



# University of Sheffield

# BSC DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY

**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





A photograph of three dental students in a clinical setting. They are wearing red scrubs, blue surgical masks, and blue gloves. The student in the center is working on a dental model of a human head, using a small tool. The student on the left is also working on a model. The student on the right is looking down at something. In the background, there is a whiteboard with handwritten notes and a list of items. The text "DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY AT SHEFFIELD" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL THERAPY AT SHEFFIELD

# THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL

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- 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



# OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

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

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**We've redesigned our Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy course to meet the GDC's new Safe Practitioner guidance, alongside 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 Hygiene and Dental Therapy students. You'll learn alongside Dental Surgery 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

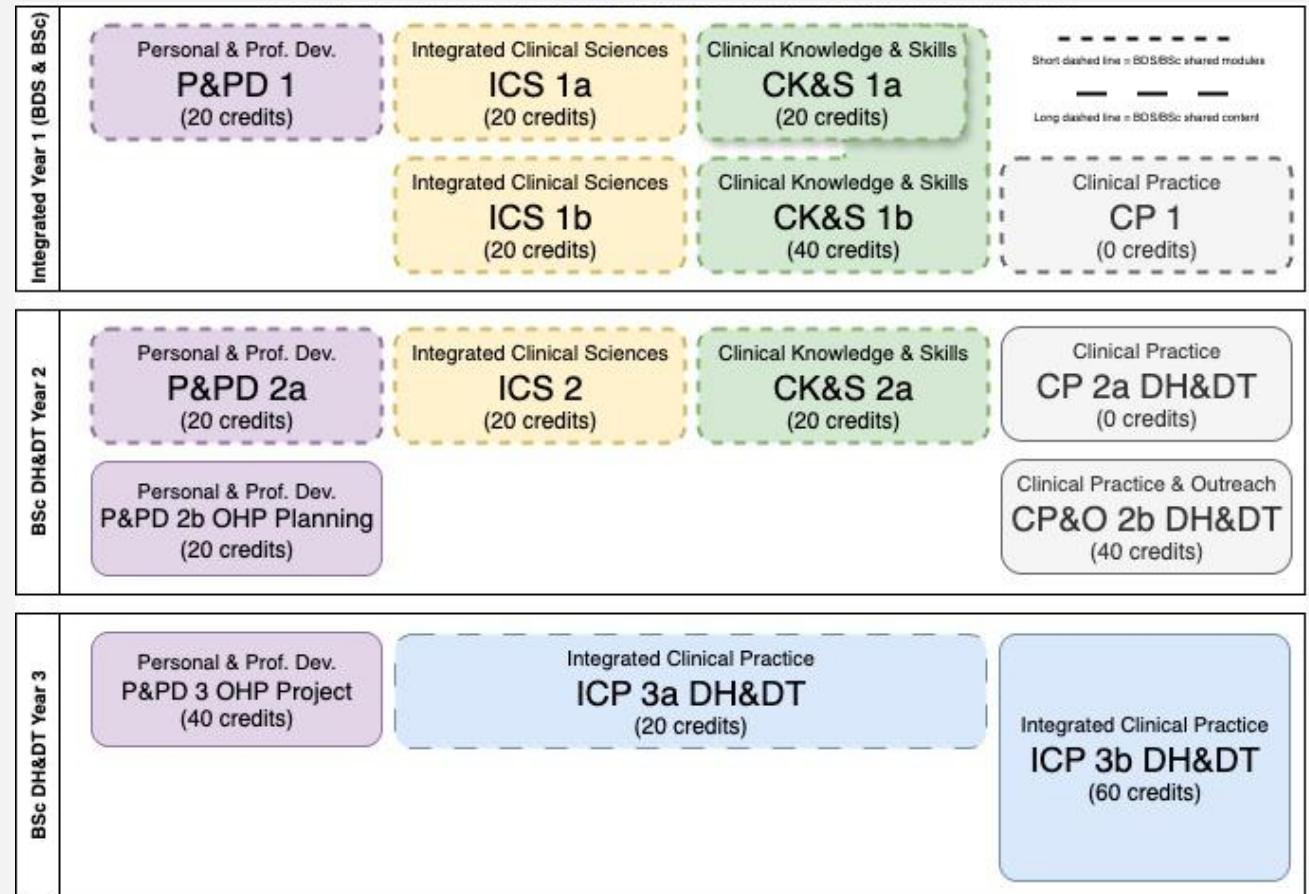
New modular structure, made up of four pillars:

