

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Year of admissions cycle: 2014

Courses covered:

Diploma in Dental Therapy

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

A professional selection team comprising of an Associate Clinical Specialist and Tutor Dental Therapists, working in close cooperation with the admissions tutor, will be responsible for the selection process for the Dental Therapy programme.

2. Application assessment methods

All Dental Hygienist's registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) are considered on an equal basis. All candidates who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. Forms are not segregated by type of educational institution attended. Typical offers are reviewed annually.

The School is committed to principles of professionalism, patient care and integrity and incorporates these into its admissions processes. For further information you are encouraged to refer to:

Guiding Principles for the Admission of Dental Schools, available from:

<http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/documents/DSCAdmissionsPrinciplesFeb2012.pdf>

All applications must be submitted directly to the DCP (Dental Care Professionals) School and received by 31st October to be considered for entry the following April. Late applications may be considered depending on the circumstances.

The forms are processed as quickly and efficiently as possible following receipt by the School. Applications which do not meet the entry criteria will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.

All applicants will have heard from the School with the decision to invite for interview) by the end of November. From the applications received, approximately 10 - 15 candidates will be selected for interview. From these, 6 candidates will receive an offer.

All forms are considered by the admissions team who consider the supporting information, qualifications and employment history for evidence of:

- Educational and professional qualifications

- Proof of registration and membership of professional bodies
- Qualifications to include certificate in Dental Radiography Course and Infiltration and Inferior Dental nerve Block (IDB) anaesthesia
- Interest, motivation and commitment to dentistry as evidenced in the supporting information
- Amount and variety of dental employment and subsequent experience; where possible this should be within various fields of dentistry.
- Evidence of teamwork and leadership as evidenced in the supporting information..
- References from their employers

All applications are assessed on the professional qualifications and the supporting information. As long as all professional qualifications and clinical experience are met, selection for interview is based solely on the supporting information that candidates provide.

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

3. Interview or visit day

Applicants will be assessed by interview and expected to bring evidence that supports their qualifications and continued professional development. Potential applicants will also receive a tour of the School and the clinical facilities that are offered during training.

After interview

Candidates' performance at the interview will be graded and discussed by the Admissions Team directly after the interview has taken place. Those candidates considered to have the strongest overall performance and professional aptitude will receive offers.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All applicants will be contacted within 4 weeks of receipt of application, to confirm receipt of application.

5. Deferred applications

This course does not accept deferred applications

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Depending on year of qualification all applicants should have completed a Certificate or Diploma in Dental Hygiene training programme and must satisfy the learning outcome requirements of the General Dental Council's document as published at that time. For example The First Five Year/Preparing for Practice documents.

Academic Requirements

1. A registered Dental Hygienist with current GDC registration.
2. Evidence of core training and experience in LIA and Inferior Dental Block anaesthesia application.
3. Evidence of core training in Radiography and current IR(ME)R certification.

4. Portfolio of mandatory Continued Professional Development.
5. Commitment to complete the 2 year training programme.

Re-sit Candidates:

Applications may be considered, *in exceptional circumstances*, from candidates who had been interviewed previously but were unsuccessful. A further application must be made to the Admissions Team and the candidate will go through the selection and interview process just as any other candidate. Any candidate who has been interviewed on 2 previous occasions will not be considered for a third interview.

2. Additional academic criteria

Not applicable

3. Personal statement criteria

In this section you are expected to show your reasons for applying for this programme; this can include relevant skills, career aspirations for further development of professional skills, knowledge, experience, voluntary activities and training.

You should show that you have made a significant effort to find out what the working role of a Dental Therapist entails in general dental practice. You should refer to your dental work experience in understanding the role, scope of practice and challenges associated with working in a general practice setting, a hospital, or salaried dental services.

You should show that you are a reliable and conscientious person and have a natural ability to work with and provide treatment and care for all sectors of the community.

We are also interested to hear about your extra-curricular activities, and general interests. How do you contribute to your community? What do you do to relax?

4. Reference criteria

Referees should note that the reference will be used as part of the final selection process following interview. It would also be useful to have comments on the suitability of a candidate to develop a professional career to include dental therapy skills, their ability to communicate and work well with others, timekeeping skills, and evidence of drive and enthusiasm to become a dental therapist.

