

# Dentistry

School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences

Applying to study Dentistry at Queen's University Belfast

## - Frequently Asked Questions

### How and when do I apply?

All applications to Dentistry must be submitted to UCAS by 15 October. Following receipt of your application form by the University's Admissions and Access Service, the forms are processed as quickly and efficiently as possible. All applications will be acknowledged.

### Can I apply if I am an International Student?

For 2019 entry there will be 15 places for International students. Further details can be obtained from the Admissions and Access Service ([admissions@qub.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@qub.ac.uk)).

### What does the selection process involve?

The selection process for dentistry involves 2 stages:

#### Stage 1

- Consideration of the applicant's personal statement and academic reference
- Consideration of previous academic performance, including school, college or university grades (as appropriate)
- Consideration of the score achieved in the United Kingdom Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT)

#### Stage 2

Stage 2 will comprise a series of short interviews carefully designed to objectively evaluate non-cognitive skills.

## **Interviews**

All applicants will be scored at Stage 1 of the selection process and ranked. From this rank order candidates will be shortlisted for interview (Stage 2). The final decision about whether we make you an offer (either conditional or unconditional) will be based solely on your interview performance. Entry to dentistry is highly competitive and the scores at interview are used to create a rank order. Offers are made to the applicants who rank highest after interview.

Interviews take the form of short interviews and are designed to test a range of non-cognitive skills such as:

- Resilience
- Maturity and Responsibility
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Confidence
- Self Awareness
- Empathy
- Ethical and moral values
- Awareness of the demands of training as a dental surgeon

### **If I do not receive an offer, can I get feedback on my interview performance?**

It is not possible for us to provide detailed individual feedback on interview performance, however, if requested we can provide you with information about your rank position among all those who were interviewed.

### **When will I be told if I have been given a conditional offer of a place?**

All decisions are normally made by the end of March and applicants will be informed through UCAS.

### **How are UCAS forms assessed?**

Forms are checked to ensure that all required information has been entered correctly onto the UCAS form. If this is not the case then the Admissions and Access Service may contact the academic referee or the candidate for clarification. After initial ranking, on the basis of academic qualifications and UKCAT performance, all UCAS forms are considered independently by the Admissions Tutor for dentistry who will assess the personal statement and academic reference for evidence of:

- Background knowledge and experience of dentistry and an interest in being a dentist (e.g. attendance at Dental School open days and/or attending your General Dental Practitioner's practice to observe how he/she works).
- Participation in activities within or outside School demonstrating leadership, team work and communication skills.
- A genuine interest in people, and in improving the health and well-being of others.
- A good understanding of the high level of personal resilience needed to be a dental surgeon.

### **Why are applicants interviewed?**

Interviews are used to establish if the applicant has the necessary personal qualities required to successfully complete the BDS course and to become a good dentist.

### **What will the interview be like?**

The interview process consists of a series of interviews with each interview conducted by pairs of interviewers. The interviewers are members of the Dental School teaching team.

### **Is it helpful to train or be coached for the interview?**

The interview which forms part of our selection process is designed to assess the applicant's non-cognitive skills. It is unlikely that coaching will improve these attributes as they are based on the applicant's personal attitude to and interpretation of real-life situations.

### **Should I bring evidence of my manual dexterity and practical skills to the interview?**

No. Our interview and admissions processes do not require this.

### **What information will I receive before my interview?**

You will receive a letter inviting you to interview. Along with the letter you will receive:

- General Information
- Information about the interview process
- A frequently asked questions document that we have prepared for our applicants
- A map indicating where the School of Dentistry building is on the Royal Victoria Hospital site in Belfast
- The Excluded Students Database agreement
- A Confidentiality agreement

### **Do I need to bring anything to interview?**

You will be required to return signed copies of the following, which will be sent along with the letter inviting you to interview:

- The Excluded Students Database agreement
- A Confidentiality agreement

### **Do I need to confirm my identity on the day of the interview?**

We are required to confirm your identity when you present for interview. Please ensure you bring one of the following with you:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Student card

### **What if I am ill on the day of my interview?**

Please note that it is assumed that if an applicant presents for interview, **they are deeming themselves fit to participate in the interview process**. If you are unwell and unable to attend for interview, please contact the Centre for Dentistry School Office (email: [dentistry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:dentistry@qub.ac.uk) or telephone: 028 9097 6268). You will be required to submit evidence from your doctor if you wish consideration to be given to the provision of an alternative interview date. This alternative interview may involve an online interview format.

### **What are the academic requirements for A-level applicants?**

Please refer to the *How We Choose Our Students* document on course finder (under entry requirements):

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/dentistry-bds-a200/#entry>

### **Can I apply if I am re-sitting some or all of my A-Levels?**

Please refer to the *How We Choose Our Students* document on course finder (under entry requirements):

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/dentistry-bds-a200/#entry>

## **What are the interview shortlisting requirements for graduate applicants?**

Please refer to the *How We Choose Our Students* document on course finder (under entry requirements):

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/dentistry-bds-a200/#entry>

## **Can I apply for a transfer if I am currently studying at another Dental School?**

Due to the high level of competition for places at UK Dental Schools, applications from candidates who are currently studying dentistry or who have studied dentistry at a UK Dental School or non-UK Dental School will not normally be considered.

## **Are there any special requirements for admission to the Dentistry course?**

For details of the additional Health Clearance required, please refer to the *How We Choose Our Students* document on course finder (under entry requirements):

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/dentistry-bds-a200/#entry>

Because of the professional nature of the course, any offer made will be conditional on a satisfactory Access Northern Ireland check and registration with the United Kingdom Independent Safeguarding Authority. Candidates who receive offers will be provided with further information. The course is subject to the UK's General Dental Council and Queens University Fitness to Practise regulations.

## **What if I have a disability?**

Dentistry welcomes applications from people with disabilities. All applications will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure that the candidate has the potential to fulfil the demands of a career in dentistry.

Disability will not be considered as part of the selection process. However, candidates **must disclose any disability** they have on their UCAS form and contact the School to obtain further advice. Candidates may also be required to provide additional relevant information which will be treated in confidence.

In accordance with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy, we seek to ensure that all candidates, regardless of disability, can participate fully in the selection process. If you consider yourself to have, or to have had, a disability and require any specific arrangements to be put in place for your interview please specify these arrangements when you are confirming your attendance.

**Where can I obtain further information?**

Further detailed information about entrance requirements and the selection criteria is given in our Entry Profile on the UCAS website under Course Search ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)).

**Who do I contact if I have any other questions?**

For any queries you have about the suitability of your qualifications, or potential qualifications, which are not covered in the FAQs or in our Entry Profile, please contact the Admissions and Access Service:

email: [admissions@qub.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@qub.ac.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3838