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

1st year - fully integrated with the BDS

2nd year - outreach placements

3rd year - oral health promotion project



# CLINICAL TEACHING

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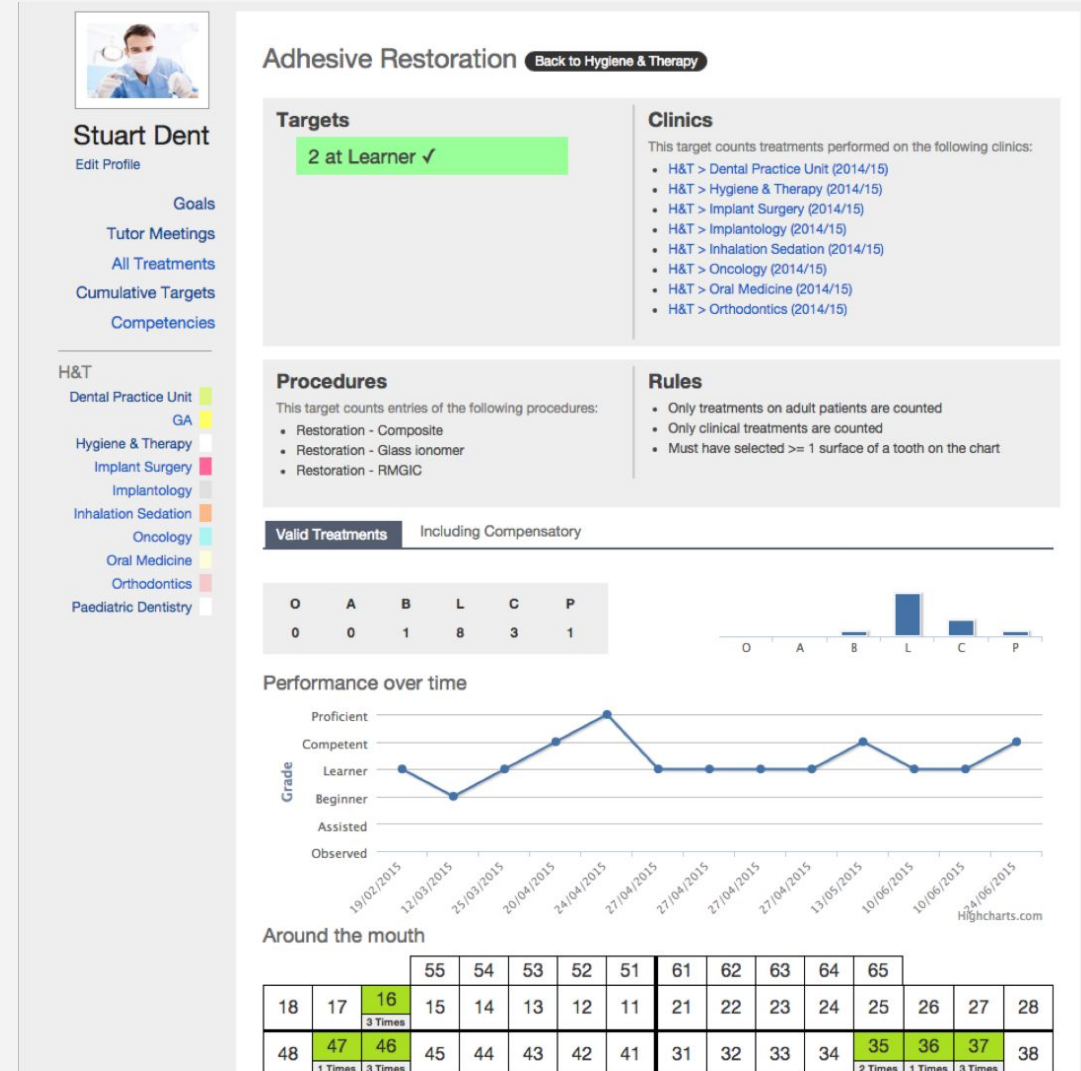
- Practical skills that are developed through the programme **starting from week two**
- VR simulation and Phantom Head (plastic teeth) to develop skills before treating patients
- Will move between Phantom Head and patients as you develop new skills
- Supervised by clinical tutors in small groups, and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

