deal with problems of cross-infection. In child dental health you will learn the special skills involved in treating children. Throughout the programme there is great emphasis on the prevention of dental disease as well as on its treatment.

Initially, the teaching of the different clinical disciplines is kept separate, but as the programme progresses the cases you treat will become increasingly complex and demand greater integration between the various strands of the dental programme. Integration of treatment is encouraged in our Advanced Restorative Clinic. In the fourth and final years you are given the opportunity to observe and treat patients under close supervision, using advanced techniques such as orthodontics, dental implants and intravenous sedation.

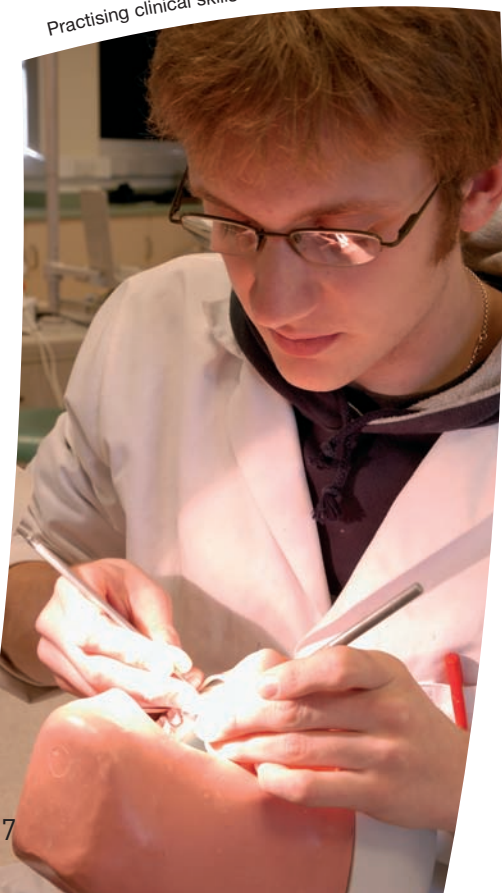
How will I know what to do?

The teaching of procedures such as simple fillings and root treatments initially takes place in the Clinical Skills Laboratory in the second year, where clinical problems are simulated on model heads using natural teeth and clinical materials. The start of this clinical phase of your degree is always an exciting time; with the experience of clinical procedures that you gained from shadowing another student, as well as your pre-clinical and clinical skills (phantom head) teaching, you will be well prepared.

Do I get a chance to see specialist treatment?

Yes, you do. We act as a referral centre, advising and treating patients referred from dentists and doctors throughout the region. As a student you get a chance to learn how such complex cases are managed by attending and helping at referral clinics run by specialist consultants in oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, paediatric dentistry, orthodontics and restorative dentistry.

Practising clinical skills using a 'phantom head' model.



Do I continue to learn the theory of dentistry throughout the programme?

Your clinical commitments occupy much of your time in the later Stages, but the teaching of important theoretical aspects of clinical dentistry continues throughout this period. Lectures and further practical sessions cover topics such as human disease, radiology, preventative dentistry, dental public health, periodontology, crown and bridgework, advanced endodontics, gerodontology and oral medicine.

Can I specialise?

At present, higher specialisation in the clinical specialities (such as orthodontics, endodontics and oral surgery) takes place after your undergraduate training. However, there is the opportunity to take a year out from your dental course in order to obtain an additional Honours degree in a specialist science subject area of your choice. This is an option that is encouraged at Newcastle and gives you an opportunity to broaden your experience and help you make decisions about your eventual career.

Is there an elective period?

Yes there is, and this is something we like all students to get involved in. You have the opportunity after the fourth year to organise a period in which you study dentistry outside Newcastle for a few weeks. In recent years this has taken students all over the world, to North and South America, China and Australia, to name but a few. Alternatively, you can use the time to visit a specialist unit elsewhere in the UK, or get involved in some of the research projects taking place in Newcastle itself.

Do I pay tuition fees?

