

Dentistry Subject Guide



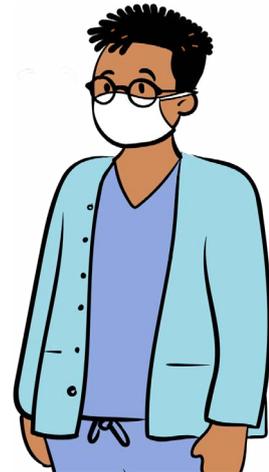
Dental Study

Dentistry courses are studied at university and are usually 5 years long. There are only two universities in Scotland that offer Dentistry:

University of Dundee or **University of Glasgow**

So, you might want to consider applying to courses in the rest of the UK. Two things to bear in mind:

1. Entry requirements are often based on achieving at Advanced Higher, so check carefully. If your school doesn't offer the required Advanced Highers, get in touch with the university to see if they'll accept alternatives.
2. You'll have to pay the tuition fees, although SAAS can give you a loan to pay for these. You can also still apply for support with living costs (loans and/or bursaries). You only pay this back after you graduate and are earning above a set salary threshold.



Remember you can only apply to 4 Dentistry courses through UCAS: your 5th choice must be a back-up. You don't need to consider this when writing your personal statement though - keep it entirely focussed on Dentistry.

Alternative Options

- Stay motivated! If you are not successful the first time, you can always reapply the following year. Use the time in between productively, by gaining more work experience and achieving any additional grades if needed.
- Although you cannot progress on to being a Dentist, Oral Health Science or Dental Nursing courses are good alternatives that still allow you to work in Dental Practices as a key member of the team. You can also do HE courses in Dental Science/Technology, if you are interested in the science side.
- Think long term. If you complete an Honours degree first, you could use this as your entry requirement for Graduate Dentistry courses. There are a few different options in Scotland but be aware that student funding may not cover the costs of a second UG degree.

General Advice

The **UCAT** (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) is a way for universities to filter applications. It tests your decision making and reasoning skills, not your dental knowledge. Use the **free resources** on the UCAT website to get familiar with the style of questions. It's designed to be tight on time, so try out lots of practice tests. Registration typically opens in May and you can book your test slot from June. Testing runs from June-end of September, so you sit the test before the UCAS deadline.

Work experience in a dental surgery can be tricky to organise (but keep trying!). Consider other care settings such as care homes or working with children and volunteering in your community. Check out The **Dental Schools Council's** advice on career exploration too.

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Resources

Here are some good resources that can help you to get started:

- **Reach Pupil Resource:** Reach Tayside are specialists in Widening Access to Dentistry, check out the additional resources section.
- **Studying Healthcare:** Is a partnership between the Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Schools Councils providing up-to-date and accurate information about the university application process for healthcare subjects.
- **Reflection Tool-kit:** University of Edinburgh have developed this tool-kit to help build reflective practice skills; these are key qualities for dental applicants.
- **I want to be a Dentist:** has lots of advice on finding work experience.
- **Discover Dentistry:** Is a great career exploration course available on Future Learn. You don't have to pay to access this, choose the free 6 week option!
- **Interview Preparation:** UCAS have created a handy guide to help you prepare for the interview process.

Checklist

Get ahead and prepare yourself for future dental study and applications:

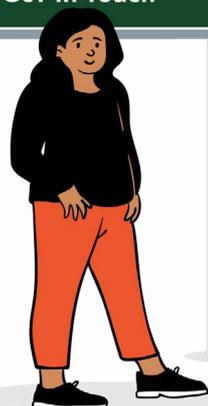
Check entry requirements carefully!

Organise some work experience, this could be in person or virtually.

Build on your reflection skills and use them when writing your Personal Statement and in interviews.

Prepare and practice for the UCAT exam and book your test.

Make note of the early UCAS deadline, usually around the 15th of October.



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