Dental Surgery
BDS

A world-class university in a world-famous city

UCAS code A206
5 Years

www.ncl.ac.uk/ug/A206
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Dentistry involves the treatment and prevention of a wide range of diseases of the mouth – from tooth decay to oral cancer.

Our BDS degree in Dental Surgery is professionally accredited by the General Dental Council and entitles graduates to practise dentistry anywhere in the UK and in many other countries.

It is designed to give you both the scientific background and the practical skills you need throughout your career, enabling you to provide for the complete oral health of patients.

Newcastle is one of the UK’s top three universities for dentistry, offering:

- expert staff, including holders of national teaching fellowships and distinguished scientist awards
- some of the most modern and best-equipped facilities in the country
- high levels of clinical practice in our specialist clinics
- opportunities for study abroad and intercalated study

Highlights of this degree

Quality and ranking

Dentistry at Newcastle is highly regarded. We rank

- 4th in the UK – The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019
- 4th in the UK – The Complete University Guide 2019
- 99% overall student satisfaction score – National Student Survey 2018
- 40th – Dentistry category – QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018
- top 25% in the UK for world-class research – Research Excellence Framework 2014
- top 125 – Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health category – Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018

Professional accreditation

This course is professionally accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC), which means it meets the standards set by the dental regulator.

*All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Clinical experience

Clinical dental practice

Clinical practice occupies an increasingly large part of your time as you progress through the course.

In Stage 1, you learn simple procedures such as fillings and root treatments, and see patients in the Dental Hospital while shadowing a senior student.

In Stage 3 you start managing your own patients under close supervision.

In Stages 4 and 5 you are exposed to advanced treatment techniques including dental implants and intravenous sedation. By the end of Stage 4 you will be spending approximately half of your time on patient care.

Our specialist clinics

You will gain experience in a full range of dental procedures, with clinics run by specialists in:

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

Find out more

See full details of what you will study in the Course Details section or find out more about clinical dental practice on the School website.

On the School website you can also read about a day in the life of one of our dental students.

Intercalated study and electives

Intercalation opportunities

Our dental students have the opportunity to enrich their personal and professional development further by taking time out of their dental studies to pursue an intercalated degree.

Intercalation provides an opportunity to study a subject that interests and excites you as well as develop new perspectives on healthcare delivery, research and education. We offer a broad range of Biomedical Science BSc degrees and Masters’ degrees that cover aspects of dental practice. We encourage you to develop skills that will be useful throughout your future career and offer options to undertake your own research project.

Find out more about intercalated study on the Faculty of Medical Sciences website.

Electives

At the end of Stage 4, you have the opportunity to undertake a period of elective study, exploring a topic of particular interest to you in depth. This can be anywhere in the world and is a great opportunity to experience dentistry in another country.
Facilities and support
You will be based in the School of Dental Sciences, which is in the same building as the Dental Hospital. Together with the adjacent Medical School and Royal Victoria Infirmary teaching hospital, it forms one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the country.

Facilities
You will have access to a hi-tech Clinical Simulation Unit and the Dental Learning Resource Centre.

Take a virtual tour of our dental teaching and learning facilities or find out more about our facilities on the School website.

Support
You will have an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree. They can help with academic and personal issues. You will also have opportunities to interact with other members teaching staff.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have.

Social activities
The School is home to almost 500 undergraduate students. The student-led society, Dentsoc, organises social events to help you settle in and make friends.

Course Details

Modules for 2017 entry

Modules for 2018 entry

Please note
The programme information below is for 2018 entry. Programmes may be amended on an annual basis to take account of changing staff expertise, developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Programme information for 2019 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2019).

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year.

This degree is designed to develop the skills required to provide for the complete oral health of patients, and entitles graduates to practise dentistry anywhere in the UK and in many other countries.

The programme of professional study covers human structure, function, behaviour, clinical dental studies and related sciences.

Clinical dental practice occupies an increasingly large part of your time as you progress through the course, which consists of five Stages.

