UK Dental Schools Admissions: 2019 Entry

(Students must always check university websites for current entry requirements as these may have changed since this document was created)

Dental degrees are generally 5 years long and lead to a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS). Entry usually requires Chemistry and Biology at A level/IB Higher/Advanced Highers. Some dental courses offer the option of an intercalated degree; an additional one-year BSc programme during the course which gives students the opportunity to study the subjects of their choice in greater depth. These degrees offer students an opportunity to think critically about, and to study more deeply, the scientific base of dental science.

All applications which include choices for Dentistry must be submitted to UCAS by 18.00 (UK time) on 15 October 2018 for entry in autumn 2019. You may apply to only four Dentistry courses. The fifth choice can be used to apply for an alternative course without prejudice to your commitment to Dentistry.

Gaining relevant work experience prior to applying is now a prerequisite; it is unlikely that you will be considered unless you have evidence of this. In addition, it is also essential to show evidence or experience of any voluntary work that you have done as this demonstrates the caring side of your personality and will also develop your ability to deal with people.

The majority of Dental Schools require students to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). Dental schools use the results in different ways, so student should check how the score will be used, before applying. The threshold score applied by universities to determine candidate selection for interview alters each year and is influenced by overall candidate performance in the UKCAT and the number and quality of applications received.

During the selection process academic excellence is only one criterion; it is vital to be able to show that you are highly motivated towards a career in dentistry and possess other qualities required of a dentist. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the empathy needed when dealing with different members of our society and as you will need to work with your hands you will need to demonstrate that you are able to acquire a high degree of manual dexterity.

There is a useful book by Trotman called, “Getting into Dental school” ISBN 9781 911067 35 1
The British Dental Association BDA provides careers information on becoming a dentist. At interview, Dental Schools will be looking for demonstration of strong interpersonal and communication skills due to the nature of the work dealing with patients. Many have changed to the short Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs), which help them assess suitability of applicants to the profession rather than the traditional one to one interview.

**University** | **GCSE requirements, Selection and interviews** | **A levels** | **International Baccalaureate** | **Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers** | **Sciences required**
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**Queen’s University Belfast**<br>UKCAT | How we choose our students, 2018 entry<br>GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C is required if not offered at AS-level or A-level. OR<br>Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 or National 5 Physics and Mathematics are also necessary<br>Contact the university if your school does not offer the option of a standalone AS subject.<br>For NI, GB and EU applicants, GCSE performance in the best 9 subjects at the first attempt will be scored with 4 points awarded for an A* (grade 8 and 9 in the new grading scale) and 3 for an A grade (grade 7 in the new grading scale). Points are not awarded for B and C grades (grades 6, 5 and 4 in the new grading scale). | AAA at A-level including Biology/Human Biology and Chemistry. | 36 points to include 666 at Higher Level, with Biology and Chemistry. | Conditional offers range from AA-AAA (including Chemistry) in Advanced Highers and three subjects at this level will be required unless the applicant has achieved AAAAA in Scottish Highers. Biology Higher is required if not taken at Advanced Higher. | Chemistry and Biology. |
**Birmingham**<br>UKCAT | GCSE A*/8 in Biology and Chemistry and A/7 in Mathematics and English Language.<br>At both A Level and GCSE, resits are not considered. | AAA Must include Chemistry and Biology. | 32 points 6,6,6 at Higher Level to include Chemistry and Biology | AAA at AH To include Chemistry and Biology plus a third | Chemistry and Biology.
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<th>School</th>
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<th>Requirements</th>
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<td><strong>Bristol</strong></td>
<td>Advanced numeracy requirement (A in GCSE Maths or equivalent) and Standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent). Dentistry Admissions Statement Multiple Mini Interviews which will take approximately 90 minutes. Interviewees will be assessed at ten different ‘stations’ covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful dental student and dentist.</td>
<td>AAA including AA in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Graduates are required to obtain a 2:i in their degree and BBB at A-level including Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics. 36 points overall with 18 at Higher Level, including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and either Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Advanced Higher: AA in Chemistry and either Biology, Physics or Mathematics, and Standard Higher: AAAAB Chemistry and either Biology, Physics or Maths</td>
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<td><strong>Cardiff</strong></td>
<td>In addition to grade A or grade 8/7 in GCSE/IGCSE English Language or Welsh (First) Language, GCSE/IGCSE grades must include grade A or grade 8/7 in the single sciences or a minimum of grade AA or grade 8/7 in the Double Award. MMIs. There are ten stations in total. Each mini interview lasts a maximum of 5 minutes.</td>
<td>AAA including Chemistry and Biology. 36 points with 6 in HL Biology and Chemistry. AA at AH including Chemistry and Biology Highers:AAAAA. Chemistry and Biology.</td>
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<td>Dundee</td>
<td><strong>UKCAT</strong></td>
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<td>We also require biology at least to grade A at National 5 and English and mathematics at least to Grade B at National 5, if not studied at Higher. Achievement at National 5 or equivalent will also be taken into account. OR We also require biology, mathematics and English at least to GCSE Grade B / 6 if not studied at A-level. The duration of work experience is not specified, but it is hoped that candidates will make every effort to observe for some time. MMIs. This will be a series of 10 seven-minute interviews. You can expect the usual topics to be covered in these interviews, e.g. why do you want to study Dentistry, what makes Dentistry at Dundee unique. You will also be asked to expand on some aspects of your UCAS personal statement.</td>
<td>AAA at the first sitting of A-Levels to include Chemistry and another science, (biology is recommended).</td>
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<td>Dundee</td>
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<td>Applicants must have six GCSEs at Grade A/7 including Mathematics or Physics plus English Language or Literature at B/6 or better. Resits are not accepted. All applicants must have undertaken a minimum of 3 days work shadowing experience,</td>
<td>AAA</td>
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preferably within a General Dental Practice setting, it should also include time with other members of the dental team as it is equally important to understand their roles.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview. This will consist of a series of mini interviews which have been designed to assess the applicant’s non-cognitive skills.

