

# Applying to study Dentistry



# Applying to study Dentistry Timeline

- **May – August:** Research, Virtual Open Days, Webinars, Writing Personal Statement, BMAT and UCAT research
- **August - October:** BMAT and UCAT tests (TBC)
- **September:** 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> drafts of personal statement
- **October:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October School Deadline (this gives us time to check your application and add finalised your reference in time for the deadline)
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6pm:** Final UCAS deadline

# Universities that offer Dentistry



# What will be considered?

- **GCSE results** – *Grades 6 and higher required in English Literature, Language and Mathematics*
- **A level/ UCAS predicted grades** – *Entry requirements range from BBB to AAA, with the universities and colleges most commonly asking for AAA*
- **Personal Statement**
- **Tutor and Subject References**
- **UCAT/ BMAT score** – *Universities may have a minimum 'cut off' point*
- **Interview**
- **Final grades**
- *Check your subjects* – ALL want Chemistry and most also WANT Biology

# Personal Statements – 4000 characters/47 lines

- How your qualities and skills match the course criteria
- Experiences in Dentistry/ Healthcare/Medicine – Work Experience (*this can be virtual this year*)
- Why you want to be a Dentist! (not anything else)
- Communication skills
- Leadership
- Honesty and integrity
- Well rounded
- 80/20 Rule – 80% academic/specific experience and 20% extra curricular
- Look at examples but don't be tempted to copy – **every personal statement will be checked for plagiarism**

# UCAT/ BMAT Admissions Tests

All Dental schools will require you to sit the UCAT exam in a local test centre.

There are 5 sections to the computer based test:

	Section 1: Verbal Reasoning	Section 2: Decision making	Section 3: Quantitative reasoning	Section 4: Abstract reasoning	Section 5: Situational Judgement
Time per section	21 minutes	31 minutes	24 minutes	13 minutes	26 minutes
Question per section	44	29	36	55	69
Time per section	28 seconds	64 seconds	40 seconds	14 seconds	22 seconds
Total Score	300 - 900	300 - 900	300 - 900	300 - 900	Band 1 – 4

*\*A score above 600 on average/ 2400 in total is considered competitive...*

# UCAT/ BMAT Admissions Tests

Medify is a great website for UCAT practice questions and exam

<https://www.medify.co.uk>

**UCAT** – Usually October

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/ucat/>

• **BMAT** – Usually August and October

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/bmat/>

**COVID-19 update: Admissions tests “remain committed to delivering the UCAT & BMAT in 2020.” However “it is likely that the timeline for UCAT will shift.”**

# The Interviews

Universities will invite you to an interview depending on your:

- UCAS Grades, Personal statement, references and sometimes UCAT/ BMAT Score

- Subject knowledge
- Ethical issues
- Teamwork/leadership
- Caring manner
- Personal statement
- Current medicine in the news – this is currently quite focussed around COVID so read around and find other interesting articles
- Know the course
- Have a question
- Check the format
- Most common now is MMI – multiple mini interviews





# Dentistry Interview Questions

## Example Dental school interview questions:

- Why do you want to study Dentistry?
- What have you done to prepare yourself for a career in Dentistry?
- What qualities do you think a dentist should have?
- Tell us a bit about yourself
- If I gave you a thousand pounds and you had to spend it on YOURSELF in the next hour what would you buy?
- If your application to Dental school is unsuccessful what will you do?
- What are the negative aspects of being a Dentist?
- Describe to me your understanding of Dental Caries.
- Do you believe that Dental implants should be offered on the NHS?
- Describe to me how you would tell a patient that their tooth needs to be extracted.
- If taxpayers pay tax for dental students to become dentists do you think all dentists should have to work in the NHS for a certain number of years?
- Independent study makes up a large part of this course - tell us how have you managed this approach to learning in the past?
- What are the differences between private and NHS Dentistry?
- Tell us about a group activity you have organised. What went well and what went badly? What did you learn from it?