Stages 1 and 2
You spend the first two years studying the basic medical sciences. This provides a basis for clinical work in later Stages. Topics include:

Orientation and Study Skills
Anatomy of the Head and Neck
Cell Biology
Interpersonal Skills and Shadowing
Introduction to Dentistry
Neurobiology
Dental Physiology
Metabolism and Homeostasis
Craniofacial and Tooth Biology
Behavioural and Social Science for Dentists
Basic Pharmacology
Dental Materials Science
Microbiology for Dentistry
Immunology and Healthcare
Nutrition and Diet
Key Clinical Skills

Our tutors are on hand to support students.
Intercalated study is available for BDS students after completion of Stage 2.

You study:
- Clinical Introduction Course
- Applied Anatomy
- Dental Materials Science
- Dental Public Health
- Human Diseases
- Oral Diseases
- Clinical skills courses in Restorative Dentistry and Orthodontics
- Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach (Oral Health Education), Oral Surgery, Dental Emergency Clinic and Radiology

You study:
- Dental Public Health
- Dental Sedation
- Human Diseases
- Oral Diseases
- Clinical skills courses in Restorative Dentistry and Oral Surgery
- Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach, and Oral Surgery
- By the end of Stage 4, half your time is spent on patient care and clinical dental practice, with supporting clinical-related teaching.
- An optional elective period at the end of Stage 4 gives you the opportunity to organise a few weeks studying dentistry outside Newcastle. In recent years this has taken students all over the world.

Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach, Dental Emergency Clinic and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
A vertically integrated course on Professionalism and Personal and Professional Development runs through all stages of the programme.

Teaching and assessment

Study at the cutting edge
The Dental School has research labs conducting cutting-edge research at the highest international standards. This cutting-edge knowledge feeds into your undergraduate degree, giving you the latest knowledge in the field.

Teaching methods
Benefit from teaching from expert staff, including holders of national teaching fellowships and distinguished scientist awards
Teaching is by a combination of:
- lectures and seminars
- laboratory demonstrations (including closed-circuit TV)
- practical laboratory work
- clinical demonstrations

Assessment methods
Formal assessment during the first two years takes the form of examinations in December and at the end of each year.
You also undergo continuous assessment in the form of essays and projects, which allows for feedback on your progress.
Assessment of clinical skills is carried out on a continuous basis, with careful feedback so that you can constantly improve your performance and continue to learn

Find out more
Visit our Teaching & Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University.

Entry Requirements

All candidates are considered on an individual basis.
If your qualifications are not listed here, please see our additional entry requirements web pages to find out which other qualifications are considered.
The entrance requirements below apply to 2019 entry.
Important Information for All Students

Important information on the School of Dental Sciences Admissions Policy.

BSc Honours Degree: Graduates are accepted onto the full 5-year course. A degree with a 2:1 or higher is required, and must include Biology and Chemistry as a significant percentage of the degree.

UKCAT: All applicants are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) in the year of application. See www.ukcat.ac.uk for further information. The UKCAT threshold may differ in each admissions cycle as it is dependent on the scores achieved by those applicants who apply to our Dental School in the current cycle. Therefore information on what the threshold is, is not available to prospective students. For more information regarding past UKCAT scores please see the document below.

UKCAT Cut Off

UCAS admission procedure: You are permitted a maximum of four choices on the UCAS form for Dentistry. The deadline for applications is 15 October. Candidates who are considered, on the basis of their application form, to be particularly promising are interviewed to establish suitability for the course prior to an offer being made.

Health Requirements for Admissions and Continuing Practice: We have an overriding duty of care to the public with whom students come into close contact. All students are required to comply with the Department of Health’s guidance on health clearance for healthcare workers. Early clinical contact means that students will be asked to provide proof of their immunisation status by completing an Occupational Health Questionnaire on entry. Immunity against the following is required: polio; tetanus; varicella (chicken pox); diphtheria; measles; mumps; rubella; TB.

