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Why choose Dentistry at Liverpool?

At Liverpool we’ll train you to be a working dental professional. Your learning will always benefit from being in context and applied. With 160 clinical dental chairs and a busy dental hospital on-site, we can offer you first-rate clinical training, complemented by innovative learning suites that feature interactive technology.

The BDS at Liverpool follows a problem-based learning syllabus whereby you are given scenarios and expected to go and conduct independent research based on these. This independent study is supported by lectures, plenaries and anatomy lessons which ensure you get a full well rounded understanding of the problems. Each year more elements or specialties are added to the teaching, which means by Year Five you will have a broad perspective and understanding about the profession and are well prepared to go out into the “real” world.

Dapo Alagbe
Dental Surgery BDS

Having repeated exposure to lots of different specialities helped me decide what area I wanted to pursue further.

Sarah McKernon BDS (graduated 2011)
Clinical Lecturer in Oral Surgery, School of Dentistry, Liverpool University Dental Hospital

Good to know:

92
Year One undergraduates in 2016

100%
are employed or in further study within six months of graduating (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education 2014/15)

98%
are happy with the teaching on their programme (NSS 2016)

98%
of our students feel that their programme has benefitted their personal development (NSS 2016)
Enjoy tuition from senior practising clinicians
You’ll be taught by our most experienced practising clinicians. They’re part of the extensive support network you’ll enjoy during your studies here. With the clinical experience on offer you can be confident you’ll graduate as the complete dental professional.

Benefit from supportive, research informed and innovative learning
Throughout our history we’ve been pioneers in the biology and practice of dentistry. We are based in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and the Faculty’s research directly influences your teaching. We have a dynamic online assessment system that lets you plan your study, review your progress with lecturers, get feedback and log your own impressive e-portfolio of work. This gives you a real sense of responsibility for your personal learning and progress, and for the management of your patients’ care, all vital skills for your career.

Study in leading facilities
Your clinical training is complemented by learning suites that feature simulation and interactive technology. You’ll have access to 160 clinical dental chairs, the busy dental hospital which manages over 60,000 patient attendances, and a £7 million research facility.

Strengthen your career with hands-on experience
Your preventative-orientated programme is taught holistically and in the context of the primary care services. Our problem-based approach and excellent network of clinical placements mean that, alongside academic and professional skills, you will gain practical experience and apply your knowledge early in your studies, preparing you to become an excellent dentist from day one.

How you learn
For BDS students, the early years are predominantly student centred learning with problem-based learning (PBL), supported by lectures. Clinical training in subsequent years continues this method of learning and is supplemented by small group teaching and lectures throughout Years Two, Three, Four and Five. Much of the clinical experience is gained with students treating patients in the different clinics in the Dental Hospital under close supervision of the staff.

How you are assessed
The assessment strategy for the academic components of the BDS programmes adopts a varied approach including: EMI (Extended Matching Items); SBA (Single Best Answer); Short Answer; Critical Reasoning Long Answer; OSCE (Observed Structured Clinical Examination); and 1st, 2nd and 3rd BDS in-programme component essays to assess critical writing skills. As the BDS programme progresses, the assessments are carefully designed and appraised so that they assess application and understanding of knowledge as applied to the clinical situation, so as to link with the essential clinical skills ethos.

All summative assessments are preceded by formative assessments, after which you will receive detailed feedback. With regards to clinical activity, BDS students must pass an assessment of basic clinical competence before being allowed to use these newly acquired skills on a patient. From this point clinical activity is continually monitored using a computerised data gathering tool (LIFTUPP). These clinical monitoring procedures are based on the work-based assessment tools that have been validated for use in postgraduate dentistry and medicine. Case reports and outreach reports are also used to contextualise clinical monitoring. An important aspect of these assessments is their integrated nature, and their use in multiple clinics. This latter point is crucial to the fairness and robustness of the assessments.

Furthermore, the system ensures that all Liverpool graduates are in the advantageous position of being able to take their activity portfolio into the work place to aid their foundation training.
Invest in your future

There is a wide range of career opportunities within the profession. The majority of BDS 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.

