

# Dentistry



Undergraduate study

## Courses

### Single Honours

#### **BDS Dentistry**

five years A206

#### **Gateway to Dentistry**

one year (plus five years) A208

## Why study dentistry at Bristol?

Our Dentistry course gives you a thorough grounding in biomedical sciences and allows you to develop the clinical skills and confidence you need to provide high-quality patient care. We have been training dentists for over 100 years and produce exceptional dental professionals, giving you a firm foundation for your future career. As a student dentist in Bristol you will:

- Prepare for general practice by following a path from the University campus into hospital- and community-based placements.
- Learn in the heart of the city at Bristol Dental School and Hospital, a Centre of Excellence providing routine and specialist clinical dental services.
- Develop teamwork skills and gain vital insights into work in practice by training alongside Dental Care Professional students.
- Hone your clinical skills using state-of-the-art equipment at South Bristol Community Hospital.
- Have the option of intercalating for a year to follow a specific interest, engage with world-leading research and expand your future career opportunities.
- Learn from nationally and internationally respected clinicians and researchers.

**‘The whole university experience is geared around you. From ensuring a support network to helping manage patients, the school is always there to enrich you and make you the best dentist you can be, ready to practise at the highest level.’**

Theo (BDS Dentistry)

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## What will you study?

### Year one

You will study the foundations of dentistry, which will give you an understanding of the clinical environment and knowledge of relevant health and social sciences so that you will have the confidence to treat patients from year two.

### Year two

You will practise dental skills in the laboratory and learn about common oral diseases to support your first patient treatments. Radiography and paediatric clinical observations will expand your dental experience.

### Year three

By now you will have responsibility for treating your own patients, providing a broad range of general dental treatments. Our Primary Care Dentistry unit includes the prevention and treatment of dental disease, restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry, orthodontics and oral surgery. Human Disease teaches you about clinical medical sciences and includes observational sessions in clinical departments, wards, emergency and operating theatres.

### Years four and five

By year four you will see patients across the disciplines, practising whole-patient care. There will be an opportunity to undertake a research project of your choice in Bristol, elsewhere in the UK, or abroad.

Throughout the course you will gain an understanding of behavioural and social sciences and develop essential skills in effective communication, building rapport, and ethical, professional behaviour. You will revisit themes such as wellbeing, lifelong learning, professionalism and teamwork, which along with Bristol Futures will encourage your personal and professional development.

**‘Good working relationships with supervising staff create a friendly learning environment.’**

Naz (BDS Dentistry)



## How will you study?

Teaching is delivered through a mix of formal lectures and small-group teaching, which complements hands-on training in our clinical skills laboratory and clinical experience.

In the clinical skills laboratory you will be taught via video presentations and hands-on practical demonstrations. Clinic staff guide and advise you throughout. Patient safety is key to our training and we go to great lengths to ensure that you are confident in your knowledge and clinical skills before treating patients.

Our electronic tools allow you to build a personal portfolio across all disciplines, which contributes to a record of achievement at qualification and will continue to be used through dental foundation training after graduation. Furthermore, it provides an important tool for reflection and feedback, increasing learning from each clinical encounter and building key skills required for lifelong learning.

### What support can you expect?

You will be allocated a personal tutor within the Dental School who will offer support and guidance on academic issues and provide opportunities to reflect on your personal and professional development. We have an open-door policy, which gives you easy access to feedback and guidance from academic staff.



Dedicated student advisers in the Faculty of Health Sciences will provide you with an excellent confidential support service. In addition, the University has an award-winning Student Health Service, Student Counselling Service, Disability Services and Occupational Health Service.

## Where will you study?

The early part of our Dentistry course is mostly delivered on campus.

From year two you will be based primarily at Bristol Dental Hospital, where you will learn clinical skills, gain experience of treating patients, and develop professionalism, communication, leadership and management skills. You will also spend time at South Bristol Community Hospital, Charlotte Keel Health Centre and other local hospitals, giving you experience of dental care in different settings.

Bristol Dental Hospital offers a comprehensive range of specialist services, giving you exposure to many complex treatments. Its services include oral medicine, paediatric dentistry, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. It has excellent facilities, including a clinical skills laboratory in which you can develop practical skills before treating patients, a common room, a canteen and private study rooms.

South Bristol Community Hospital gives you experience of providing treatment to the community in a large department similar to a general dental practice. You will deliver patient-centred care plans incorporating restorative dentistry, oral surgery and child dental health. The hospital's community engagement projects offer rewarding personal and professional development opportunities.

Charlotte Keel Health Centre offers the opportunity to provide comprehensive care for children, allowing you to develop your skills in paediatric dentistry in a community setting. You will work as an operator under close supervision, alongside a qualified dental nurse.