Newcastle University follow the Dental School’s Council protocol on blood-borne viruses. Early in the course students will be required to be screened for hepatitis B; hepatitis C and HIV. All aspects of a student’s medical record will be bound by the same duty of confidentiality as for any doctor-patient interaction and informed by the same ethical guidance. Students commencing the programme will be immunised against hepatitis B by our Occupational Health provider, the cost will be covered by the School. See School of Dental Sciences Admissions Policy.

Occupational Health: All applicants who take up an offer from Newcastle University are required to complete a NHS occupational health questionnaire. From the information provided, the Occupational Health Service will assess the applicant’s immunisation status and students will be required to fulfil any stipulated requirements identified from this assessment. Any required immunisations will be provided by our Occupational Health Service.

In certain circumstances, it may also be necessary for applicants to undergo an Occupational Health Assessment with an NHS Occupational Health Consultant in the Newcastle Hospitals Trust before we are able to confirm their offer of a place. This assessment is designed to help us ensure that applicants are not only able to undertake the rigours of the BDS programme, especially with respect to working with patients in the clinical setting, and meet its outcomes in line with the statutory requirements of the General Dental Council, but also to ensure that we provide any reasonable support necessary.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks: All dental schools are required to ensure that their students, who will have a high level of unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check to ensure students are ‘fit to practise.’ The Dental School reserves the right to discontinue your studies on receipt of an unsatisfactory disclosure.

Work experience: All applicants are required to have undertaken a period of relevant work experience by the time they submit their UCAS application. This should be carried out in a General Dental Practice, but other types of dental work experience may be considered.

Resits: We would normally expect applicants to have achieved their A levels (or equivalent) in one sitting.

Academic achievement: Once the academic screening criteria have been met, academic achievement is not considered further in subsequent parts of the application process, ie, additional A levels or A* results do not give further advantage.

Please note that we do not consider applications from candidates who have previously commenced a dental degree at another institution and failed to progress for any reason.

A Levels

AAA including Chemistry and Biology. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element. General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.

Scottish Qualifications

AAAAA at Higher Grade normally including Chemistry and Biology. Two Advanced Highers also normally required (minimum A/B) to include Biology and/or Chemistry. If only one out of Biology and Chemistry is offered at Advanced Higher, a grade A is required in that science. Candidates offering only one out of Higher Chemistry and Biology will be required to take the other in their final year along with Advanced Higher in the first, and achieve A grades in both the Advanced Higher and the Higher. English and Mathematics required at grade 2 Standard Grade (or Intermediate 2 equivalent).

Scottish qualifications can be taken in more than one sitting.

International Baccalaureate

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

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1H1H1H2H2H3 at Higher Level, to include Biology, Chemistry, English and Maths, and excluding Irish.
**Access Qualifications**

At least 45 level 3 credits to be achieved at Distinction. Must include at least 15 level 3 credits in each of Biology and Chemistry (Human Biology and Chemistry for the HEFC). A minimum of 2 years of full-time employment required after undertaking school-leaving examinations before commencing the Access to HE Diploma.

**Cambridge Pre-U**

D3,D3,D3 in Principal Subjects including both Chemistry and Biology. AAAAA or 77777 at GCSE including Biology and Chemistry or AA or 77 in Dual Award Science also required.

**PARTNERS - A Levels**

ABB including both Chemistry and Biology at grade B. For Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels, we require a pass in the practical element.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from schools and colleges in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

**PARTNERS - Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma**

BTEC qualifications are not accepted for entry to this course.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from schools and colleges in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

**PARTNERS Scottish Qualifications**

AAABB at Highers and BB at Advanced Highers to include Biology and/or Chemistry.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from schools and colleges in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

**English Language Requirements**

Applicants whose first language is not English require a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or equivalent.

If you need help to meet our English Language requirements, we can provide support with extra tuition. Read more about UK visas and immigration requirements.

**Other International Qualifications**

ABB at A level is typically the minimum required for entry to an undergraduate course. You can check the equivalent grades for qualifications offered in your country.