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- **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
- Difference in travel costs are reimbursed





# ANATOMY

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## 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

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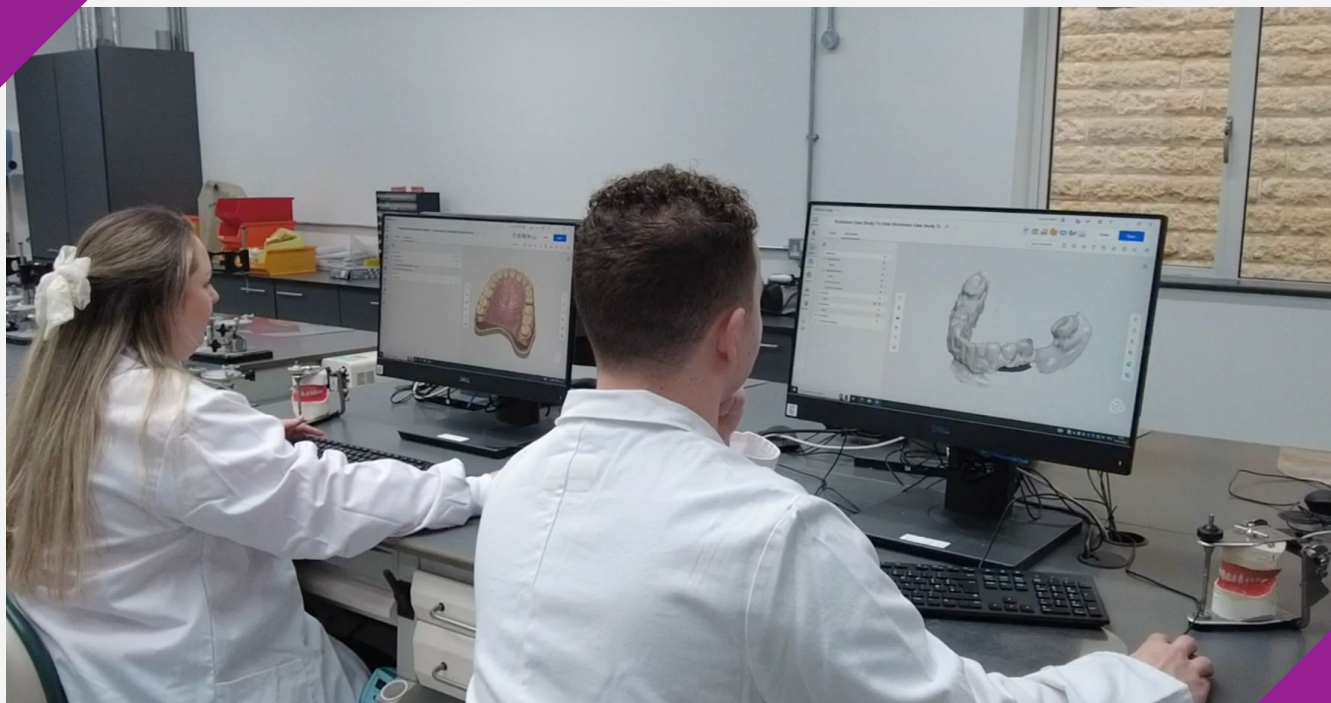
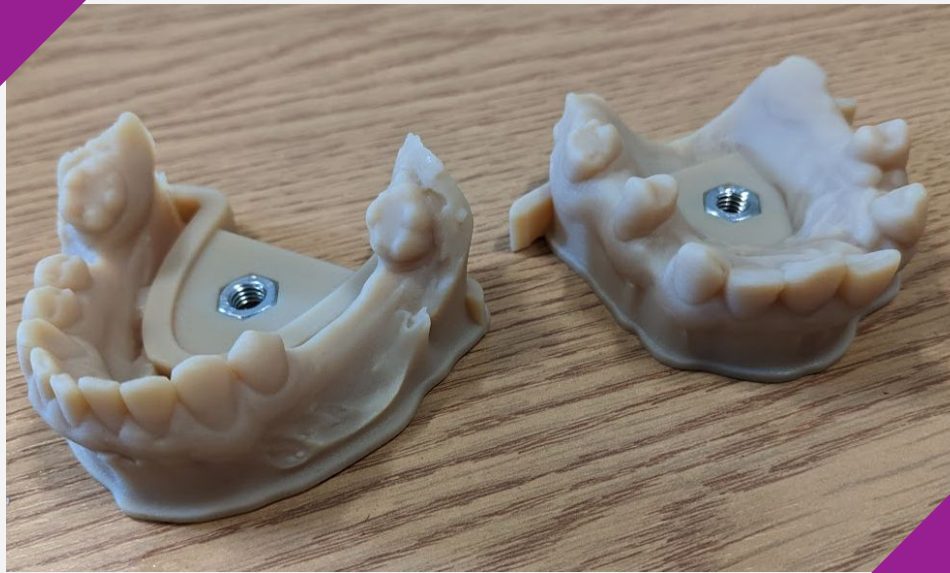


