

Dentistry @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 16*

1 Glasgow	AAA	11 Birmingham	AAA
2 Dundee	AAA	12 Bristol	AAA
3 Cardiff	AAA	13 Sheffield	AAB
4 Manchester	AAA	14 Liverpool	AAA
5 Newcastle	AAA	15 Plymouth	A*AA
6 Queen's Belfast	AAA	16 UCLAN ***	AAA
7 KCL	A*AA		
8 Queen Mary	A*AA		
9 Aberdeen **	2.1		
10 Leeds	AAA		

There are only 16 universities in the UK offering a degree in dentistry. They are all highly competitive and any of them will provide you with a well-recognised and reputable qualification.

* Complete University Guide April 2020 ** graduate entry level only *** University of Central Lancashire

Must haves

Chemistry and biology A Level. You will need to sit the UCAT or BMAT, depending on the university.

Other degrees to consider

Medicine, biomedical sciences, chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacy, ophthalmology, biotechnology, physiotherapy, physiology, genetics, biochemistry, biological sciences.

Example course modules

In effect dentists are doctors who specialise in oral health. You'll learn the knowledge and skills required to diagnose oral diseases, promote oral health, interpret x-rays and create treatment plans to restore and maintain the oral health of your patients. The demanding five-year course involves the academic study of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry alongside practical placements to develop your skills in taking a medical history, dental examinations, deciding on appropriate treatment, orthodontics and using local anaesthetic. Modules might include oral biology; digestive, renal and endocrine systems; radiology; periodontology; oral pathology; oral sciences and medicine; patient assessment; paediatric dentistry and orthodontistry; and healthcare ethics and law.

Contact hours per week: 24 to 27, 24 on average. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Armed with relevant practical and clinical skills, 99% of dentistry graduates go on to become dentists, in a career where pay is good – some of the highest salaries for recent graduates and employment is pretty secure. Most dentists work in private practice, but you could also work in hospitals, the armed forces or university dental practices. The oral and written communication skills, logical reasoning, decision making and other transferable skills you gain in your degree will make you attractive to a range of other employers too and you could work in a field totally unrelated to your degree – such as finance, management consultancy or you could be a university lecturer.

Average starting salary: £31,000