We will also consider your application if you have lower or non-standard qualifications.

**Undergraduate Admissions Policy**

See our 2018 Admissions Policy (PDF: 185 KB).

See further policies related to admission.

**Careers**

100% of graduates from our Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme were employed or in further study within six months of graduating earning an average salary of £31,355 (2017-18).*

Once you have qualified there are a number of different careers open to you. Most graduates undertake a period of post-graduate foundation training whatever branch of dentistry they eventually take up.

Dentistry is a fairly flexible career and selecting one particular branch does not mean that you cannot venture into others later on in your career. Advice, to help you make the appropriate choice, is available from your tutor as well as other members of staff and through our links with Health Education England.

**General Practice**

Most graduates initially join a Dental Foundation Programme where you will join an established practice and work with a trainer who will guide you in those early months. In addition, some foundation training schemes operated in different parts of the country give you the opportunity to spend part of that period in a dental hospital attachment.

Further training is given in study days during this time, covering important aspects such as practice management, advanced clinical skills and team-building.

**Publicly funded services**

The Community Dental Service is a complementary service to the general dental services. Dental Officers working in this publicly funded service provide dental care for those people either unwilling or unable to obtain care elsewhere, for example, patients with special needs or for people in their own homes.

In addition, this service provides a screening programme in schools as well as dental health education and promotion to different community groups.

There are also career opportunities available in the defence services and working with industrial partners.

**Universities – teaching students**

Careers in university dental schools also allow you to specialise in a particular aspect of dentistry, combining research with teaching and the treatment of patients.
Hospitals – specialist care

In the Hospital Dental Service you will work in different departments under the guidance of consultants and will, at the end of a two-year period of professional training, be eligible to gain additional qualifications that set you on the career pathway to become a specialist in your chosen subject.

During this time you will have the chance to undertake small research or audit projects if you so wish and to write up your research for publication in a scientific journal.

*Source: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

What our graduates go on to do: employment and further study choices

See what our recent graduates went on to do and view graduate destinations statistics. These statistics are based on what graduates were doing on a specific date, approximately six months after graduation. The most recent data available is for graduates who completed their course in 2014/15.

The destination data is available in varying levels, beginning with the University and moving through Faculty and School down to individual course reports. This final level may give you some useful ideas about possible options after your course or a course you are considering.

Careers and employability at Newcastle

Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

94% of our 2014/15 UK/EU graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

Of our graduates who entered employment 85% were in a professional or managerial position.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+. This enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

Tuition Fees (UK and EU students)

2019 entry:
£9,250 - Currently, students studying on the five-year Medicine or Dentistry degree programmes do not have to pay tuition fees in the fifth year of these courses because they are funded by the NHS. They can also apply for a means tested bursary towards maintenance costs.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:
The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK and EU students is set by the UK government.

Newcastle University has guaranteed that EU students entering our University in 2019 will pay the UK (Home) rate of fee for the full duration of their programme of study.

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (International students)

2019 entry:
£34,000

You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme. Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.

See more information relating to all aspects of student finance at Newcastle University.

Scholarships and Financial Support (UK and EU students)

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.

Newcastle University Scholarships
Government financial support

Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)

You may be eligible for an International Family Discount (IFD).
Apply

Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS

To apply for undergraduate study at Newcastle you must use the online application system managed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS codes for Newcastle University

- institution name - NEWC
- institution code - N21

UCAS buzzword

Ask your teacher or adviser from your school or college for the UCAS buzzword. You need the buzzword when you register on the Apply system. This makes it clear which school or college you are applying from.

All UK schools and colleges and a small number of EU and international establishments are registered with UCAS.

If you are applying independently, or are applying from a school or college which is not registered to manage applications, you will still use the Apply system. You will not need a buzzword.

Making your application

On the UCAS website you can also find out more about:

- application deadlines and other important dates
- offers and tracking your application

Application decisions and enquiries

Find out more about our admissions process and who to contact if you need help with your application.

Students relaxing on The Union Lawn.