



University of
Sheffield



**BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (BDS)
2027 ENTRY**

**MADE FROM
EVERY
EXPERIENCE**



University of Sheffield **TOP 100**

QS World University Rankings 2027

Independent thinking. Shared ambition.



NUMBER 1 STUDENTS' UNION

National Student Survey
2025

35TH IN THE WORLD FOR DENTISTRY

QS World University
Rankings by subject 2026



TOP 20 UNIVERSITY

The Guardian University
Guide 2026



TOP 10 FOR CAREERS SUPPORT

StudentCrowd Awards
2025



UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide 2026

6TH IN THE UK FOR DENTISTRY

Complete University Guide 2027



**WELCOME TO THE
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL
DENTISTRY**



THE DENTISTRY TEAM





DENTAL SURGERY AT SHEFFIELD

THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL

- GDC regulated programme
- Defined by **The Safe Practitioner (2025)**
- A framework of **behaviours** and **outcomes** for dental professional education
- Defines what is taught on all dental programmes
- Increased emphasis on digital, sustainability and well-being



GDC INSPECTION 2026

“...[Sheffield] delivers a high quality, well-resourced programme that is spoken about with enthusiasm and respect by staff, students and external stakeholders alike.”

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- **Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)**
71 per year
- Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (BSc)
24 per year

Each a separate cohort but teaching is fully integrated during your first year and at other key points during your degree.

A NEW, SAFE PRACTITIONER CURRICULUM

We've redesigned our BDS Dental Surgery course to meet the GDC's new Safe Practitioner framework, based on feedback from our School community:

- **Clinical confidence:** you'll start clinical work earlier and finish with an integrated clinical practice focus. As a Sheffield graduate you'll be "clinic-ready" on day one.
- **A "whole team" approach:** You don't just study with other Dental Surgery students. You'll learn alongside Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy students from the start, emulating the real-world multidisciplinary environment of a modern dental practice.
- **A more inclusive curriculum:** we've listened to feedback from teachers, alumni and students, making our assessments more inclusive and adopting the 'standard' university calendar as much as we can. There are more teaching weeks than a standard degree, but longer holidays and standardised exam periods.