**BDS Person Specification.**

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<th><strong>King’s College London</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Leeds</strong></th>
<th><strong>BMAT</strong></th>
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<td>Grade 6/B in both English Language and Mathematics at GCSE, if not offered at A-level. OR Maths and English also required at Intermediate 2/Standard Credit Grade1 or 2/National 5 with B</td>
<td>A*AA including Chemistry and Biology</td>
<td>GCSEs: 6 A* - B, including Chemistry, Biology (or dual science) + English and Maths (grade B minimum).</td>
<td>AAA including Biology and Chemistry.</td>
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<td>Any voluntary contribution to your community is taken into account, eg volunteer in a care home. We look for evidence that you have worked in a setting where you can interact with the general public eg in a pharmacy, check-out or restaurant.</td>
<td>35 points And 666 in three HL subjects to include Chemistry and Biology plus grade 5 SL in both English and Mathematics, if not offered at HL</td>
<td>The MMI last for approximately half a day. It is used to assess your attitudes,</td>
<td>The third A-Level</td>
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<td>Normally, a multiple mini interview, usually 40-50 minutes, with at least four interviewers.</td>
<td>AA in AH including Chemistry and Biology, in addition to AAAAB in 5 Highers</td>
<td>A* in HL Chemistry and Biology, plus a further HL 6.</td>
<td>AA in AH in Biology and Chemistry, plus either a third subject at grade A</td>
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<td>Higher Biology OR Human Biology at grade A AND Higher Chemistry at grade A AND Higher English OR ESOL at grade C or above AND Higher Mathematics OR Higher Physics.</td>
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<td>School</td>
<td>UKCAT ABL</td>
<td>General Entry Requirements</td>
<td>English Language</td>
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<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>A minimum of 8 GCSEs to include 5 A grades. Grade B or above should be achieved in English Language, Maths and Science. Vocational/Applied GCSEs are not accepted. Applicants should read the admissions statement. Evidence required of work experience. Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) are held in February and March.</td>
<td>AAA including Chemistry and Biology</td>
<td>36 points including 6 in Chemistry and Biology at HL</td>
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<td>Manchester</td>
<td>Students are expected to be studying beyond the 'bare minimum' in order to make the most competitive application possible. See website for examples of acceptable activities and qualifications. Note that if your school is unable to offer any of the above, they should state this in the UCAS reference and you will not be disadvantaged as a result.</td>
<td>AAA including Biology and Chemistry</td>
<td>37 points including: 7,6,6 at the Higher Level subjects Major subjects must include Chemistry and Biology, plus one further subject at Advanced Higher level.</td>
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AA At least two Advanced Highers at grades AA by the end of Secondary 6. Any of the following combinations are acceptable:

AAA Includes Biology and Chemistry.

36 points Includes 6 in Chemistry and Biology at HL.

AAA in AH includes Biology and Chemistry.

Plus AAAAA at Higher level includes Chemistry and Biology.

NEOCE Requires these subjects at Advanced Higher level, or two additional Highers at grade B in Chemistry, Biology, English, and either Physics or Maths at Higher level.