The University of Sheffield is a leader in the use of haptic simulators in the dentistry curriculum.

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.**

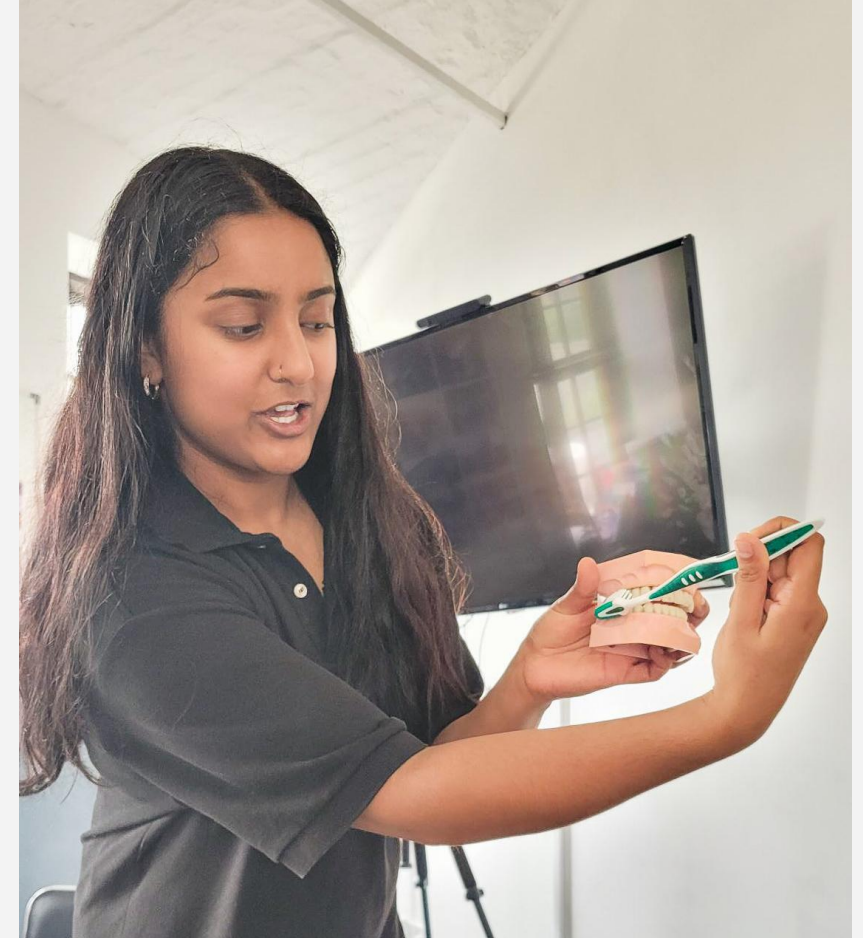




# ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION PROJECT

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- Plan and deliver an oral health targeted intervention that can continue without your input, e.g. developing local oral health promotion policies and training packs for annual training of new employees.
- Students have previously worked with:
  - service users at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation setting
  - local rugby union sports teams to raise the awareness and importance of sports mouthguards
  - a homelessness charity to share toothbrushing techniques





# 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

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- **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 in the foreground is holding a small, white, egg-shaped toy 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

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

- DHDT 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 sessions on **how to prepare your CV** and **practice interview skills** ahead of your final assessments
- Additional support from the **Careers and Employability Service**



# LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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- Newly qualified Dental Hygienists or Dental Therapists in the **NHS** typically start in **Band 5 or 6** roles (starting salary of around **£32,073**)
- However many graduates are self-employed or work privately, so pay and working hours can vary
- Plenty of opportunities to **specialise and develop:**
  - Education
  - Public health
  - Clinical leadership or practice management
  - Research



**APPLICATIONS**



# COMPETITION

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- First cohort for BSc - number of applicants not known but expected to be competitive
- **24** places available
- Each applicant makes **five** 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

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## **Phase 1: University led**

1. Academic qualifications
2. Equal to or above the 25th percentile on the Casper test



# SCREENING: ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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## **GCSE Grades:**

- 6 4/C grades including English, Maths and Science

## **A-level Grades:** ABB

- Including Biology + pass in the practical element of any science A Levels taken
- No additional merit for A\*/A
- No additional merit for 4 subjects
- GDC approved level 3 Dental Nurse Qualification + BB including Biology + pass in the practical element of any science A Levels taken