COURSE OVERVIEW

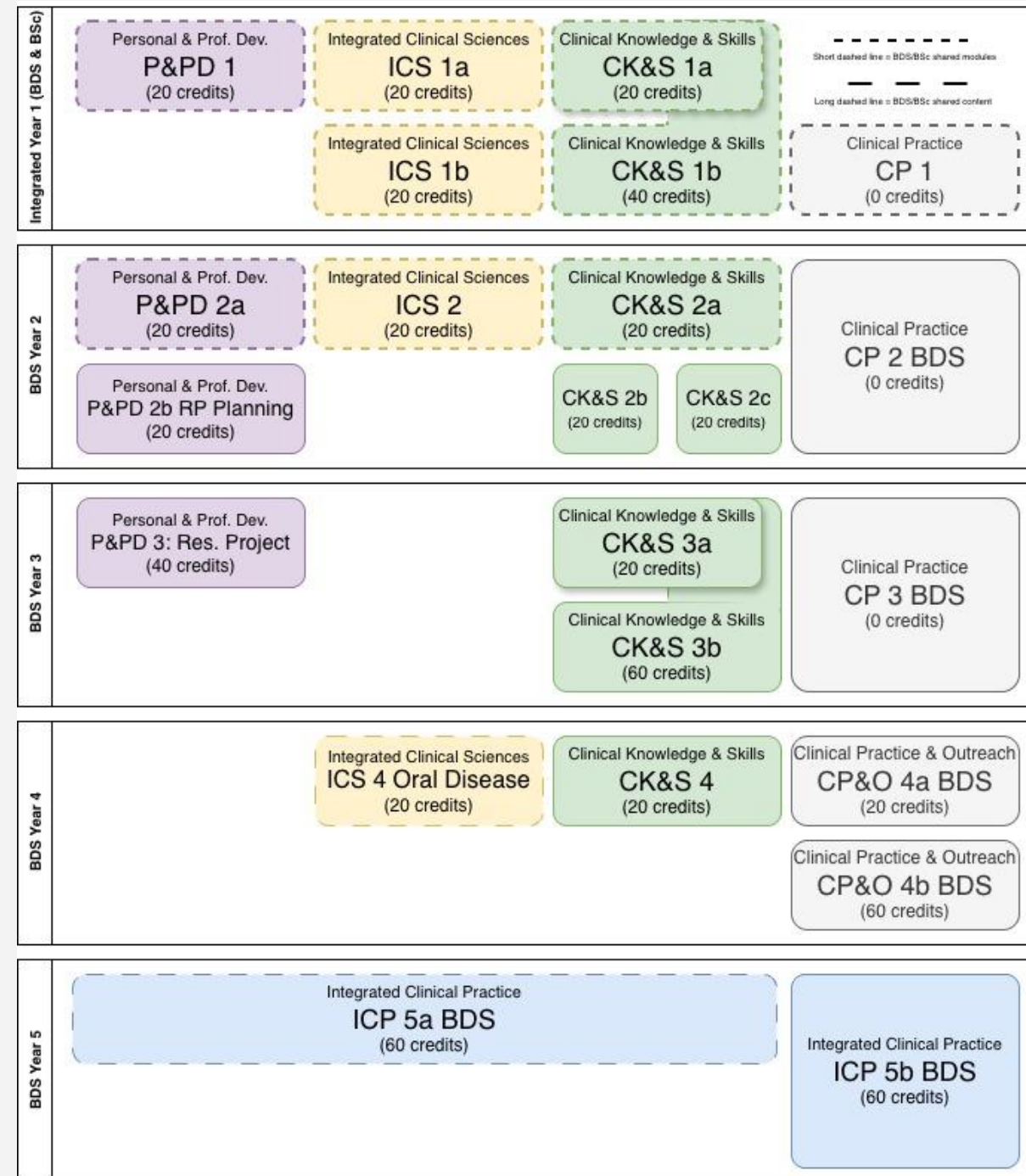
New modular structure, made up of four pillars:

- **Personal and Professional Development**
- **Clinical Sciences**
- **Clinical Knowledge and Skills**
- **Clinical Practice**

1st year - fully integrated with Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

3rd year - research project

4th year - outreach clinical placements



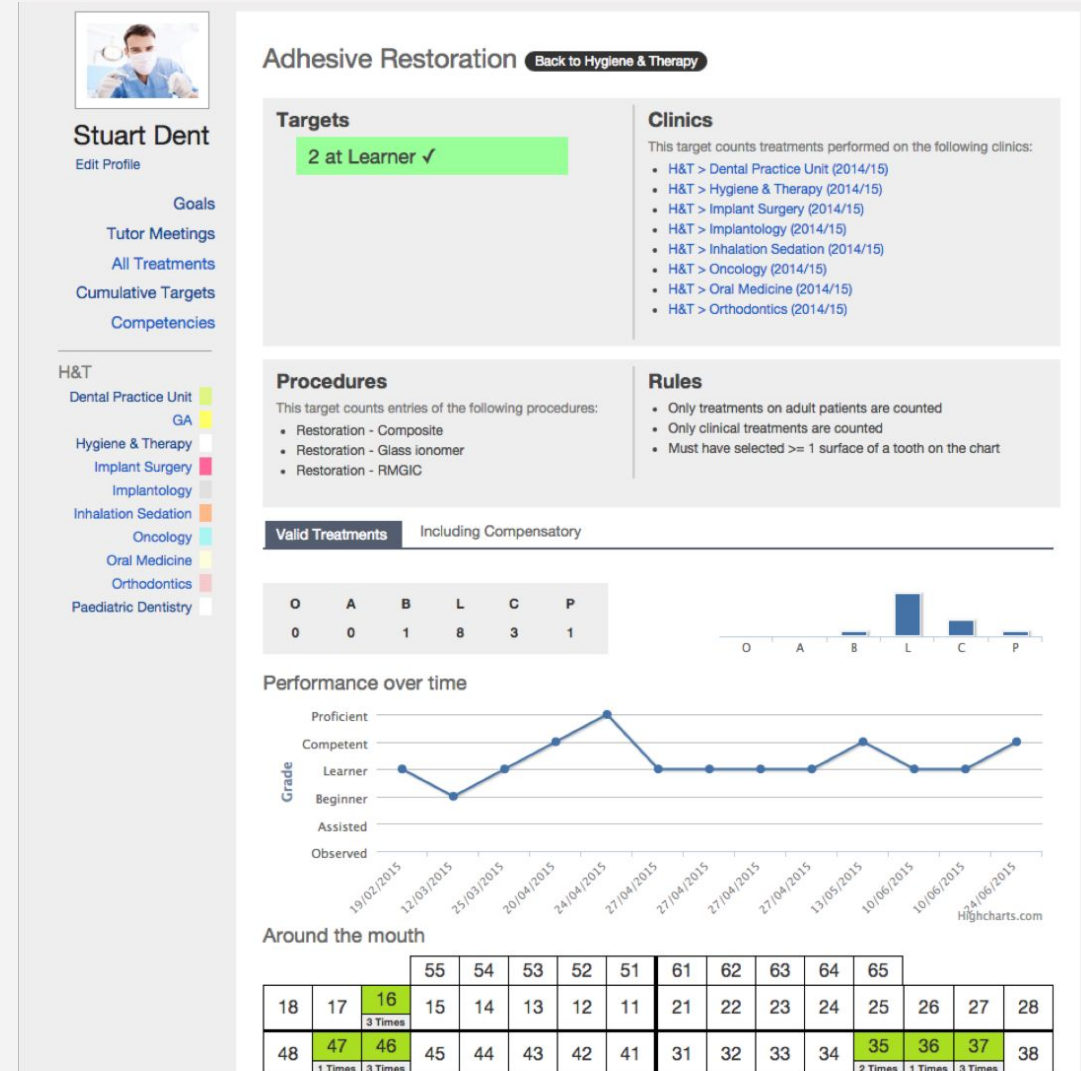
CLINICAL TEACHING

- Practical skills that are developed through the programme **starting from week two**
- VR simulation and Phantom Head (plastic teeth) to develop skills before treating patients
- Will move between Phantom Head and patients as you develop new skills
- Supervised by clinical tutors in small groups, and at times 1 to 1



CLINICAL TEACHING

- Training tracked in a Portfolio, with feedback for every activity
- Bespoke system for Sheffield
- Clinical performance assessed on clinic by tutors, with feedback on professionalism and behaviors
- Full report of everything you've done clinically provided when you graduate



OUTREACH

- **Sheffield was the first to establish this form of teaching 20+ years ago**
- Block of teaching primarily in a Primary Care setting in the local area
- Students will see a variety of patients in a complementary setting to the Dental Hospital
- ‘Training Practices’ specifically configured to support students
- Travel costs are reimbursed



ANATOMY

We take a modern approach to anatomy education

- You'll benefit from a combination of expert-led teaching, real human plastinated specimens, and advanced digital resources
- We've recently invested in 22 Anatomage tables, one of the most advanced 3D anatomy visualisation tools available



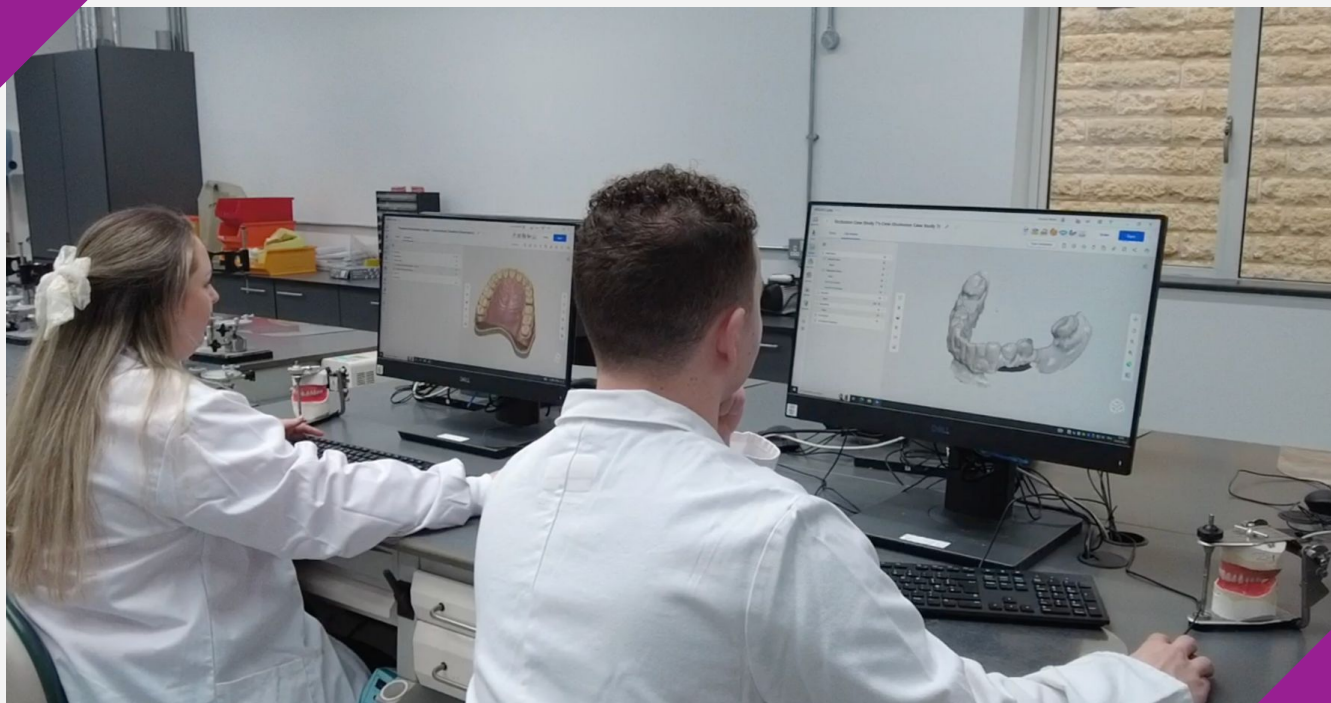
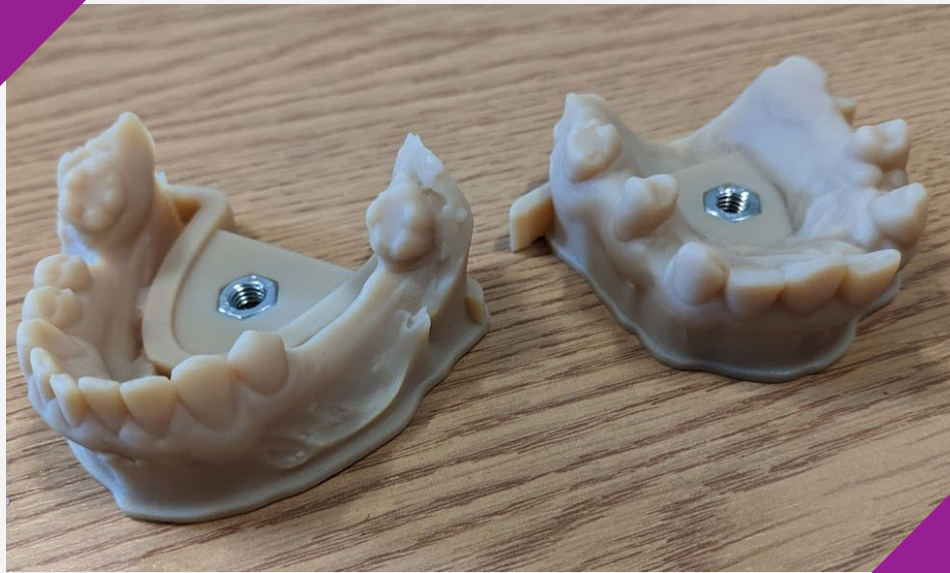
VR HAPTIC SIMULATOR UPGRADE



The University of Sheffield is a leader in the use of haptic simulators in the dentistry curriculum.

You'll use these haptic simulators to develop your clinical and treatment planning skills.

We're investing in newer state of the art equipment, which will be in use from September 2027.



RESEARCH PROJECT

- **You will complete a research project in third year**
- Develop skills in research and explore a subject of your choice, guided by an academic advisor
- Develop knowledge, explore an area of interest or enhance your future career



SUSTAINABILITY

- Sheffield Dental School is a **world leader** in sustainable dentistry policy making.
- Education for Sustainable Development is embedded throughout your training.
- **Planetary Health Report Card 2026** - only Dental School rated 'A' for curriculum



ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL SUPPORT

- **Academic Tutor** allocated for the duration of the programme
- **Pastoral support** provided by the School
- SpLDs assessed and **Learning Support Plans** and **Examination Support Adjustments** put in place
- Additional **University-wide support**
 - 301 Study Skills Centre
 - Dyslexia and Disability Support Service
 - Physical and mental health support



A dental professional in blue scrubs and purple gloves is examining a patient's teeth. A child is holding a small, cute, white stuffed animal with a pink band and a smiling face. The text "EMPLOYABILITY AND CAREERS" is overlaid in white capital letters.

EMPLOYABILITY AND CAREERS

TRANSITION TO PRACTICE

Dentistry offers many career opportunities, and we'll help you explore and prepare for these options

- BDS course is built on the **12 Sheffield Graduate principles** to support your academic success, personal development and future employability
- Outreach gives **first-hand experience of primary care**
- Students are taught by dental professionals who also work in general practice
- We support students to complete the **national Education Transition Document**
- We provide **preparatory sessions for FT applications and selection***
- The School has networks (and shares staff) with FT training places and the PG Deanery
- Additional support from the **Careers and Employability Service**

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

After you graduate, you'll be able to apply for registration from the General Dental Council

If you want to work in the NHS you'll need to complete a further one year of training in a **Dental Foundation Training Scheme (DFT)**. The annual salary for this is **£42,408**.

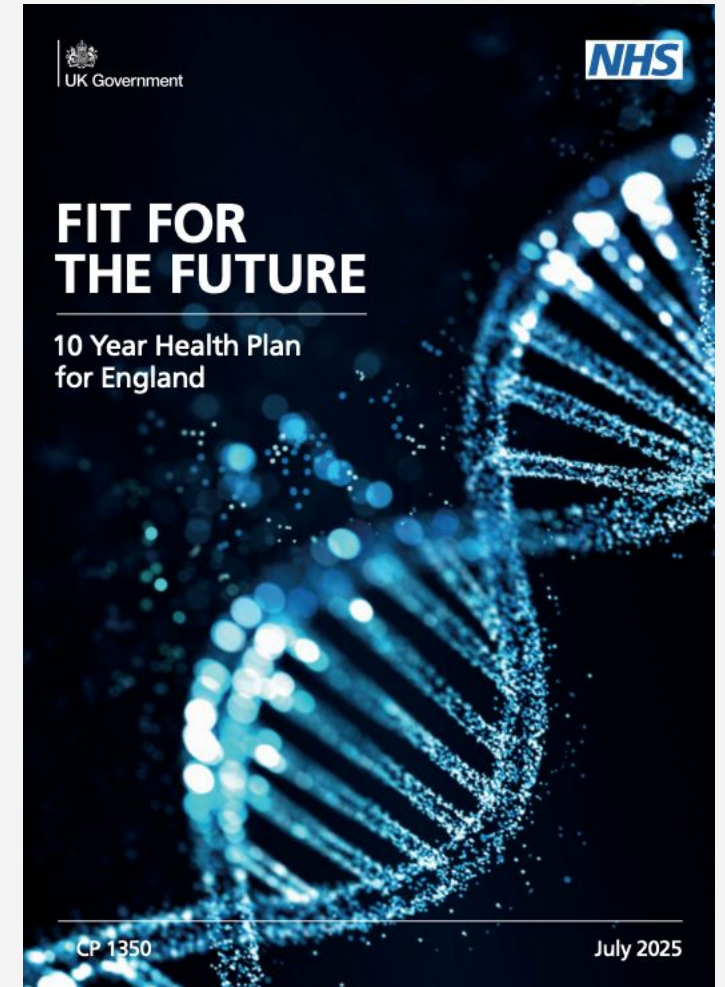
After completing your dental foundation training, you can either choose to work in a dental practice or enter **dental core training**.

Throughout your career, there'll be plenty of opportunities to **specialise and develop**:

- Further speciality training
- Education
- Public health
- Clinical leadership or practice management
- Research

NHS PRACTICE

- Applicants should be aware that the **government plans to make it a requirement for newly qualified dentists to practice in the NHS for a minimum period**, as announced in the 10 Year Health Plan for England
- This requirement is expected to apply to individuals entering a dental course of study from academic year 2027/28
- More information is expected from the Department of Health and Social Care in due course





**ADMISSIONS
AMANDA OKRASA AND DUNCAN WOOD**

COMPETITION

- Approximately **1,245** applicants
- **71** places available
- Each applicant makes **four** applications
- Academic attainment is not a guarantee of a place
- We're looking for good all-round applicants
- Each applicant is assessed individually
- Panel of assessors screen applications for selection days
- Interview panels select applicants to be recommended an offer

SCREENING FOR INTERVIEWS

Phase 1: University led

1. Academic qualifications
2. UCAT SJT: Band 1 and 2
3. UCAT: Average or above

SCREENING: ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

GCSE Grades:

- 6 A/7 grades including English, Maths and Science
- If you have one or two B/6 grades consider applying once you have achieved your A-levels.

A-level Grades: AAA

- Including Chemistry and Biology + pass in the practical element of any science A Levels taken
- No additional merit for A*
- No additional merit for 4 subjects

SCREENING FOR INTERVIEWS

Phase 2: School led

1. Personal statements and reference
 - Career exploration: reflection on work experience and research
 - Personal qualities and values demonstrated
 - Contemporary reference (refer to [UCAS guidance](#))

SCREENING FOR INTERVIEWS

Phase 3: School led

1. Finally, the UCAT is used to reduce the number of applicants who have successfully progressed through phase 2 to a target of approximately 300 for selection days. The total score is used here *.

**Data for each year is available on our website*

SCREENING: ACADEMIC REFERENCE

Referee should:

- Give recommendation for higher education and dentistry
- Validate the personal statement
- Offer interview preparation
- Guide research and work experience
- Be contemporary (refer to [UCAS guidance](#))



SCREENING: PERSONAL STATEMENT

Personal qualities and values

- Values Based Recruitment for NHS funded programmes
- Qualities of a healthcare professional
- NHS constitution and NHS values
- Highly motivated individuals
- Team working skills
- Voluntary work



SCREENING: PERSONAL STATEMENT

Demonstrate exploration of the profession

- Extensive reading or online courses (Discover Dentistry - free online course)
- Discussion with the dental professionals: current students, graduates and young dentists.
- Work experience - a busy NHS practice is ideal
- Specialist dentistry is useful as comparison - Secondary care – hospitals, referral practices
- Knowledge of specialisms – training pathways, specialist register – GDC

SCREENING: WHY WORK EXPERIENCE?

- To help you make an informed choice
- Experience the reality of working with patients
- Explore dental team and team working
- Investigate professionalism and professional responsibilities - working in the patient's best interest
- Find out about the current issues in dentistry
- Compare and contrast to other careers such as medicine and pharmacy

SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

Interviews to be held **Monday 22nd February – Friday 26th February 2027**

- You are assessed throughout your visit
- Semi-structured panel interview
- Academic/NHS staff take part in selection at interview
- The interview panel will comprise:
 - Two members of staff
 - Senior student
- Approximately 15 minutes in duration

SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

Interviews: three areas of assessment

**CAREER
EXPLORATION**

**MOTIVATION TO
STUDY AT HIGHER
EDUCATION
AND AT SHEFFIELD**

**COMMUNICATION,
VALUES AND
PERSONAL
QUALITIES**

SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

1. Career exploration

- Are you making an informed choice?
- Why have you chosen dentistry?
- How have you informed yourself and made the decision?

SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

2. Motivation to study at higher education, and at Sheffield

- Are you ready to undertake a 5-year clinical programme?
- Is Sheffield the right school for you?
- What are you going to bring to our community/school?

SELECTION: INTERVIEW

3. Communication, values and personal qualities

- Do you demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution?
 - Compassion
 - Respect and dignity
 - Everyone counts
 - Quality of care
 - Improving lives
 - Working together for patients

SELECTION DAY: INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

TEST

- Held separately to the interview
- You will be asked to tackle a problem or dilemma as part of a group - no clinical knowledge is necessary
- The test aims to assess those qualities outlined in the NHS constitution:
 - Respect
 - Teamwork
 - Communication

INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Interviews are challenging!

Prepare well by making sure you:

- can support your decision to study dentistry
- know what the course, school, university and city have to offer
- know what makes the course/school different to others
- get some practice/experience before attending



INTERVIEW TOP TIPS

Do not worry about your interview until you have an offer. You will have plenty of time to prepare. At Sheffield we do **a panel interview** and **an interpersonal skills test**.

**DO PRACTICE
INTERVIEWS**

**WHAT ARE YOUR
FUTURE PLANS?**

**RESEARCH THE
COURSE,
UNIVERSITY AND
PLACE**

**EXPLAIN WHY YOU
WANT TO STUDY
DENTISTRY**

**TRY TO STAY CALM
AND SPEAK WITH
CONFIDENCE AND
AUTHENTICITY**

**WHY SHEFFIELD?
WHAT MAKES THE
COURSE AND CITY
STAND OUT TO
YOU?**

**DEMONSTRATE AN
UNDERSTANDING
OF THE
PROFESSION AND
THE NHS VALUES**

**HOW CAN YOU
DEMONSTRATE
IMPORTANT
SKILLS?**

AFTER YOUR SELECTION DAYS

- Offers are made following a selection process after all selection days are completed
- We aim to process the decisions by the end of March but this may run into April



TYPICAL NUMBERS

- **1245** applicants
- **300** interviews
- **100** offers
- **80** accepts
- **71** candidates meet the requirement of the offer

Details for the last five years are available on our website



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How do you use the UCAT?
- Do you have a cut-off score? (ave)
- Can I defer?
- Do you accept resit applicants?
- Do I need to demonstrate manual dexterity?
- How much work experience do I need to do?
- What makes a good personal statement? (Reflection!)



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR ACCESS+

Will you be a first year undergraduate applicant who:

- lives in an **area of socioeconomic disadvantage**?
- was on **free school meals**?
- is **care experienced** or a **care leaver**?
- is **estranged** from both parents?
- has **caring responsibilities**?
- has **parenting responsibilities**?
- is a **forced migrant**?

