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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Photography

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# Dental Hygiene and Therapy



Undergraduate study



## Courses

### Single Honours

#### **BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy**

three years B750

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). 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.

## Why study dental hygiene and therapy at Bristol?

Learn in the heart of the city at Bristol Dental School and Hospital, a centre for excellence providing routine and specialist clinical dental services.

We have been training dental care professionals for over 40 years, producing exceptional dental hygienists and therapists. Our BSc course allows you to develop the clinical skills and confidence you need to provide high-quality patient care and gives you a firm foundation for your future career.

Dental hygienists/therapists work as part of a dental team playing a pivotal role in the prevention, treatment and management of oral disease. They specialise in the treatment and monitoring of periodontal (gum) health and carry out procedures such as fillings for both adults and children, the placement of preformed metal crowns and pulp therapy for deciduous teeth.

Dental hygienists/therapists are able to undertake a number of other clinical procedures, which include applying fissure sealants and fluoride preparations, delivery of local anaesthetic, taking dental radiographs, placing temporary fillings and taking dental impressions.

The full scope of practice for a dental hygienist/therapist can be found on the General Dental Council website: [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org).

The Dental Care Professional (DCP) School at Bristol has its own dedicated clinical environment, which is adjacent to dental undergraduate clinics, and facilitates an integrated team approach to the student's learning and patient care.

There is an excellent student-to-staff teaching ratio, and all training is delivered in state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, clinics and teaching laboratories. Teaching is primarily delivered via lectures and small-group seminars, principally by DCP School tutorial staff and undergraduate staff.

In April 2013, Bristol Dental School became one of only two dental schools in the UK to be awarded a prestigious Athena SWAN Silver Award, recognising the school's positive working environment.

## What will you study?

The first five months of pre-clinical training are based within the dental hospital and school. Intensive academic lectures and seminars are taught alongside practical teaching on manikin heads. You will learn general and regional (head and neck) anatomy and physiology and will be introduced to oral and systemic diseases.

For clinical procedures your competency will be assessed in the Clinical Skills Laboratory, and at the end of the pre-clinical training you will have sufficient knowledge to start treating patients on the periodontal clinic at Bristol Dental Hospital.

At the end of year one you will be competent in treating periodontal patients under supervision. You will be able to communicate accurately on clinical matters and exercise personal responsibility for basic clinical decision making.

To learn about the oral health needs of the local community, you will be asked to attend community-based teaching clinics and oral health promotion sessions at South Bristol Community Hospital in Hengrove.

In your second year of training, you will build on the knowledge and skills learned in year one, developing a thorough understanding of the field of periodontology.

You will commence preclinical training in restorative techniques for adult patients. You will be taught alongside dentistry undergraduate students, and in your final term you will begin restorative treatment of adult patients at the dental hospital.

In year three you will begin preclinical training in paediatric dentistry and oral surgery, alongside continued clinical development treating adult restorative and periodontal patients.

You will be predominately placed in community-based teaching clinics treating a wide range of patients with a variety of needs, working towards a holistic approach of patient management.

You will complete an individual research project in an area of dentistry relevant to your role as a hygienist/therapist.

We use various methods of assessment, with regular formative assessments set throughout the course to encourage reflection and feedback.

During your first year of training there will be a series of instrument competencies and e-assessments to determine awareness of clinical safety issues and readiness to progress to treatment on patients.

All contact with patients is recorded and graded as a continuous clinical assessment, with reflection statements documented by both staff and students. Clinical sessions are recorded in a log book which provides documented evidence of your clinical portfolio on completion of the course.

In order to progress to year two, you must also pass competencies in medical emergency scenarios, typically applied fluoride and local anaesthesia (including observed placements of local anaesthetic).

In year two you will be required to pass adult restorative preclinical competencies, pass a radiology/radiography e-assessment and practical competency, and demonstrate safe and effective clinical work through continuous clinical assessment via your logbook.

In order to progress to year three, you must also have demonstrated safe and effective clinical practice through continuous clinical assessment and will be assessed on an unseen case study of a periodontal patient.

In your final year of study, you must successfully complete competencies in extraction of deciduous teeth and advanced restorative techniques.

In order to gain the BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy, you will need to complete your clinical portfolio to an acceptable standard, demonstrate safe and competent clinical practice, and complete and pass a self-directed learning project. You will also sit a written examination, including an adult and paediatric restorative and periodontal case presentation and verbal assessment.

The majority of your teaching and training will take place in the University of Bristol Dental Hospital, a centre for excellence providing routine and specialist clinical dental services.



**'The supportive and enthusiastic staff really help to make this challenging course rewarding and enjoyable.'**

Stephanie (Dental Care Professional student)

## Careers and graduate destinations

People who study dental hygiene and therapy like to work with the general public, have a good level of manual dexterity, and have an interest in and commitment to delivering effective oral health care and advice.

The role provides daily interactions with patients to motivate and inspire behaviour change, together with the provision of advanced clinical treatments to prevent gum disease and tooth loss and restore dentition. Dental hygiene and therapy is a rewarding career, providing graduates with excellent employment opportunities on qualification.

On qualification, students register with the General Dental Council and are able to work in various areas of the dental sector including general practice, community dental clinics, hospitals, specialist practices, teaching hospitals and dental schools, research and industry, or the armed forces.

Post-qualification, a dental hygienist/therapist can further develop their skills to include tooth whitening, inhalation sedation and removing sutures.

**'Bristol offers a supportive network of passionate and friendly tutors. You gain lots of clinical experience working in and around Bristol, preparing you for practice. I couldn't have chosen a better place to study.'**

Holly (BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy)



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

[bristol.ac.uk/students](https://bristol.ac.uk/students)



## Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene) for more information about our courses.

### Typical offer for BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy

**A-levels** ABB (contextual BBC) including B in Biology/Human Biology.

Alternatively, you may hold a GDC-recognised Dental Nursing qualification (level 3) plus BB in two A-levels including Biology.

**IB Diploma** 31 points overall (contextual 27) with 15 at Higher Level (contextual 13), including 5 at Higher Level in Biology

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](https://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

**Selection process** UCAS, practical and written assessments and interview. If you are offered a place you will have to pass a health assessment and undergo a DBS check.

All applicants must have completed at least five days of work experience with a dental hygienist/therapist. Experience in general dentistry practice does not fulfil this requirement.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene).

### Application advice for dental hygiene and therapy

#### 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.

Experience in a dental setting and familiarity with the work and remit of a dental hygienist/therapist are essential. The personal statement on your application form should outline your personal attributes and skills and reflect any work experience you have gained.

#### What kind of student would this course suit?

We are looking for students who are passionate about all aspects of the role of a dental hygienist/therapist with a keen interest in prevention of oral diseases. A dental hygiene and therapy student must enjoy communicating and interacting with people of all ages, social cultures and backgrounds and those with varying needs, and be able to work well as part of a team.

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 in February/March each year. No offers are made without an interview.

#### Further information

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

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentalhygiene).