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

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Dentistry



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BDS Dentistry

five years A206

Gateway to Dentistry

one year (plus five years) A208

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, for the latest updates.

Why study dentistry at Bristol?

Our dentistry curriculum is comprised of four major helical themes that develop throughout the five years of your degree. The Practitioner theme, including clinical dentistry, is the backbone of the course. This is supported by three other themes: Scholar and Scientist, Professional and Agent of Change, and Person and Citizen.

We have been educating 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 clinical 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)

What will you study?

Year one

Initially, you will study the foundations of dentistry, culminating in a student-led conference. Following this, you will participate in peer-work clinical sessions, underpinned by relevant health and social sciences, giving you the confidence and communication skills 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 adult patient treatments in the second term. Radiography and paediatric clinical observations will expand your dental experience, and you will acquire understanding of broader aspects of human health and disease. Communication and team-working skills will be developed through integrated learning with other Dental Care Professional students.

Year three

By now you will be providing a broad range of general dental treatment for your patients. You will continue to build your knowledge in the prevention and treatment of dental disease, restorative and paediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and oral surgery. You will have further

opportunities to increase your understanding of general medical conditions in the hospital environment.

Years four and five

By year four you will see patients across the disciplines, practising whole-patient care. You will observe expert clinicians working in their specialties in consultant clinics. Our South Bristol and Charlotte Keel community clinics will facilitate your preparation for dental practice. There will be an opportunity to undertake a community 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.

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.

'At Bristol you can make great friends, try out new things, and receive a great education coupled with support when you need it.'

Ahmed (BDS Dentistry)



Where will you study?

In year one you will divide your time between on-campus teaching and clinical placements in the Bristol Dental Hospital.

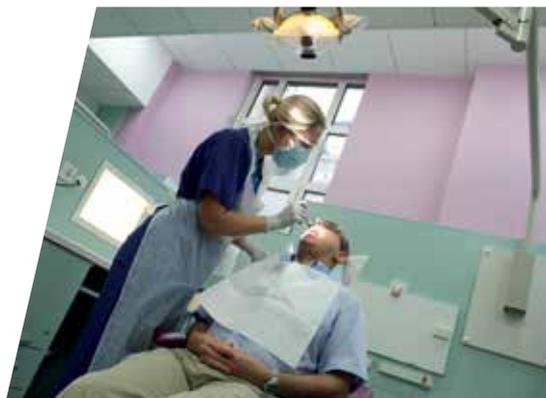
From year two you will be based primarily at Bristol Dental Hospital, where you will learn clinical skills, gain experience of treating patients, and develop professionalism, communication, leadership and management skills. You will also spend time at South Bristol Community Hospital, Charlotte Keel 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.

Facilities at the University of Bristol Dental Hospital include 20 dental chairs, four of which are enclosed for private surgery, providing the latest in dental equipment and technology.



Careers 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.

100% of BDS Dentistry graduates were employed as health professionals six months after graduation.

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey, graduates from 2016/17



'The facilities at the Dental School are brilliant. We are exposed to clinical practice early on, and it is a great learning environment. I have gained a lot of skills, and all my experiences have prepared me for my career.'

Serena (BDS Dentistry)

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentistry for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BDS Dentistry

A-levels AAA including AA in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics (contextual AAC including AA in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics, **or** ABB including A in Chemistry and B in one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics).

Graduates are required to obtain a 2:1 in their degree and BBB at A-level including Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16), including 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and 6 at Higher Level (contextual 5) in one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics.

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.



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

bristol.ac.uk/students

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

GCSEs Advanced numeracy requirement (7 or A in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentistry.

Selection process UCAS and multiple mini interview (MMI).

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (formerly UKCAT) is required.

If you are offered a place, you will have to pass a health assessment and undergo a DBS check.

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.

Further information

Find out more about Bristol Dental School: 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-dentistry.

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 currently consist of seven 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 and teamwork.

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.



bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

Gateway to Dentistry

Our one-year Gateway to Dentistry course is 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, listed in full online.

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

Entry requirements

Please see bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentistry for more information about the course.

A-levels BBC including B in Biology or Chemistry. Applicants with predicted or achieved grades of AAB or above, or with A in Chemistry, are not eligible for this course.

IB Diploma 29 points overall, including 5 at Higher Level in Biology or Chemistry. Applicants with predicted or achieved grades of 33 points overall including 16 at Higher Level, or with 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry, are not eligible for this course.

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent) and two higher science requirements (6, 6 or BB in GCSE Science or equivalent).

‘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)

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentistry.