# SCREENING FOR INTERVIEWS

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## Phase 2: School led

1. Personal statements and reference
  - Career exploration: reflection on work experience and research
  - Personal qualities and values demonstrated



# SCREENING FOR INTERVIEWS

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## Phase 3: School led

1. Finally, we may use your Casper performance to reduce the number of applicants who have successfully progressed through phase 2 to a target of approximately 120 for selection days.

# SCREENING: ACADEMIC REFERENCE

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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

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## 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
- Charity work





# SCREENING: PERSONAL STATEMENT

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## **Demonstrate exploration of the profession**

- Extensive reading or online courses (Discover Dentistry - free online course)
- Discussion with the dental professionals: current students, graduates and dental care professionals
- Work experience - a busy NHS practice is ideal

# SCREENING: WHY WORK EXPERIENCE?

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- 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 nursing, medicine and pharmacy

# SCREENING: CASPER TEST

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- **All applicants must take the casper test by the UCAS deadline for equal consideration in January**
- Measures different personal and professional skills that are important for successful students
- Online, open-response situational judgment test
- Test dates: to be confirmed
- Visit [Accuity Insights](#) to find out more, view fees, create an account and take the test
- Fee assistance available with appropriate evidence (e.g. free school meals)



# SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

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Interviews to be held Thursday 11th March – Tuesday 16th March 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

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Interviews: three areas of assessment

**CAREER  
EXPLORATION**

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

**COMMUNICATION,  
VALUES AND  
PERSONAL  
QUALITIES**

# SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

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## 1. Career exploration

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



# SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

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

- Are you ready to undertake a 3-year clinical programme?
- Is Sheffield the right school for you?
- What are you going to bring to our community/school?

