Undergraduate Dentistry Courses.
Why Sheffield?

We provide excellent student support, innovative facilities, and teaching guided by the latest research in the field.

Receive excellent support

We pride ourselves on offering the very best personal and professional support during your studies. We believe in you, and our staff are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which you can develop and flourish.

You’ll have a personal tutor, and will meet with them regularly for one-to-one meetings. Your personal tutor isn’t just there to help with things related to your course, but also wider aspects of student life including your personal welfare.

Your personal tutor is further supported by our Director for Student Affairs, who takes overall responsibility for ensuring that you receive the best possible support.

As well as our Director of Student Affairs we also have a Student Support Lead who is there to give you additional help and advice and will support you if you have any personal or health problems.

The support that we provide means that our students are highly satisfied with their experience of studying here. In the latest National Student Survey*, we received a 100% overall satisfaction score.

Learn the latest research developments

It is our mission to make a large, positive impact on oral health and wellbeing worldwide by combining excellent education with world-leading research.

We’re one of the top ten Russell Group universities for research output**, and we provide research-led teaching, so what you study on your course is based on the latest findings.

For example, our research team developed the very first self-help guide designed to reduce the number of children with dental anxiety. The guide uses Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques, and 60% of children felt a lot less worried about visiting the dentist.

We now teach these techniques to our students and continue to improve our teaching through our research.

*National Student Survey 2018
**Research Excellence Framework 2014
“I’ve always been interested in science and have found that studying dentistry is a really practical way to apply this”, says Alice Rigby, explaining why she chose to study for a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree here at the University of Sheffield. “You get to interact with lots of people including patients, staff and other students while doing meaningful treatment that improves people’s lives.”

“I’m from the North East of England. I grew up in Guisborough and went to school in Yarm. I knew from being about 14 years old that I wanted to be a dentist and did some work experience with my family dentist to help confirm this.”

“The BDS course at Sheffield gives students clinical experience very early on which is exciting and gives context to the basic science teaching that takes place during the early years”, she explains. “In the first year I found the dissection practicals a really interesting way to learn, and having increased clinical time as the course progresses means I now feel more confident in my clinical practice.”

Between years two and three of her dental surgery degree, Alice chose to intercalate and complete a one-year Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci) degree. “I chose to intercalate as it is a unique opportunity for dental students to undertake an extended research project during their undergraduate studies. It allowed me to work independently and develop skills in scientific writing as well as laboratory work.”

“My favourite part of the BMedSci was how much independence I had to pursue research into an area that interested me. I spent a year looking at differences between types of oropharyngeal cancer at a cellular level.”

“I’ve had a great time at university so far. Sport has been a really important part of my university experience. I’ve competed in BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) and been club captain for the orienteering and fell running club. Sheffield is also a great city to live in, especially with the Peak District nearby.”

“If you’re thinking about studying dentistry, come and visit the University on an open day. It’s a five-year course, so you need to know you’ll enjoy living and studying in Sheffield. Also, do as much work experience as possible – it helps you decide if this course and career is definitely what you want to do.”
A great place to study

Push the boundaries in our intellectually stimulating, interdisciplinary environment.

An ideal location

The University’s School of Clinical Dentistry is located on the main campus, less than 10 minutes’ walk from key campus facilities including the award-winning Students’ Union and sports facilities. Our bespoke building was opened in 1992, and extended in 2008, although our dental school was first established over 120 years ago.

Benefit from specialist facilities

We strive to provide the best learning facilities we can. The introduction of our virtual reality simulation suite is an example of our commitment to innovation. We also use proven, traditional techniques such as human dissection.

In our simulation suite, haptic technology allows you to use virtual dental instruments on virtual teeth, and feel force-feedback as you do so. We are only one of three dental schools in the UK to use haptic technology.

The combination of classroom study, clinical skills, laboratories and patient clinics (on our clinical courses) enables you to develop the full range of skills and knowledge needed for dentistry.

Charles Clifford Dental Hospital

We have a close working relationship with the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, a specialist facility, where the majority of our clinical teaching takes place. You will also work in outreach placements where you provide care to people across South Yorkshire and beyond, and gain experience to help your transition into employment.
Phoebe McDermott
HE Diploma Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

“When I was little, I wanted to be a vet or open my own sweet shop”, recalls Phoebe McDermott. “I first considered a career in dentistry after I had orthodontic treatment at age 14. But it wasn’t until I was sitting my AS-levels that I considered dental hygiene and therapy, when my chemistry teacher suggested I look into it. I did two weeks’ work experience shadowing a dental therapist in a local dental practice and that was when I knew this was the career I wanted to pursue.”

Phoebe is now studying for a Higher Education Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, here at the University of Sheffield. “After my work experience I felt more confident than ever that dental therapy was the career for me, I loved the flexibility of the profession and how it is always changing”, she explains. “I chose Sheffield for many reasons, including the outreach programme where we have various placements in different local dental practices. I thought it would be great to get an idea of what ‘real world’ dentistry will be like once I’ve graduated.”

“The aspect of the course I find most rewarding is treating patients. It has given me the opportunity to treat lots of different people from a variety of backgrounds. I find working with anxious children particularly rewarding as you can give them an enjoyable first dental experience.”

The range of facilities available here at Sheffield has helped Phoebe to develop her skills. “The technology the dental school has is amazing”, she explains. “The virtual reality simulation suite is a really good piece of technology that allows you to practice filling teeth before you start on real patients. It gives a real sense of depth and how it feels to fill teeth. This along with the clinical skills lab make an amazing pair. In the clinical skills lab you can practice filling real teeth in the phantom heads. This is an amazing way to get experience of doing various restorative procedures before starting on real patients.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sheffield. I have always felt supported throughout my studies. The tutors here are second to none and I have learned so much from them. I feel the University has definitely prepared me for life after graduation and I look forward to seeing where my diploma will take me in the future.”
Our courses

**We aim to train high-quality dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists and scientists**

**DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMA**

**Duration:** 27 months full-time

UCAS code: applications to this course are not made via UCAS

Diplomates of this course receive professional accreditation by the General Dental Council as both dental hygienists and dental therapists.

Topics covered include the human body in health and disease; and law, ethics and professionalism. You’ll begin clinical skills training straight away to develop the skills to treat and manage patients. You’ll learn about oral disease; and health promotion and education.

A large proportion of the course is clinical. You’ll treat your own patients and work in specialist departments within the dental hospital, including paediatric dentistry, implantology, oral surgery and radiography. We’ll also give you the skills to treat patients directly without a dentist’s prescription.

In your second year, you’ll undertake a series of placements. You’ll work in a variety of dental practices and contribute to primary care dentistry within a community. It will sharpen your skills and expose you to a wide range of patient types and procedures.

All our students plan and deliver their own scheme to promote oral health for a targeted group of people. Previous schemes were developed in primary schools and residential care homes. Towards the end of your course, we’ll focus on important workplace issues, to give you the best possible start to your career.

**DENTAL SURGERY BDS**

**Duration:** 5 years full-time

UCAS code: A200

We teach you theory alongside clinical practice, so you’ll develop an understanding of dental science and its clinical application. You’ll learn the value of evidence-based dentistry and how to apply it to clinical practice. Even from the first year you’ll be working in the clinic and learning valuable skills.

Early in the course you’ll learn about the human body in health and disease, as well as diseases of the teeth and the supporting tissues, and how these diseases can be prevented. During the second year you’ll be responsible for treating patients and providing a range of essential clinical care.

At the end of your second year, you may choose to take a year out to study an intercalated degree. This is an opportunity to obtain an in-depth understanding of one of the subjects introduced in the BDS course. It includes the opportunity to undertake a substantial piece of research.

As you progress through the course, you’ll learn more advanced skills in patient management, the importance of whole patient care, and their long-term management.

In the final years of the course, there is increasing emphasis on the relationship between the different dental specialisms, and the development of skills in diagnosis and treatment planning. Throughout your clinical study, you’ll learn to take a preventive approach to patient care and motivate patients to look after their oral health.

**BIO-DENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BSC**

**Duration:** 3 years full-time

UCAS code: B750

On this course you’ll learn about the basic and applied sciences underpinning clinical dentistry. These subjects include anatomy, oral microbiology, cell biology, biochemistry, physiology, tissue engineering, medical sociology and dental materials. Our strength in these disciplines allows us to offer a contemporary research-led degree course in subject areas that are at the forefront of healthcare research.

You’ll learn all about the structure, function and maintenance of oral and dental tissues, and will work on innovative research projects, such as the molecular and cellular basis of regeneration and tissue repair. We’ll help you to develop the technical skills needed by employers.

The degree includes an opportunity to go on a research-informed placement where you’ll learn how science can provide commercial healthcare solutions. You’ll also have the chance to work with the local community to promote the public understanding of oral health.

You’ll study eight core modules across three years. The modules will progressively develop your ability to learn independently. Although all modules are compulsory, you can choose to focus on the subjects that interest you most during years 2 and 3.
Entry requirements

Each year we receive a high volume of applications from well-qualified students. Our entry requirements are therefore set at a level that reflects the high academic content and popularity of our courses.

We constantly keep our entry requirements under review. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information and for further information on our admissions procedures.

Our selection process

Each of our courses has a slightly different selection process. The key information is listed here.

BSC BIO-DENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- We make selection decisions based on your application and academic qualifications.
- We do not interview applicants to this course.

HE DIPLOMA DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY
- Applications to this course are not made via UCAS. To apply, please visit our website and complete an application form.
- Based on your application, we may invite you to a selection day (which includes an interview), after which we make offers for places on the course.

BDS BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY
- All students applying to this course are required to sit the UCAT test prior to applying, and you can register to do this at www.ucat.ac.uk
- Based on personal qualities demonstrated, academic qualifications and UCAT scores, we invite a number of applicants to a selection day, after which we make offers for places on the course.

Please visit our website for further details of our selection processes.

Health requirements

In accordance with national guidelines from the Department of Health for the protection of both patients and healthcare workers including students, all dental surgery and dental hygiene and dental therapy students must conform to the health requirements in place at the time of your application to the course. If you are unable to arrange the necessary immunisations by the time you start your course, the Sheffield Occupational Health Service can help you.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

As future healthcare practitioners, dental surgery / dental hygiene and dental therapy students will be required to undergo a DBS check, in line with most applicants for healthcare courses in the UK. A satisfactory DBS check is essential to your acceptance to these courses.

Widening participation schemes

In addition to our standard entry requirements, we recognise that some students may have faced educational disadvantages during their earlier studies. We therefore have different entry requirements and selection criteria for students who complete the national Realising Opportunities scheme or our own Access to Dental Occupations – Practice and Tutoring Scheme.

Realising Opportunities

Realising opportunities is a national widening participation scheme that aims to encourage students who have had an educational disadvantage to enter higher education. Full details can be found at www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk

Access to Dental Occupations – Practice and Tutoring (ADOPT) scheme

ADOPT is a two-year pathway starting in Year 12 for students who are interested and have the potential to progress into a career in the field of dentistry, as a dentist, dental hygienist or dental therapist. Students will need to meet specific academic and widening participation criteria from state schools within South Yorkshire and the surrounding region. Full details can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/outreach/post16/adopt

For full details on widening participation criteria and entry requirements please visit our website.
"I was born in Coventry, but raised in Blackpool. My parents own a small hotel in Blackpool, so growing up I thought I’d always end up just working there, which I still do during the summer holidays", explains Sunil Heer. "When it came to choosing a career path I also thought about medicine and teaching, but I wasn’t so sure. Then I came across dentistry as an option and straight away could see myself doing this after partaking in some work experience."

"At school, my favourite subjects were science-based. Having studied biology, chemistry, physics and maths at A-level, I knew I wanted to do something which involved science and in particular biology", he recalls. "I also wanted to do something which was interactive and hands-on."

"I chose to study dentistry for a number of reasons. I had an older brother studying dentistry at the time. I did some work experience and soon found out how diverse the job was and that it wasn’t just about teeth. With the help of my brother and the various dentists I shadowed, I decided to apply." So, why did Sunil choose Sheffield? "I applied to Sheffield in particular as I liked the way the course presented itself as opposed to other universities. There is early clinical exposure and a good balance between practical work and lecture work. Also, the North is the best!"

"Being able to treat patients of all ages is very rewarding, as is being able to put everything you’ve learnt into practice with the help of the dedicated tutors", says Sunil, explaining what he enjoys most about his course. "The library facilities are good, even though it’s busy during peak times there is always somewhere you can go and study. Relaxing in Weston Park in the sun is also great."

"Adjusting to university life can be hard, but being in Sheffield made it a lot easier. The course itself is challenging and requires hard work, but it’s definitely rewarding."

"My advice to anyone considering studying dentistry is to read the websites of different dental schools, which usually provide a lot of information. Take time to read these and look at how the course is run, so you know it is right for you. Try to do work experience in as many places and fields as you can, and be proactive while partaking in work experience so you can show you actually learnt something."
**Careers**

Most dental surgery graduates apply for a one-year Dental Foundation (DF) training programme. This provides you with a supportive environment where you can continue to develop your skills and experience to the point where you become an independent practitioner. Successful completion of the DF year enables you to work in an NHS practice.

After their DF year, most graduates find work in general dental practices, in the community dental service or sometimes in the armed forces. Some choose to undertake further specialist training to enable them to become speciality dentists, hospital or academic consultants or to become researchers.

Bio-dental science and technology graduates develop the knowledge and skills to work in translational research in industry, universities and the NHS. As this degree combines a biological science with a healthcare discipline, you’ll be well placed for a research career in emerging areas of basic and applied health research, the sociology of healthcare, bioactive materials, advanced manufacturing and virtual reality simulation. If you decide to carry out clinical dental training, this degree provides a suitable foundation.

**Intercalated degrees**

If you study our BDS Bachelor of Dental Surgery, you’ll have the opportunity during your degree to take a year out and study an intercalated BMedSci degree.

The BMedSci provides an opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of an area of study you were introduced to in your dental course. You will undertake a substantial research project providing you with the chance to develop your research skills and potential. Whilst studying, you will continue with your patient contact so that you do not become deskilled during your year out.

An intercalated degree will also considerably enhance a student’s CV, and broaden employment prospects. For those interested in pursuing an academic career, it is even more worthwhile.

**Further study**

If you choose to continue studying after graduation, there are a range of postgraduate study options for you to pursue within our School of Clinical Dentistry and beyond. We offer a broad range of masters degrees and PhD opportunities in fields such as restorative dentistry, dental materials, dental public health, dental technology, paediatric dentistry and more.
"I grew up in Kenilworth in Warwickshire and have lived there all my life", says Emma Kempton. "As a child I wanted to be a hippie, but if that plan didn’t work out I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up!"

“When I was in sixth form, I was interested in studying medicine, but after lots of work experience I realised that dentistry was much more hands-on", she explains. "Dentists diagnose, treat and review lots of different problems including oral and maxillofacial surgery, restorative (fillings and crowns), orthodontics and many more."

Emma chose to study BDS Dental Surgery here in Sheffield. “I came to Sheffield for the university but I’ve fallen in love with the city. The people are so friendly and the night life is buzzing. Plus a picnic in the Peak District is the perfect bonding session with your new flatmates. I’m still trying to get my head around the accent though!”

"The patients who I get to treat make my course worthwhile. Some patients are genuinely really grateful for the work that you do. My denture patient even bought me some books! We always chat about what we’re reading at the moment.”

“Shffield also offers an optional intercalation year where you can choose a specific topic of research for a year and gain an extra degree. I wanted to see the other side of dentistry. Everything we do as dentists is based on research, but you don’t get to see much of the research actually happen, so it was interesting to do some myself. I’ve always enjoyed science in school, so it was interesting to get to see some of it first-hand.”

"I spent my intercalation year studying for a BMedSci in the dental school", she recalls. “I spent the year in the labs alongside PhD and masters’ students, attempting to work out whether a specific medication (nicorandil) affects the wound healing process.”

In her spare time, Emma enjoys socialising in the students’ union. “I am obsessed with New Leaf. It’s a salad bar in the students’ union that makes the best wraps with more fillings than you could possibly imagine stuffed into the softest tortilla wrap to grace this Earth. A trip to New Leaf makes a day at the library a little bit more bearable.”
International community

When you choose Sheffield, you join a supportive community of students and staff from all over the world. As a University, we have over 7,000 international students, from more than 140 countries.

Our community is founded on principles of tolerance and respect. You can expect to meet and work with people from lots of different backgrounds, with different points of view.

This diversity makes our community stronger. Together, we challenge and inspire each other to achieve great things.

Our School of Clinical Dentistry welcomes applications from international students.

Standing together

In 2013, we launched the #WeAreInternational campaign, bringing together students, academics, city leaders and communities to highlight the huge contribution international students make to our culture and our economy.

Since then the campaign has gone from strength to strength, changing perceptions, challenging prejudices, and sending a clear message to the world: international students are welcome here.

We Are International now has the support of 160 universities and colleges, the British Council and the Home Office. We've taken our message to parliament. And we've inspired one university in the USA to launch a similar campaign of their own.

We started this campaign to make our voices heard. To stand up for what we believe in. International students are important to our economy, but We Are International is about much more than that. It’s about building bridges, breaking down barriers and understanding the world. It’s about all our students, including you.

Weareinternational.org.uk
#WeAreInternational

We are international

Sheffield is a global institution and a World Top 100 University*

*QS World University Rankings 2019
Contact us

The School of Clinical Dentistry
University of Sheffield
19 Claremont Crescent
Sheffield
S10 2TA
United Kingdom

**BSc Bio-dental Science and Technology**
Tel: +44 (0)114 215 9307
Email: biodental.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk

**HE Dip Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy**
Tel: +44 (0) 114 215 9384
Email: dhdtadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk

**BDS Dental Surgery**
Tel: +44 (0)114 215 9307
Email: dental.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it’s up-to-date and relevant. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, courses, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct as at the time of print, but please see www.sheffield.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information about our postgraduate courses. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and www.sheffield.ac.uk, the information on www.sheffield.ac.uk should be taken as correct.