UKCAT ABL Requires a minimum of 5 A grades at GCSE, including English Language, Maths, and Science.

Vocational/Applied GCSEs are not accepted.

Students are expected to be studying beyond the 'bare minimum' in order to make the most competitive application possible. See website for examples of acceptable activities and qualifications.

If your school is unable to offer any of the above, they should state this in the UCAS reference and you will not be disadvantaged as a result.
We require six GCSEs at grade A/7 including either Dual Award Science or Core, Additional and Further Additional Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We also require B/6 grades in English Language and Maths. All GCSEs should be at grade 5 and above.

We expect all applicants to have spent a minimum period of two weeks work shadowing a General Dental Practitioner prior to submitting your application. We do not necessarily require a two-week block, but the equivalent of two weeks built up over a period of time ie during Year 11 and Year 12.

The interview format includes participation in a group discussion and an assessment of your professionalism.

higher Level.
- 5,5,5 at the Standard Level including 7 and 6 in Biology and Chemistry
- At least 1 core point.

Higher, including Chemistry and Biology plus one other subject

We require 4 Highers at grades AAAAA by the end of Secondary 5.

Newcastle

All applicants are required to have undertaken a minimum of two weeks’ dental work experience prior to submitting their UCAS application. This should be carried out in a General Dental Practice, but other types of dental work experience may be considered.

The interview will be conducted by two selectors and will last approximately 20 minutes.

If only one out of Biology and Chemistry is offered at Advanced Higher, a grade A is required in that science plus A in Higher in the other.

AAA including Chemistry and Biology.
For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element.

37 points with Chemistry and Biology at Grade 6 or above at Higher level.

H: AAAAA normally including Chemistry and Biology.
AH: (minimum A/B) to include Biology and/or Chemistry.

Chemistry and Biology.
### Plymouth University, Peninsula School of Dentistry

**UKCAT**

Applicants need to achieve 7 GCSE passes at grades A-C/9-4 which must include English language, mathematics and either GCSE double award science or two from single award Chemistry, Biology, or Physics.

The interviews follow a structured and formal process in order to ensure that every student applying to a particular programme, is asked the same questions and receives the same prompts. The interview should take approximately 20 minutes. It is not a test of medical or scientific knowledge, but aims to explore your attitudes, outlook and way of thinking.

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<td>A grade in Biology and one further science from Chemistry, Physics, Maths, and Psychology.</td>
<td>including six in Biology and one further science from Chemistry, Physics, Maths, and Psychology at the Higher Level..</td>
<td>including a grade A in Biology and one further science from Chemistry, Physics, Maths, and Psychology.</td>
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### Queen Mary (Barts and The London)

**UKCAT**

All eligible applicants must have the following subjects at GCSE level, at grades AAABB or 777666 to include English Language, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics (or Additional Mathematics or Statistics).

The Science Double Award may substitute all sciences at GCSE.

Selectors will expect that candidates can demonstrate some knowledge about a career in Dentistry and have gained some work experience in relevant settings.

Normally interview panels consist of two members of senior academic or clinical staff, a dentistry student and sometimes a lay selector.

Click here to view the full admissions policy for Medicine and Dentistry.

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<tr>
<th>AAA</th>
<th>38 points</th>
<th>AA at AH</th>
<th>Chemistry or Biology and a second science from Biology. Chemistry, Maths or Physics.</th>
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<td>To include Biology or Chemistry. A second science subject is also required from any of the following - Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics.</td>
<td>6,6,6 in HL subjects, to include HL Biology or Chemistry and one other science or mathematical subject at HL.</td>
<td>Three Scottish Highers at grades AAA, including Biology and Chemistry. Candidates must offer grades at AA in Advanced Highers in two of the subjects offered at Scottish Highers, including Chemistry and/or Biology.</td>
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| Sheffield UKCAT | 6 GCSE (or equivalent) grades at 7 or grade A including Maths, English Language and Science. Applicants should have work experience in healthcare environments, including a placement within a general dental practice. Applicants should understand the qualities required to be a healthcare professional. Interview panels comprise two members of academic staff, a senior dental student and a patient interviewer. Interviews last up to 20 minutes. | AAA
AAA including Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology.
OR
AAB including AA in Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology + B. EPQ should be in a dental or healthcare subject. | 36 points
6 in Higher Level Chemistry and Biology. | H: AAAAB
including Biology
PLUS
Advanced Higher Chemistry or Biology at grade A. | Chemistry and Biology. |