If the answer is **YES**, you may be eligible for extra support such as travel bursaries for Open Days and Offer Holder Days, a contextual offer, and dedicated support.

Visit the **Access+ team** at the Information Fair in the **Students' Union** to find out more.

RESOURCES

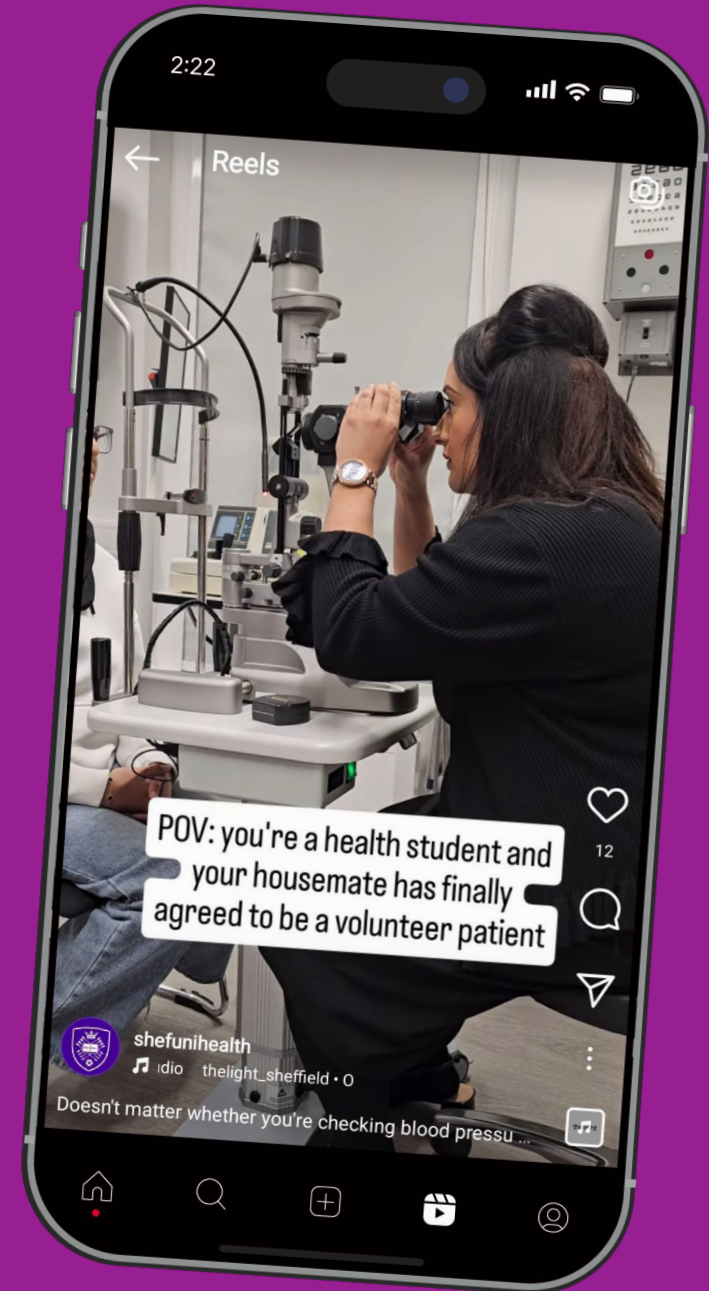
- Dental Schools Council: www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk
- Discover Dentistry: www.shef.ac.uk/dentalschool
- Studying healthcare: www.studyinghealthcare.ac.uk
- The Dental and Healthcare Insights Podcast - Dr Brierley + guests (Spotify)
- UCAT: www.ucat.ac.uk
- Contact us: dental.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk

Please don't pay any money for assistance with your application.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Get an inside look at what it's really like to train as a health professional at Sheffield – from lectures and clinical skills sessions to placements and everything in between.

@shefunihealth



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SCAN THE QR CODE



University of Sheffield



MADE FROM EVERY EXPERIENCE