## Careers support and graduate destinations

Dentistry is a rewarding profession offering a wide choice of careers and great flexibility. Nearly all our graduates go on to a year of dental foundation training in an NHS dental practice. After foundation training you can work in private or NHS practices; most dentists will see a mixture of both NHS and private patients. Those with an interest in business may go on to run their own practices.

Some graduates work in community clinics or hospitals, where they can specialise in disciplines such as oral surgery, restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry, orthodontics, oral medicine or special care dentistry. Some may choose to undertake a medical degree at Bristol to enable training in specialties such as oral and maxillofacial surgery.

You may choose to go on to gain postgraduate qualifications, which can open the door to a career in teaching or research. General Practitioners can combine practice with teaching either as a Clinical Teaching Fellow as part of a teaching hospital/outreach facility, or as a trainer in a foundation training practice.

National funding bodies such as the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) support graduates in undertaking clinical training alongside the development of research interests.



The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

## Making your application

### Typical offer for BDS Dentistry\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-dentistry](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-dentistry) for other qualifications.

**A-levels** AAA (contextual AAC<sup>†</sup>) including AA in Chemistry and either Biology or Physics. Graduate applicants are required to obtain a 2:1 in their degree and BBB at A-level including Chemistry and either Biology or Physics.

**IB Diploma** 36 points overall (contextual 32<sup>†</sup>) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16<sup>†</sup>), including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and either Biology or Physics.

### English Language profile A<sup>††</sup>

**GCSEs** Advanced numeracy requirement (A in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS and Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI). If you are offered a place, you will have to pass a health assessment and undergo a DBS check.

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) is required.

Work experience is required.

### References

These should ideally be from a personal tutor at a school or college, confirming your academic potential for study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm your relevant experience and indicate your potential for study at degree level.

\*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

## What kind of student are we looking for?

We are looking for students who are passionate about studying dentistry and have the potential to become compassionate, safe and effective dentists. You should enjoy communicating, interacting and empathising with people of all ages, social backgrounds and cultures, and those with special needs. You will need to have an excellent academic record, particularly in the sciences, and good time management and organisational skills. Joining this profession requires a lifelong commitment to continued professional development, so enthusiasm for learning is essential.

You will need to be able to demonstrate that you have:

- a realistic and considered interest in dentistry as a career;
- dental and related work experience (a minimum of one week, and you should have engaged thoroughly in the experience);
- other work experience (optional);
- a wide range of interests outside dentistry;
- contributed to school/college/community activities.

We will also be looking for examples of your practical, analytical, problem-solving and communication skills.

### Multiple Mini Interviews

The final stages in your application, following academic and personal statement scoring, are Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). MMIs at Bristol usually consist of ten stations, each taking five minutes, and you are assessed on a specific skill or attribute at each of these stations. The stations may include communication skills, work experience, teamwork and observation.



These are a great opportunity for you to demonstrate the skills and attributes that are necessary for a career in dentistry. The interview day also gives you an opportunity to visit the city, tour Bristol Dental Hospital and meet current students, to help you decide if you would like to study here.

Interviews are usually held from December until March each year, and you will be expected to be available throughout the interview period. No offers are made without an interview.

### Further information

Find out more about Bristol Dental School: [bristol.ac.uk/dental](http://bristol.ac.uk/dental).

# Gateway to Dentistry

Our one-year Gateway to Dentistry course is an initiative targeted at UK students who have the potential to become dentists but do not meet the academic entry criteria to apply directly to the BDS Dentistry. We have specific entry criteria for this course, which are listed in full on our website.

You will spend the year developing your knowledge of the basic sciences which underpin the study of dentistry. Successful completion of the Gateway course will enable you to automatically progress to the five-year BDS Dentistry course.

## Entry requirements

**A-levels** BBC including BB in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Applicants with predicted/achieved grades of AAB or above are not eligible for this course.

**IB Diploma** 29 points overall with 14 at Higher Level, including 5 at Higher Level in Chemistry and 5 at Higher Level in one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Applicants with predicted or achieved grades of 33 overall and 16 at Higher Level or above are not eligible for this course.

**English Language profile** B<sup>††</sup>

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS. Candidates who fulfil both the academic entry criteria and the additional widening participation criteria will be considered for interview. This will be the MMI (Multiple Mini Interviews); please see BDS Dentistry entry requirements for details.

**GCSEs** Standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent) and higher numeracy requirement (B in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and two higher science requirements (B in GCSE Science or equivalent).