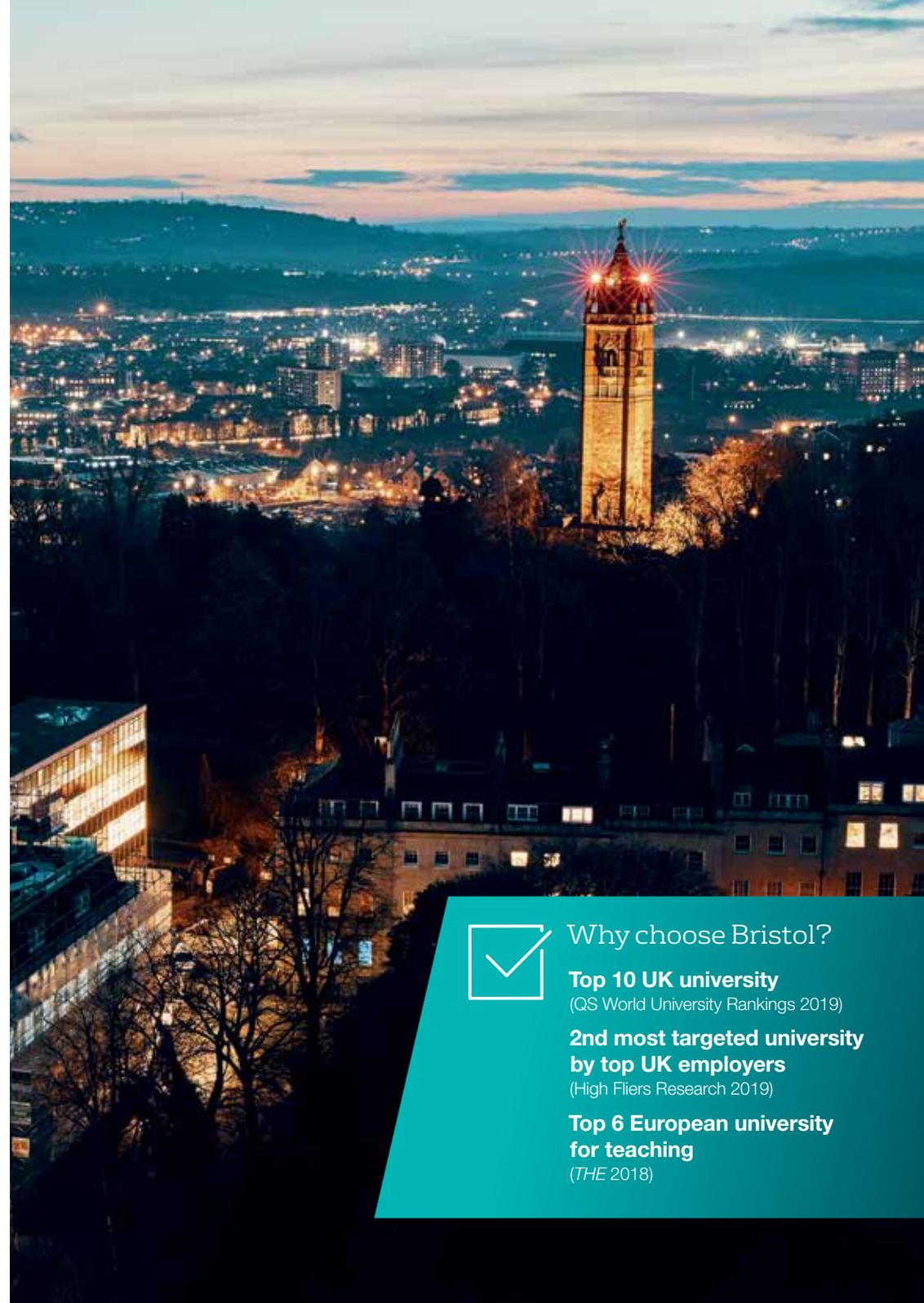
Selection process

- This course is open to applicants from specific schools and colleges in the UK only. Lists of the eligible schools and colleges, as well as full details of our admissions policies and entry criteria, can be found in the admissions statement at bristol.ac.uk/ug20-dentistry.
- 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.
- The University Clinical Aptitude Test (formerly UKCAT) is required.
- If you are offered a place, you will have to pass a health assessment and undergo a DBS check.
- Work experience is recommended.
- Deferred entry is not accepted.

Further information

Find out more about Bristol Dental School: 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-dentistry.



Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university
(QS World University Rankings 2019)

**2nd most targeted university
by top UK employers**
(High Fliers Research 2019)

**Top 6 European university
for teaching**
(THE 2018)