Information on student finance arrangements is available on our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance and includes information on tuition fees, Newcastle University bursaries and scholarships. English-domiciled dental students do not pay tuition fees in the final year of the five-year degree, because these are paid by the government through the NHS Bursary Scheme. The Department of Health also offers some financial assistance for dental students in the final year, in the form of a means-tested NHS Bursary. This may be subject to government changes. Please check the NHS Business Services Authority website www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students/981.aspx for further information.

Students from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should seek advice about entitlement from their own funding authorities.



After you graduate

The postgraduate opportunities in dentistry are changing rapidly, with the introduction of vocational training, general professional training and greater opportunities for specialisation. Our degree programme is designed to make the transition from undergraduate to vocational trainee as smooth as possible, and to ensure that our graduates are flexible enough to be able to adapt to a changing world.

Once you have qualified there are a number of different careers open to you. Everybody needs to undergo a period of vocational training whatever branch of dentistry they initially take up. Dentistry is a fairly flexible career and selecting one particular branch does not mean that you cannot venture into others later on in your career. Advice to help you make the appropriate choice is available from your tutor as well as other members of staff. To give you an idea of some of the options open to you, here are some of the career paths our students have chosen to follow:

General Practice

In General Dental Practice you join an established practice and work with a trainer who guides you in the early months. In addition, some schemes in different parts of the country give you the opportunity to spend part of this vocational period in a dental hospital attachment. Further training is given in day-release courses during this time, covering important aspects such as practice management, advanced clinical skills and team building.

Publicly funded services

The Community Dental Service runs as a complementary service to the general dental services. Dental officers who work in this publicly funded service provide dental care for people who are unwilling or unable to obtain care elsewhere or, for example, disabled people or people needing treatment in their own homes. In addition, this service provides a screening programme in schools, as well as dental health education and promotion to various groups. There are also career opportunities available in the defence services and as an industrial dental surgeon.

Teaching

Careers in university dental schools allow you to specialise in a particular aspect of dentistry, combining research with teaching and the treatment of patients.

Hospitals – specialist care

In the Hospital Dental Service you work in different departments under the guidance of consultants and, at the end of a two-year period of professional training, become eligible to gain additional qualifications that set you on the career pathway to become a specialist in your chosen subject. During this time you have the chance to undertake small research or audit projects if you so wish and to write up your research for publication in a scientific journal.

A student makes a cast.



My course has been challenging but definitely worthwhile. The course is balanced well with lectures and practicals which makes it more exciting. The best thing about being at Newcastle University is all the friends I have made here.

Danny

Bachelor of Dental Surgery



International students

Newcastle University is home to a diverse and cosmopolitan community, with over 3,300 international students from more than 110 countries worldwide. With a well-established and dedicated support and advice service, Newcastle has everything you need for a successful and enjoyable student experience. Find out more at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/international

Disabled students

We welcome applications from students with disabilities. Our Student Wellbeing Service provides help and advice whilst you are at the University, and makes every effort to provide a suitable learning environment for you. If you would like to discuss the facilities on campus and any specific requirements you may have or to request this brochure in an alternative format, please contact our Student Services team (please see the back cover of this brochure).

Visiting the University

Don't just take our word for it, come and visit the University to see what we have to offer. If you would like to visit us before you apply, our Visit Days give you the chance to talk to staff and students, explore the campus and accommodation, and attend subject talks in the area you are interested in studying. If we make you an offer, open days for your subject area give you the opportunity to talk to current students and members of staff as well as seeing the University and its facilities.

www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit

Further information

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact:

School Manager
School of Dental Sciences
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4BW
United Kingdom

Telephone: (UK) 0191 222 8347
(International) +44 191 222 8347
E-mail: dental.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk
www.ncl.ac.uk/dental

To find out more about the University and its facilities, including accommodation, sports and social activities, or the city and surrounding area, take a look at the University's website:

www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate

Alternatively, request a copy of the *Undergraduate Prospectus* from:

Student Services
Newcastle University, King's Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
United Kingdom

Telephone: (UK) 0191 208 3333
(International) +44 191 208 3333
Enquire online at:
www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries



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