5. Additional Tests

Not applicable

6. Interview

See Interview or Visit Day, section 3, above

7. Mature applicants

Mature students should show evidence of the necessary academic and practical skills essential for development and progression within a professional training programme.

8. International applicants

Qualifications as for UK/EU applicants *plus* English language requirements where English is not the first language. English Language requirements can be found in the UG Prospectus: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XDEN/386/admissions> and at: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-english-lang-reqs.html>

Overseas applicants must satisfy the Dental Admissions Team requirements in spoken English proficiency, be registered with the General Dental Council, and this will be reflected in the terms of any subsequent offer. The academic requirements for overseas applicants are exactly the same as those for home applicants, and overseas applicants are subject to the same interview process as home applicants.

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed here: www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied.

9. English Language requirements for non-native speakers

All applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficient ability to understand and express themselves in both spoken and written English in order to benefit fully from their degree course.

English Language requirements can be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus and at: www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

The specific IELTS standard required for this programme can be found in our online prospectus:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014>

10. Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to all applications, ensuring that the educational and social context in which an applicant applies is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement. This may include time spent in Local Authority care, information about which is provided in the UCAS application. Such applications will have one grade lifted for their academic score: e.g. an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include attendance at a University summer school, a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities), or participation in other higher education outreach activities.

We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant, or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

We *do not* take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the training school previously attended by an applicant when achieving their Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the online [Undergraduate Prospectus](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We may make lower offers based on whether an applicant is deemed to have experienced educational disadvantage, as defined in section 7.5 of the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

Other

1. Transfers

Requests for transfers into the DCP School at Bristol are not considered

2. Additional information

Criminal Records Check

All dental therapy students are required to undergo or produce an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, in line with most applicants for health-related programmes in the United Kingdom.

Health

Certain health conditions may be incompatible with some careers in dentistry. You will be required to complete a health assessment questionnaire and undergo screening for blood borne viruses, pre-course. The health assessment and blood tests are to identify the few whose health status may place them and/or future patients at risk. If you require advice; please write to the Admissions Team or University Hospitals Bristol Foundation Trust Occupational Health Service. You should be aware that students are taught in mixed-sex groups and will be required to have clinical partnerships with students of the opposite gender. Students are required to abide by the School's dress code which ensures infection control policies are followed.

Applicants with a disability:

It is the responsibility of the DCP School to ensure that students accepted on the course are able to complete the training and achieve the competencies required by the General Dental Council (GDC) for full registration on completion of the diploma programme. The DCP

School must consult the GDC if there is doubt and if it proposes a modification of experience to achieve the competencies. A clear plan to enable a disabled student to achieve competency must be agreed before the student enters the course. Not all disabilities limit the experience of the dental therapist in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability on their application forms and be prepared to release their medical details, in order for us to assess the situation. Failure to disclose a disability which might impinge upon a candidate's capacity to ultimately carry out their required duties in full will be considered unprofessional. This could put at risk their fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the DCP programme.

The procedure for dealing with Health and/ or disability Issues are set out below:

- i) Applicants who are selected for interview using the University's admissions criteria for interview (as described above) will be invited, irrespective of health issue/disability they have declared. During the admissions interview, the applicant's disability will not be considered or discussed.
- ii) If, following the interview, it is agreed that the applicant should be offered a place on the programme; the applicant will be made an offer and sent a pre-course questionnaire to complete and return to the Occupational Health Service. Applicants with a specific learning disability will be advised to contact Disability Services.
- iii) The Occupational Health Service will be responsible for assessing the health questionnaire according to recognised clinical and professional standards. The Occupational Health Adviser or physician will forward their report to the Director of the DCP School who will present it, if necessary, to the Disability and Health Panel for the consideration of any health issues which could impact fitness to practice.
- iv) For applicants with a specific learning difficulty, any concerns identified by the Disability Unit in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or any fitness to practice concerns for an individual applicant will be referred to the Disability and Health panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.
- v) Once the applicant is at the university his/her case will be considered for regular review by the Disability and Health Panel as necessary. The Occupational Health Service will also have advised regarding regular health reviews if it is deemed necessary to monitor the progress of the student.

For further information on the available support arrangements, please see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/>

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to Donna Parkin: donna.parkin@uhbristol.nhs.uk or +44 (0)117 342 4136.