# SELECTION DAY: INTERVIEW

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## 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

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## 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

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## Interviews are challenging!

Prepare well by making sure you:

- can support your decision to study dental hygiene and dental therapy
- 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

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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**

**HAVE A GOOD  
ANSWER READY  
FOR 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 DAY

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



# ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR ACCESS+

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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

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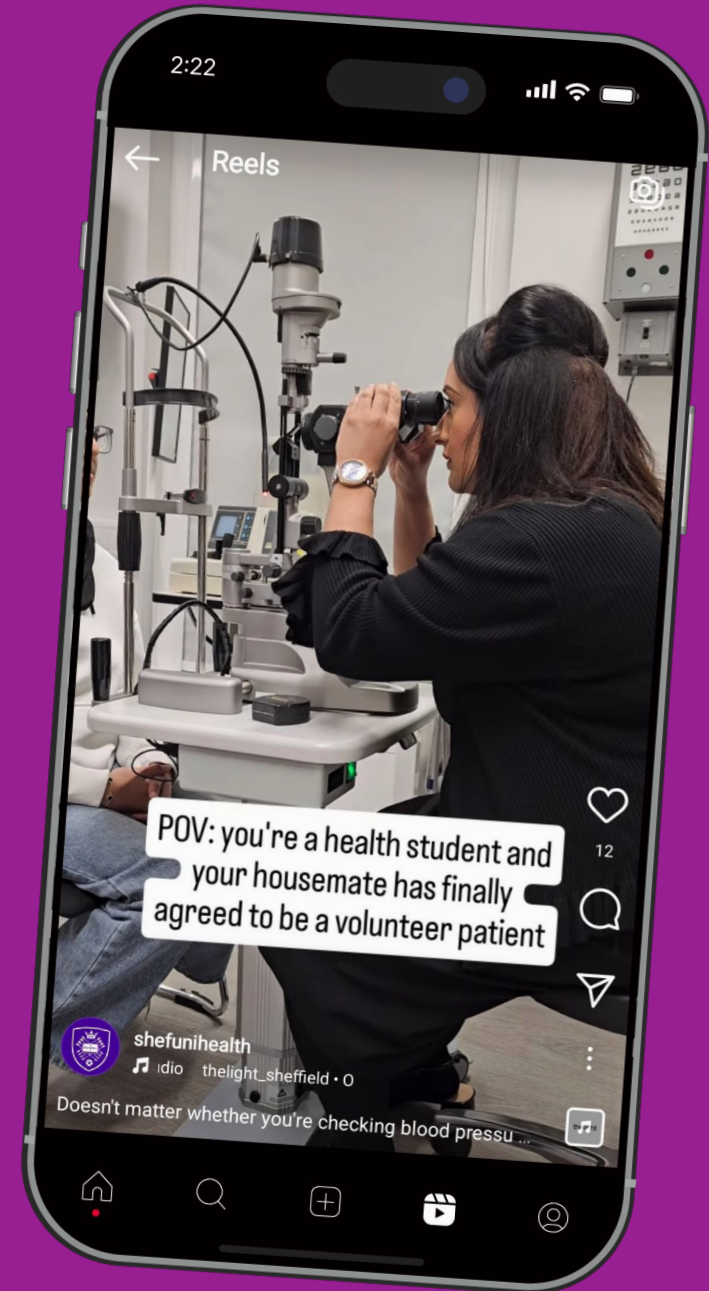
- Dental Schools Council: [www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)
- Discover dentistry: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool/undergraduate/discover-dentistry](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool/undergraduate/discover-dentistry)
- Studying healthcare: [www.studyinghealthcare.ac.uk](http://www.studyinghealthcare.ac.uk)
- The Dental and Healthcare Insights Podcast - Dr Brierley + guests (Spotify)
- Casper test: <https://acuityinsights.app/>
- Contact us: [dental.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto: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**





## CONNECT WITH US

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# University of Sheffield



## MADE FROM EVERY EXPERIENCE