

A200 Bachelor of Dental Surgery 2021 Entry

We would like to reassure applicants that we will take into account the change in circumstances caused by the pandemic when considering applications to study dentistry.

The COVID-19 situation is evolving we will publish further guidelines detailing our interviews and any other changes to our admissions process for applications for entry 2021. We will update this page accordingly and we recommend all applicants regularly check this page for any updates.

There are approximately 72 places available on this five-year course that is delivered at the University of Liverpool. There is no quota for international students. All applications are considered together with no differentiation between home, EU and international students.

Admissions procedures

Applications should be made through UCAS by 15th October 2020. Late applications will not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to complete the UCAS form fully and failure to do so will result in rejection. It is particularly important to enter all qualifications taken, including those failed. Factors that are assessed on an application form include:

- Academic attainments, to ensure that they meet the minimum entry criteria.
- Predicted grades for examinations/degrees still to be taken or awarded and only those applicants predicted to achieve the entry criteria are invited for interview.
- References should be clearly supportive and preferably indicate that the applicant has the necessary attributes for the chosen career. An academic reference should be supplied whenever possible.
- Re-applications from candidates who have been unsuccessful following an interview for the A200 BDS course will not be considered.

Academic qualifications

- Distance learning and BTEC qualifications are not accepted.

A levels

- Grades AAA in 3 A levels taken at one sitting, after 2 years of study.
- We do not accept A level resits or consider applicants who have retaken either Year 12 or Year 13.
- Biology and Chemistry are essential and the 3rd subject may be from the Arts or Sciences. General Studies, Critical Thinking and Vocational/Applied A levels are not accepted.
- We do not consider AS level grades when making decisions
- For Science A levels that include the separately graded practical endorsement, a Pass is required.

Scottish Higher and Advanced Higher

AAAAA at Higher level and AAA at Advanced Higher-level including Chemistry and Biology.

Irish Leaving Certificate

5 Higher level subjects with grades H1 achieved in three subjects to include Chemistry, Biology and either English Language, Maths or Physics. Grades H2 achieved in two subjects from English Language, Maths or Physics.

International Baccalaureate

A total of 36 points including at least 6 in Higher level Chemistry and Biology.

Advanced Welsh Diploma

Not accepted

GCSE requirements for applicants with the above qualifications

- A minimum of 8 GCSEs to include at least 5 subjects at grade A/grade 7 and 3 at grade B/grade 6
- Grade B/grade 6 or above should be achieved in English Language, Maths and Science
- Vocational/Applied GCSEs are not accepted
- We do not accept GCSE Maths Numeracy
- Applicants should distinguish between full and short courses on their application form
- Two short courses will be counted in lieu of one full course

- The GCSE requirements should be in place at the time of application. We are unable to consider pending grades at GCSE level.

Degree candidates applying for A200

- Degree in any subject (at the discretion of the Admissions Tutor) at a minimum of a 2:1 classification. Only the first full degree that the applicant is awarded is considered. Foundation degrees are not accepted. Those with a degree that is not classified (MChB etc.) should have achieved an overall grade of 70% or above.
- A minimum of 3 A levels at grade ABB or above including Chemistry and Biology. The 3rd subject may be from the Arts or Sciences. General Studies, Critical Thinking and Vocational/Applied A levels are not accepted.
- A minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade B/grade 6 or above including Maths, English Language and a Science subject. Vocational/Applied GCSEs are not accepted. The GCSE requirements should be in place at the time of application. We are unable to consider pending grades at GCSE level.

Access Course candidates

- Further information will be requested from the applicant at the time of application to ensure the Access Course being taken meets the required academic criteria. Not all Access Courses meet the required entry criteria.
- We consider Access Courses to be suitable for adult learners who should normally have been out of education for at least 5 years.
- We do not consider Access Courses to be appropriate for students who have failed to achieve the necessary A level grades in the last 5 years.
- At least 5 GCSE subjects at grade B/grade 6 including Maths, English Language and a Science subject. Vocational/Applied GCSEs are not accepted. Functional skills qualifications will not be considered in place of GCSEs.
- The GCSE requirements should be in place at the time of application. We are unable to consider pending grades at GCSE level.
- Applicants offering Access to Higher Education Diplomas should present from courses with significant Biology and Chemistry content at Level 3.
- Candidates are expected to achieve a distinction in 45 credits at level 3. We would expect the equivalent of a score of 80% to be achieved overall.
- The Access Course should be completed in one year.
- Only the first full Access qualification awarded will be considered.
- We do not accept online or distance learning Access courses.