Around 80% will go into general dental practice, becoming partners or associates within the practice.

Make yourself employable

Studying dentistry encourages you to develop valuable, transferable skills which provide a strong foundation for your career and their continuing professional development. Key skills displayed by all of our graduates include:

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

Postgraduate studies

For students who wish to continue their studies at postgraduate level, Dental Sciences at Liverpool offers the Professional Doctorate programme, which is delivered in a modular format (see www.liverpool.ac.uk/dentistry/postgraduate/). Continuing Professional Development (CPD) short courses are also run for all members of the dental team. Please follow the link for further information and to register on our mailing list www.liverpool.ac.uk/dentistry/cpd

The Dental School sets you up well for your future because you get to have a go at all the specialities, whether they are the things you will be doing in practice or not, so you get to see what you like and are interested in the most.

Helen Grady
Dental Surgery BDS

When I first came to university I had the idea that I’d be sitting in a dark lecture theatre listening to somebody talk to students, but I was pleasantly surprised that a lot of the teaching is on a one-to-one basis on the clinics. To be able to get one-to-one tuition from a published expert consultant in certain areas really surprised me and I thought to myself, this is a fantastic way to learn here!

Kristian Blackhall
Dental Surgery BDS
# Degrees

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Details about the Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (Dental Pathway) programme can be found at [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/)

Further information is available from E: s.hollywood@liverpool.ac.uk or T: +44 (0)151 794 9490

See [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses) for current entry requirements.

## Bachelor of Dental Surgery BDS

**UCAS code:** A200  
**Programme length:** 5 years

Becoming a dentist is hard work, but the rewards are huge, including the job satisfaction of delivering a highly professional and personal, community-based job. On successful completion of the programme you’ll be granted a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree that is accredited by the General Dental Council.

### Programme in detail

The programme consists of three phases. Phase I includes the study of Basic medical sciences, which you will study via a ‘problem-based learning’ (PBL) approach in conjunction with lectures, together with communication and clinical skills components, the Human Anatomy Resource Centre and laboratory sessions. Clinical dental skills are introduced during the Special dental component in the second semester. Lectures in oral health and interactive tutorials in communication skills enhance this phase.

In Phase II (Years Two-Four) of this integrated programme, PBL, lectures, seminars and clinical skills acquisition go hand-in-hand. A wide range of topics are studied including Oral sciences and medicine, Oral diseases, Medical emergencies, Law and ethics alongside the theoretical aspects of the various dental disciplines. Training in the practical skills of dentistry is through the supervised treatment of patients in the Dental Hospital.

Phase III is the final year of study, consolidating theoretical knowledge and clinical experience in preparation for the final examination. In addition to treating patients in the Dental Hospital, you will also provide treatment in local dental practices and community clinics thus facilitating a seamless transition into foundation training.

### Admissions procedures

To apply for a place on the Bachelor of Dental Surgery BDS programme, applicants should read the admissions document at [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/dental-surgery-bds/overview/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/dental-surgery-bds/overview/) and submit it as per the instructions provided on the form.

We will be recruiting and selecting based on the values embedded in the NHS constitution and encourage applicants to be familiar with these.

### Year One

This is the introductory phase of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme. It has three elements:

- Basic medical sciences for dentistry – a problem-based learning (PBL) course
- Communication for clinical practice
- Special dental component (Restorative I) – students begin to develop clinical skills in the Operative Skills Suite.

For up-to-date entry requirements and full module details see [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses).
Year Two
- Introduction to clinical practice (Restorative II)
- Oral sciences and medicine I
- Basic life support I
- Radiology core of knowledge
- Paediatric dentistry I.

Year Three
- Oral sciences and medicine II
- Radiology II
- Restorative III
- Paediatric dentistry II
- Oral surgery I
- Basic life support II
- Orthodontics I.

Year Four
- Oral diseases
- Clinical governance day
- Restorative IV OS2
- Special care dentistry
- Paediatric dentistry III
- IV sedation
- Medical emergencies
- NHS training day
- Oral surgery II.

Year Five
- Dental public health and primary dental care
- Orthodontics II
- Law and ethics
- Clinical governance day
- Basic life support III
- Clinicopath seminars.