# Different learning styles

## Lecture Based Learning/Traditional (Integrated)

Lectures  
Modular  
Own reading  
System based  
Individual

Written Exams  
Practical Exams

## Problem/Case Based Learning (PBL)

Group discussions  
Problems  
Own reading  
Topic based  
Teamwork

Written Exams  
Practical Exams

# Choosing where to apply

When applying through UCAS, you will need to pick 4 Dental schools.

However, to maximise the chance of getting an offer (or multiple offers!) you will have to **RESEARCH** and choose according to your application.

Universities may differ by:

- Teaching/ learning styles (Traditional, integrated or PBL)
- Requirements of UCAT/ BMAT (Leeds require BMAT and not UCAT etc.)
- Requirements for Education history (some universities may not accept a retake in any A-level whereas some allow this)
- Grades (AAA – BBB)
- Interview styles (Multi-mini Interviews/ MMI or 1:1 Panel)
- Availability to patient/ clinical interaction (Plymouth university start clinics in first year whereas Bristol starts second year etc.)
- Life at Dental school (Campus vs City uni)

# Choosing where to apply

This dental school comparing tool is extremely helpful:

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/dentistry/choosing-a-dental-school/>

Dentistry related courses you can put down as your 5<sup>th</sup> option on UCAS:

- Dental Nurse

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-nurse>

- Dental Hygienist

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-hygienist>

- Dental Therapist

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-therapist>

- Dental Technician

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-techniciandental-technologist>

# Life at Dental School

- Different from “normal” students
- Shorter summer holidays!
- More exams!
- “Work hard, play hard”
- Close to your peers
- Strong friendships
- Sports, clubs and societies
- Think about career from the start
- Building connections with patients and dental hospitals
- Campus vs City University life – which will you prefer?



# Life after Dental school

After completing your **5 years** of your **undergraduate BDS Dentistry (A200) course** you will complete a postgraduate training before fully qualifying as a Dentist, this includes:

- **Dental Foundation Training (DFT)**. This is at least one year spent in primary care and will allow you to complete the compulsory Vocational Training required by the [General Dental Council \(GDC\)](#).
- **Specialist training/ Postgraduate degrees** can then be undertaken by those who want to work in hospital dental services. You will spend time in a hospital gaining experience of the various dentistry specialities or continue through University.

This will allow you to specialise in a sectors of Dentistry, such as:

- **Orthodontics**
- **Prosthodontics**
- **Oral Medicine**
- **Paediatric Dentistry**
- **Periodontics**
- **Endodontics**
- **Restorative Dentistry**
- **Special Care Dentistry**
- **Oral Surgery**

## Further Reading

The British Dental Journal (BDJ)

<https://www.nature.com/bdj/>

The General Dental Council's 9 Principles

<https://standards.gdc-uk.org/pages/principle2/principle2.aspx>

Oxford Handbook of Clinical Dentistry – Laura Mitchell and David A. Mitchell

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Handbook-Clinical-Dentistry-Flexicover-Handbooks/dp/0199679851/ref=sr\\_1\\_5/277-6867084-7913001?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1467384193&sr=1-5](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Handbook-Clinical-Dentistry-Flexicover-Handbooks/dp/0199679851/ref=sr_1_5/277-6867084-7913001?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1467384193&sr=1-5)

Lots of further reading under both Medicine heading + the Sciences

<https://www.themedicportal.com/blog/>

# Useful Websites

[www.stepmaths.co.uk](http://www.stepmaths.co.uk)

Admissions tests videos for BMAT and UCAT – you should have received an email with login details for this.

Email Miss Isaac if you did not

<https://sites.google.com/site/smrtprogression2/home>

SMRT 6<sup>th</sup> form progression site – check out Medicine and Admissions Tests tabs

<https://www.medify.co.uk/>

Medify (Paid UCAT Course) with unlimited practise questions and exams