

BDS

Foundation to Dentistry (Year 0)

UCAS code 0AAW

Study mode	Duration	Apply by: 14 January 2026
Full-time	6 years	Starts on: 28 September 2026

About this course

A year zero foundation programme, designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time or who have taken non-traditional qualifications, which leads to access onto a Dental Surgery BDS programme.

Introduction

The University of Liverpool, in collaboration with local FE partners, has developed a year zero foundation programme for Home students that leads to access onto a variety of vocational Health Studies programmes. Our Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Dentistry) course is for students seeking entry to to undertake the [Dental Surgery BDS \(A200\)](#) programme.

Students seeking entry to Dentistry will study at Carmel College, St Helens. [Carmel College](#) is located in St Helens, about nine miles from the main University campus. The College offers small class sizes and high standards of academic achievement.

This programme is specifically targeted at Home (UK) mature and non-traditional students, who typically have taken a break from studies.

Please note that we will not consider applications from prospective students who have multiple UCAS applications for a variety of programmes, as this does not demonstrate a clear commitment.

What you'll learn

- Skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level
 - Undertaking a variety of learning methods and assessment tasks
 - A breadth of patient-focused practical experience in a region with a particularly diverse population
 - How to provide compassionate, evidence-based, holistic dental care to patients
 - How to continually adapt to respond to the current, as well as future, challenges in a dynamic world
 - Real-world clinical, team working, and leadership skills
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Routes

- [Dental Surgery](#) BDS

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year zero

In all modules at year zero, the study skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level are developed. Students are also introduced to a variety of learning methods, such as formal taught sessions, workshops and practical laboratory sessions, as well as a variety of assessment tasks, such as written assignments, in class data handling, written and practical examinations to provide a good grounding for vocational programmes.

There are some shared modules for all foundation year students, and then route-specific modules to ensure the students are prepared for their chosen undergraduate programmes.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL001)</u>	22.5
<u>BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL002)</u>	22.5
<u>CHEMISTRY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL008)</u>	22.5
<u>CHEMISTRY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL009)</u>	22.5
<u>FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (HEAL005)</u>	15
<u>HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR MEDICINE/DENTISTRY (HEAL010)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Learning is promoted through a wide variety of activities that enable students to become autonomous and continuous learners. Interactive lectures, practical and clinical skills group work, simulation, directed study, role play, problem-based learning, small group work, student-led seminars, collaborative project work and interactive tutorials are key learning strategies of the programmes.

Practical work using our imaging suite digital equipment, 3D virtual reality radiotherapy facility, Clinical Skills Resource Room and the Human Anatomy Resource Centre complement teaching activities. Face-to-face interactions between all students will occur at shared lectures, tutorials and group work and online interaction will be encouraged and facilitated. There are also inter-professional education and learning opportunities across all healthcare professions programmes.

How you're assessed

Using a mixture of coursework and examination, a range of assessment methods can be seen across the programmes. These include seen and unseen written examinations, essay assignments with specific word lengths, multiple choice questions, case study presentations, video analysis and interactive practical examinations. Assessment of the work-based learning element of all programmes is an important aspect. You will be required to communicate your views orally and in written form; analyse, implement and evaluate your practice; and to extend the research and evidence base of your chosen profession.

The various methods of assessments have been chosen to provide a balance that will permit the undergraduates to demonstrate their intellectual abilities in all areas to the full.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

There are a wide range of career opportunities within the profession. The majority of graduates will choose general dental practice within the NHS and in the private sector, whilst others might choose one of the hospital specialities, the community dental service, university teaching, or the armed forces.

Studying to become a dental professional encourages students to develop valuable, transferable skills which provide a strong foundation for their careers and their continuing professional development.

Key skills students will develop include:

- Communication skills (both oral and written)
- Critical reasoning skills
- Clinical skills
- Professionalism
- Team working
- Lifelong learning.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, how to pay, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,790

Foundation year fee – £9,535

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

The UK and international full-time fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 (UK fees are subject to Parliamentary approval). UK year abroad and year in industry fees and international year in industry fees shown are for entry 2025, as 2026/27 fees have yet to be confirmed. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching, assessment, operating University facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

Additional costs

There are additional study costs to consider, such as scrubs replacements, travel costs for placements and Occupational Health Clearance assessment.

Two pairs of scrub suits will be provided free of charge. Replacement of the whole suit will incur a cost of approximately £25 plus a delivery fee. Students are responsible for laundering their own scrub suits (the NHS recommends laundering clinical uniforms at 60°). Scrub suits should be clean and ironed at all times. Students may carry out tailoring alterations to their issued scrub suits to meet personal requirements.

Post-2019 curricula

Year One and Three applies to both BDS and BSc programmes, Year Five only applies to the BDS programme.

Year One

- Lab Coats: Students will be given their lab coats for use in the Human Anatomy Resource Centre free of charge.

Year Three

- Placement costs: All students will undertake a placement in Year Three and will be required to fund their own travel costs. All placements are within 35 miles of the School of Dentistry and are accessible on public transport. A return trip is estimated to cost between £5-£15. Student concessions are also available from local travel companies.

Year Five

- Placement costs: All BDS students will also undertake placements in Year Five in similar locations to the Year Three placements. Year Five students will have their travelling costs reimbursed by NHS Bursaries only if they are in receipt of an NHS Bursary (the non-means tested/means tested grant). Students will only be reimbursed for the difference between the cost of their normal daily travel and the cost of their travel to the placement site. If a student is not eligible for an NHS Bursary then they will not be able to reclaim their travelling costs.
- Occupational Health Clearance: A standard assessment will be approximately £30, if additional vaccinations or appointments are required these will be costed individually.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

This programme is designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time (5 years and above) or who have taken non-traditional qualifications. Please note that we will not consider A-Level students or School Leavers. However, consideration may be given to candidates who studied some time ago. In order to give all applicants an equal opportunity, applicants who have been rejected following an interview will not normally be considered again. Consideration will be given to extenuating circumstances that warrant candidates applying with more recent qualifications on a case-by-case basis.

T levels

T levels are not currently accepted.

GCSE

5 GCSEs at Grade 6 (B) to include Maths, English Language, Biology and Chemistry or dual combined science.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Students currently studying BTEC level 3 will not be considered; BTEC level 2 will not be accepted in lieu of GCSE

International Baccalaureate

Applicants currently studying for International Baccalaureate will not be considered

Irish Leaving Certificate

Applicants currently studying for Irish Leaving Certificate will not be considered

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Applicants currently studying for Scottish Highers will not be considered

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Applicants currently studying for Welsh Baccalaureate will not be considered

Graduate application

Applicants with a previous degree but do not meet criteria for direct entry to the degree programme will be considered if they are returning to education following a break.

Access

Applicants currently studying for an Access Diploma will not be considered. Mature students who have recently studied an access course (that is not eligible for direct entry) or have work- related qualifications will be considered.

Declaration of criminal background

Applicants may be expected to complete either a Declaration of Criminal Background or have a full Disclosure Barring Service check as part of their application.

Disability information

Additional support is given to students who have declared a disability on their UCAS application.

Work Experience Requirements

Evidence of knowledge and insight into the profession with emphasis on learning from work experience/observation is required.

NB: Further details on specific work based experience requirements is available on the relevant degree programme pages

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International](#)

[College](#), can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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