

# Dentist

Dentists are the frontline of good oral health. They work with communities to prevent and treat dental/oral disease, correct dental irregularities and treat dental/facial injuries.

## Working life

You'll lead the dental team using the the skills and confidence gained through world-class training to diagnose and treat dental problems. You'll provide advice to patients and use high levels of manual dexterity to carry out complex surgical and dental procedures.

Your training will lead to an excellent knowledge of human anatomy and oral disease while giving you the best clinical skills to help your patients.



Your work is increasingly about, protecting teeth and preventing gums from decay and disease. You're likely to work in your local community but you'll also have the chance to work in a variety of areas:

- general dental care
- community dental care
- dental public health

- hospital dental care?
- armed forces dentists

## **General dental care**

Most dentists work as general dental practitioners (GDPs), usually in a high street practice, providing dental care to the general public. You can largely choose where you work but you may need to be flexible with your working hours.

You may practise either under the NHS or privately, or both. You could also work part time in hospitals and some go into clinical teaching.

## **Community dental care**

Dental care is provided in community settings for patients who have difficulty getting treatment in their high street dental practice.

Dentists have excellent knowledge of human anatomy and oral diseases.

You might be looking after young children who need special help, as well as elderly and people who are housebound or with severe physical disabilities or mental illness. This can be demanding and rewarding work. You might be able to balance this work managerial and research duties. You can also be involved in working with schools doing screening and in studies of oral health.

You'll work in a variety of locations such as a patient's own home, nursing homes, community clinics and mobile clinics. You'll also work with a wider clinical team including school nurses [1], health visitors [2] and district nurses [3].

## **Dental public health**

Dental public health is a specialty which involves assessing dental health needs and ensuring dental services meet those needs. Your work will look to improve the dental health of communities rather than individuals.

## **Hospital dental care**

Being a dentist in a hospital usually means working in the following areas:

- offering consultant advice and treatment for cases referred to hospitals or for patients admitted to hospital as a result of trauma or disease
- dental care and treatment for patients in hospital for a long time
- dental care for patients in hospital for a shorter period where pain relief or treatment is needed as part of their general care
- treatment of out-patients

Working in a specialist dental hospital covers:

- oral and maxillofacial surgery
- oral surgery
- orthodontics
- paediatric dentistry
- restorative dentistry

Visit our hospital dental services page [4] to find out more.

You'll likely to see fewer patients than general dental practitioners, but treatment is usually more complex. You'll generally work as part of a team and have access to specialised knowledge and facilities.

## Armed forces dentists

Another option for graduates in dentistry is to join the armed forces as a dental officer. You have the option of joining the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force.

You will receive full officer training and be required to commit for a minimum period of around six years. However, the salary (and benefits) can be substantial and sometimes grants are available to help pay for university costs if you are accepted before graduation.

You'll have access to the latest equipment and appointment times are usually longer than in a typical NHS practice. You'll need to be flexible with location and can expect to move several times, both in the UK and abroad. Perhaps the most important factor to take into account is that as a dental office in the armed forces, you are always a military officer first and a dental officer second.

## Entry requirements

Becoming a dentist involves at least five years' study at dental school, followed by one or two years of supervised practice. Most entrants will require three As at A-level, although one year pre-dental courses are offered by some dental schools.

Find out more about training to be a dentist. [5]

## Pay and benefits

Most NHS dentists working in dental practices are self-employed contractors. The profit of dental practices varies according to the services they provide for their patients and the way they choose to provide these services. Find out more about the pay for dentists. [6]

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Find your course to become a dentist

Expand /  
collapse

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 22 matches

## BDS Dental Surgery

Cardiff University

View course Opens in a new window  
[7]

Region **Wales**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**6 years**

Contact details  
dentalugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk [8] **029 2074 2468**

Course webpage <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2021/dental-surgery-bds> [7]

Admissions address

Heath Park  
Cardiff  
CF14 4XY

Course webpage <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2021/dental-surgery-bds> [7]

This 6 year BDS programme includes a preliminary foundation year which gives students who haven't studied the science subjects required for the five year course the opportunity to progress to the full BDS course.

## **MChD/BChS Dental Surgery, BSc Oral Science**

Leeds, University of

View course Opens in a new window  
[9]

Region **Yorkshire and The Humber**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration

**5 years**

Contact details

denadmissions@leeds.ac.uk [10] **0113 343 9922**

Course webpage <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/g033/dental-surgery-mchd-bchd-oral-science-bsc-mchd-...>  
[9]

Admissions address

Leeds

LS2 9JT

Course webpage <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/g033/dental-surgery-mchd-bchd-oral-science-bsc-mchd-...>  
[9]

## **Bachelor of Dental Surgery (graduate entry)**

UCLan, University of Central Lancashire

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[11]

Region **North West**

Type of course

**Postgraduate/accelerated programme**

Full or part time

**Full time**

Duration

**5 years**

Contact details

BDSEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk [12] **01772 892400**

Course webpage [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds\\_dentistry\\_graduate\\_entry.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds_dentistry_graduate_entry.php) [11]

Admissions address

Preston

Lancashire

PR1 2HE

Course webpage [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds\\_dentistry\\_graduate\\_entry.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds_dentistry_graduate_entry.php) [11]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information [13]. Applicants who meet the required entry criteria and who are successful at interview will be eligible for direct entry to Year 2. Please contact the university for further information.

## **Bachelor of Dental Surgery**

Dundee, University of

View course Opens in a new window  
[14]

Region **Scotland**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**5 years**

Contact details  
contactus@dundee.ac.uk [15] **01382 38 38 38**

Course webpage <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/ug/dentistry/> [14]

Admissions address

Dundee Dental School  
Park Place  
Dundee  
DD1 4HN

Course webpage <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/ug/dentistry/> [14]

## **Bachelor of Dental Surgery**

Newcastle University

View course Opens in a new window  
[16]

Region **North East**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time

**Full time**

Duration

**5 years**

Contact details

admissions@ncl.ac.uk [17] **0191 208 3333**

Course webpage <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a206/#courseoverview> [16]

Admissions address

Framlington Place  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU

Course webpage <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a206/#courseoverview> [16]

◦ Load more [18]

## Other roles that may interest you

- Dental nurse [19]
- Dental technician/dental technologist [20]
- Dental therapist [21]
- Dental hygienist [22]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dentist>

### Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/school-nurse>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/health-visitor>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/district-nurse>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dentist/hospital-dental-services>
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dentist/entry-requirements-and-training-dentistry>
- [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dentist/pay-dentists>
- [7] <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2021/dental-surgery-bds>
- [8] [mailto: dentalugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:dentalugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)
- [9] <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/g033/dental-surgery-mchd-bchd-oral-science-bsc-mchd-bchd-bsc>
- [10] [mailto: denadmissions@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:denadmissions@leeds.ac.uk)
- [11] [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds\\_dentistry\\_graduate\\_entry.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bds_dentistry_graduate_entry.php)
- [12] [mailto: BDSEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:BDSEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk)
- [13] <http://rrhealthcareers.aws.rroom.net/i-am/looking-course/faqs-about-our-course-finder>
- [14] <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/ug/dentistry/>
- [15] [mailto: contactus@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:contactus@dundee.ac.uk)
- [16] <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a206/#courseoverview>
- [17] [mailto: admissions@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ncl.ac.uk)
- [18] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/71?page=1>

- [19] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-nurse>
- [20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-techniciandental-technologist>
- [21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-therapist>
- [22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-hygienist>