

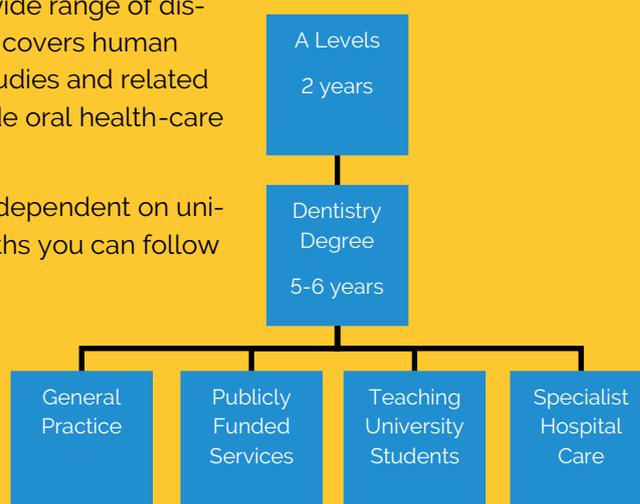
Applying to Dentistry

What is Dentistry?

Dentistry involves the treatment and prevention of a wide range of diseases of the mouth from tooth decay to oral cancer. It covers human dental structure, function, behaviour, clinical dental studies and related sciences. You will develop the skills required to provide oral health-care for patients.

Dentistry (BDS) is a 5 year course (sometimes 6 years dependent on university) that qualifies you to work as a Dentist. The paths you can follow in this career are explained here

Find out more at
[https://
www.ncl.ac.uk/
undergraduate/
degrees/a206/](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a206/)



Teaching Styles

An important thing to think about when applying to Dentistry is the teaching styles used by universities, and which would suit you most. Each individual dental school teaches their course differently, so check university websites to see which you prefer. It is also worth considering at what stage clinical/patient exposure commences at Newcastle University it starts in Stage 1!



Work Experience

Another important thing to consider when applying to Dentistry is if there are any work experience requirements for the course. Often universities will ask for a certain amount of work experience as a minimum. At Newcastle University we ask for a minimum of 10 days 'relevant work experience'.



The Application Process

To apply to undergraduate Dentistry in the United Kingdom, you must apply through UCAS.

Choices



When applying through UCAS, you can apply to up to 5 courses. These can be different courses at different universities. When applying for Dentistry, only 4 of these choices can be Dentistry, and the other choice must be something else (or you can choose to not use your 5th choice).

Personal Statement



As part of your application, you also have to write a 4000 character personal statement, explaining what motivates you to study Dentistry, your key skills and achievements, any relevant work experience you have and your hobbies and interests. Highlight how your current studies relate to medicine, what particular parts of the course interest you (and why) and how your hobbies and experiences relate to Dentistry (including the skills you've gained from them). Make sure you say why you're including a specific skill.

Interview



After completing and sending off your application, you may be invited to interview by your university. This will either be a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)- several different stations (around 7 minutes at each) where you will be asked questions relating to Dentistry; Traditional Interviews- 20-40 minutes of questions from an interview panel. Make sure you familiarise yourself with the interview type before going to it!

Admissions Tests

When applying to undergraduate Dentistry in the UK, you must set an admissions test. There are two types of test. Different universities use different tests, and use the tests differently in their application process.

UCAT

UCAT is an admissions test that is based on aptitude. This means you can't exactly revise for it, but you can prepare using free resources published by UCAT on their website.

There are 5 sections: verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, situation judgement and abstract reasoning.

To find out more about sitting the UCAT, including locations and dates, visit their website at <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>



BMAT

BMAT is an admissions test that is based on your GCSE science knowledge. This means you can revise using textbooks from GCSE to help you prepare, as well as sitting practice tests provided by BMAT on their website.

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

Both of these tests do cost. If you would like support in this, more information is provided at their websites linked above. Information on access arrangements can also be found on their websites.

Facilities



Based within Newcastle Dental Hospital– The School of Dental Sciences is one of the most modern and best equipped in the country. You will complete your training in one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the country. Such cutting-edge clinical training facilities include:

- A conservation clinic
- A cell and molecular biosciences laboratory
- A children's clinic



Walton Library- Our very own Medical Sciences library. Any books that you would need during your degree can be found here, as well as group study rooms, collaborative study areas as well as quiet and silent study areas. One of the best things about the Walton is that you can see out over the whole of Newcastle! Have a look around our library with the following link! <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/contact/library-locations#walton>



8 week student elective- A fantastic opportunity for you to explore an area of Dentistry that you really enjoy in the 4th year of our BDS programme. This can be anywhere in the world (in accordance with FCO advice), from observing top cosmetic practice in New York to performing basic dental care in the Amazon basin. This is something our students say is the highlight of their degree!



Intercalation Opportunities– Within our BDS course, our students have the option to intercalate if they wish. This allows students to do a separate but related (one year) research degree to further develop their skills and undertake their own research project.

What our students say

'The staff try to keep the content of the course as varied and interesting as possible, and always endeavour to include more interactive elements.'

-Natalie, 4th year Dental Student



PARTNERS

PARTNERS is a supported entry route that we offer here at Newcastle University. This reduces your entry requirements after you complete a summer school with us. To find out more, including eligibility criteria, have a look on the PARTNERS website (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/schools/partners/#whatispartners?>).



Chat to our students on Unibuddy!
<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/study/contact/unibuddy/>

Keep in touch with us on Instagram
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Find out more at <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a100/>