Bachelor of Dental Surgery BDS (Graduate Entry Pathway)
UCAS code: A201
Programme length: 4 years

You will be integrated with the Year Two students on the five-year A200 programme and will be cutting your first cavities at an early stage of the first term in the Operative Skills Suite.

At the end of Year One, you will undertake the same assessment as those completing Year Two of the five-year programme. If successful you will then follow the final three years of the five-year BDS programme (A200).

Admissions procedures
To apply for a place on the Bachelor of Dental Surgery BDS course, applicants should read the admissions document and complete the Verification of Prior Learning form at www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/dental-surgery-bds-graduate-entry/overview/ and submit it as per the instructions provided on the form.

We will be recruiting and selecting based on the values embedded in the NHS constitution and encourage applicants to be familiar with these.

Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy BSc (Hons)
UCAS code: B750
Programme length: 3 years

This full-time programme is studied over three years. The operative techniques training takes place in a state-of-the-art purpose-built clinical skills laboratory. Clinical training is integrated into and complements the taught modules of the programme.

Programme in detail
In Year One of the programme you will develop core knowledge and key clinical skills which prepare you to work with patients.

In Year Two you will continue to develop your clinical skills throughout the supervised treatment of patients on clinical placements in a variety of dental environments. This provides tremendous opportunities for treating a wide variety of patient groups and gaining excellent clinical experiences. Alongside this you will continue to develop your underpinning knowledge by studying subjects such as paediatric dentistry, restorative dentistry, radiology, behavioural science, oral surgery and learn about plaque related diseases.

Continued over...
In Year Three you will consolidate theoretical knowledge and continue to gain clinical experience on placements. Law and ethics is studied in this year and you will complete a dissertation. The Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy BSc (Hons) is particularly attractive if you aspire to treat patients as a dental clinician but do not wish to undertake the full five-year BDS programme.

**Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (Year 0)**

**UCAS code (Dentistry Pathway): 0AAW**

**Programme length: 1 year**

The University of Liverpool, in collaboration with local FE partners, has developed a Year Zero Foundation Programme for UK/EU students that leads to access onto a variety of vocational Health Studies programmes. Students wishing to study Dentistry follow a pathway that is offered at Carmel College, St Helens. Successful completion, to the specified standard, of this one-year programme ensures automatic progression onto degree programmes at the University of Liverpool in Dentistry.

**Please note:** Students who have previously applied for undergraduate programmes in the School of Dentistry would not normally be considered for this route, which is specifically targeted at UK/EU adult learners with appropriate workplace experience or young people with vocational rather than A level qualifications.

When applying, you must ensure that you apply for one programme that you wish to progress on to. Multiple applications will be rejected and result in disappointment. We will also not consider applications from applicants who have multiple UCAS applications for a variety of programmes, as this does not demonstrate a clear commitment.

**Programme in detail**

This is a modular programme and successful candidates have to complete 120 Level 0 credits.

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

Modules for the Dentistry pathway:

- Biology for health studies I and II (45 credits)
- Chemistry for medicine/dentistry I and II (45 credits)
- Foundations of professional studies (15 credits)
- Health and social care for medicine and dentistry (15 credits).

The **Biology** modules provide the basic knowledge of the structure and function of the human body relating to cell structure and function: genetics; respiration; transport; regulation and control; action of drugs; immunity; the eye and the nervous system.

The two **Chemistry** modules (45 credits) will provide basic knowledge of those aspects of chemistry which are particularly relevant to dentistry and medicine and veterinary science.

The **Foundation of professional studies** module (15 credits) provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Health and Social Care context of practice for healthcare professionals.

Health and social care for medicine and dentistry (15 credits) introduces the students to health and social policy.

For further information on how to apply to this programme please contact Sean Hollywood on T: +44 (0)151 794 9490, E: s.hollywood@liverpool.ac.uk or visit [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/)
Find out more
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Accommodation: www.liverpool.ac.uk/accommodation
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General undergraduate enquiries and applications: T: +44 (0)151 794 5927
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Information provided is correct at time of going to press and is subject to change.