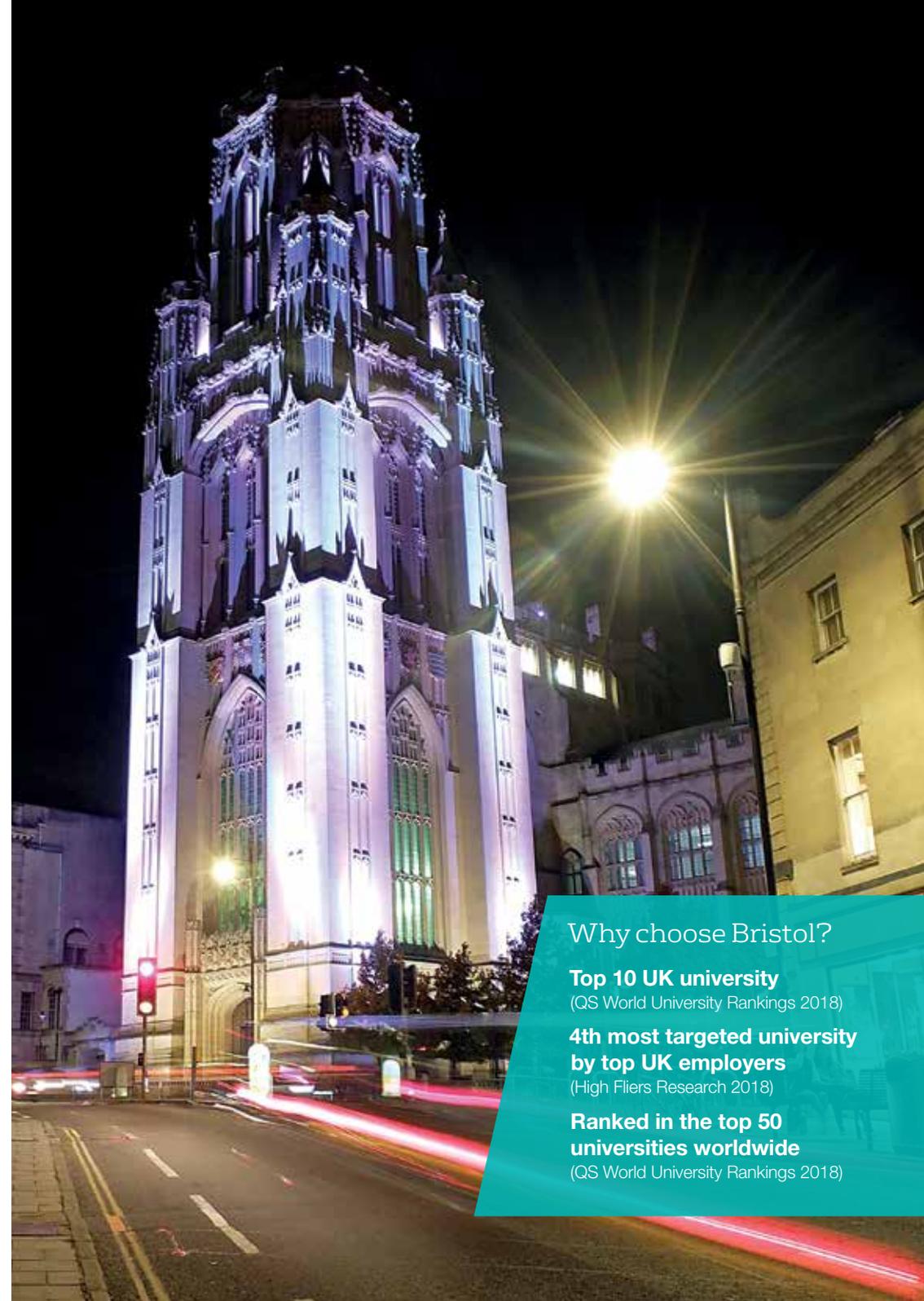
UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) is required. Relevant work experience is desirable but not essential. Other academic qualifications may be considered; please see our website for details.

**Deferred entry** Not accepted.

For more information please see: [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-dentistry](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-dentistry).

**“The workload is manageable and I feel that the course is preparing me well for the first year of Dentistry. Lecturers and tutors are passionate about their subjects and are happy to help.”**

Jack (Gateway to Dentistry)



## Why choose Bristol?

**Top 10 UK university**  
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

**4th most targeted university  
by top UK employers**  
(High Fliers Research 2018)

**Ranked in the top 50  
universities worldwide**  
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

## Accommodation Office

Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640

Email [accom-office@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:accom-office@bristol.ac.uk)

[bristol.ac.uk/accommodation](http://bristol.ac.uk/accommodation)

## Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

Email [disability-services@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:disability-services@bristol.ac.uk)

[bristol.ac.uk/disability-services](http://bristol.ac.uk/disability-services)

University guide to the city of Bristol

[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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## Photography

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