European and International Qualifications

- The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate equivalence of International and European qualifications and we would expect achieved or predicted grades to be equivalent to our standard entry requirements.
- In addition to the information submitted as part of the UCAS application we also expect applicants to send the following information to the Admissions Office via email (dental.enquiries@liverpool.ac.uk): a statement of comparability from NARIC (<https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/>) and a transcript of the qualification(s) in English.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to supply this information by 15th October 2020. Failure to provide this information will result in rejection.

Candidates whose first language is not English

We require IELTS with no less than 7.0 in every component. Pending IELTS will be considered, however applicants are required to have registered for this test prior to application and listed the details of their upcoming test on their UCAS form.

Personal Statement/Work Experience

The Personal Statement is assessed to ensure that the applicant has knowledge of and insight into the profession with emphasis on work experience/observation. Evidence of a caring attitude and awareness of the values embedded within the NHS constitution is also sought. Applicants must demonstrate motivation and commitment to a career in dentistry. Candidates are expected to show a range of skills and it is desirable on all dental programmes that candidates have completed a period of work experience/shadowing in a local dental practice or hospital and preferably in more than one establishment.

We are aware that work experience placements for applicants have been cancelled. Applicants should be assured that this will not negatively impact your application.

We encourage applicants to learn more about a career in dentistry to develop the values and behaviours required of a dental professional.

For further information on work experience during the Covid-19 pandemic to support an application please see the advice provided by Dental Schools Council: <https://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/news/dsc-releases-advice-on-gaining-experience-to-study-dentistry-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

UCAT

All applicants are required to sit the University Clinical Aptitude Test in the year of application. It is unlikely that we would consider an applicant that was placed in band 4 of the situational judgement part of the UCAT. We do not have a UCAT cut off score.

Plagiarism

The University is notified by UCAS of any applications that are considered to be plagiarised. The Dental School will automatically reject such applications. Applicants may apply in another admissions cycle if they submit an application that UCAS does not deem to be plagiarised.

Extenuating Circumstances

Potential applicants who narrowly fail to meet our academic criteria because their education and/or examination performance was affected by significant extenuating circumstances may submit an application. They should send a full account of the circumstances and how their studies were affected, together with supporting documentation from their university, school, GP, hospital, etc. directly to dental.enquiries@liverpool.ac.uk. The case will be considered by the Dental School's Extenuating Circumstances Committee. As cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis we are unable to guarantee that an applicant's extenuating circumstances will be accepted by the Panel. If the extenuating circumstances are accepted, the application will progress to the next stage of our Admissions process. All documentation will need to be submitted by the application deadline of 15th October 2020.

Applicants who have experienced significant extenuating circumstances between 15th January 2021 and 29th June 2021 that may have affected their studies should submit supporting documentation (as detailed above) by the 1st July 2021. Information received after this date will not be considered.

Interviews

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) are held from late January through to the beginning of March. Applicants are required to produce the original copies of all completed qualifications listed on their UCAS form. Failure to produce the required documentation at interview will be considered in our selection processes. Please note that letters from schools and exam boards will **NOT** be accepted.

Decisions and Feedback

All applicants will be notified of our decision by the end of March. Requests for feedback should be made in writing to dental.enquiries@liverpool.ac.uk before the end of May 2021. We will not respond to feedback requests after this date. We will endeavour to respond to requests as soon as is practicably possible.

Other department specific information

- We use GCSE grades, or equivalent, when shortlisting for interview so it is important to provide full details of these examinations and failure to do so will lead to rejection of the application.
- Applicants who have not met the academic conditions of an offer but are seeking a remark will have their place deferred until the next academic year of entry, if the grade required is confirmed.
- There should be evidence of recent academic endeavour i.e. in the last 5 years.
- We are unable to accept applications from individuals who are enrolled on another university degree course unless that course will be completed, and the results known, by the end of August prior to the start of the dental course. If an applicant has commenced a degree but not completed it, full details of

the circumstances for non-completion should be submitted to dental.enquiries@liverpool.ac.uk by 15th October 2020.

- The School of Dentistry tries to accommodate students with disability or learning support needs, but it can only accept students who would be able to practise dentistry without detriment to patients. Students who have a disability that is likely to significantly affect their ability to practise dentistry, or who will need significant support to enable them to do so, are encouraged to discuss this informally with the Admissions Tutor at the School of Dentistry in the first instance. As far as possible, admissions procedures are kept separate from Fitness to Train assessments which are carried out by the University Occupational Health Department for all students entering the School.
- The School of Dentistry has an obligation to undertake health screening of all prospective dental students. Any offer of a place is conditional on completion of a health questionnaire and a satisfactory assessment of fitness to train from the University Occupational Health Service. This includes some obligatory immunisations and blood tests, in line with recommendations by the Department of Health.
- All potential students also need to undergo an enhanced DBS check before admittance to the programme.

Applicants are advised to check the website for the latest information prior to application and throughout the admissions cycle.