IN TRO D U C TIO N

Today, the emphasis of dental care is focused on educating the public to care for their mouths and teeth. Although primarily concerned with oral health, as a dental graduate you will have a wide appreciation of general medicine. You will work closely with patients and must develop a high standard of professional responsibility. It is essential to have your own team of staff running your own practice. You will have an intellectually stimulating career, largely based on scientific principles, but which can also encompass artistic flair. A continuing commitment to education is needed as changing techniques and new materials constantly present new challenges. You will work with patients and the general public promoting oral health and prevention of dental disease, correcting dental irregularities (particularly in children) and treating dental and facial injuries. You will need to be able to do all this in a patient, tactful and considerate manner, recognising the needs, reactions, and fears of your patients. To become a dentist you will need a high degree of technical skill, accurate clinical judgement and intelligence, and a logical and inquiring mind. You also need to be fit and healthy with a cheerful and kindly disposition.

The Physical and Mental Demands of the BDS Course

The Dental course is long and demanding, both physically and mentally. You will, for example, require sufficient bi-mental dexterity to handle simultaneously, the necessary equipment to treat patients and a dental mirror to allow you to see what you are doing. Dentistry can involve very detailed work under conditions that are often difficult, so you need a steady hand and good vision (corrected if need be).

Is Dentistry for me?

Some universities, primarily QMUL, offer taster courses in Dentistry and related courses. There is also one offered by Oxbridge Medica and the website is given below:
http://www.oxbridgemedica.com/filedirectory/Pre-Dental/predentBrochure.pdf

These courses consist of lectures on relevant topics including careers in dentistry, student life at university, and admissions procedure. They also offer practical sessions which give participants an opportunity to gain some hands-on experience using dental instruments and materials. The courses are very popular so it is necessary to book early to ensure a place.

Entry requirements to become a dentist

For entry to standard five year degree programmes, applicants will usually need three A Levels (including two sciences) at grades A*AA to AAA plus one AS Level at grade A. Chemistry and Biology are required in most case, often with chemistry at A*/A grade. Competition is so fierce that entry without these two subjects is virtually impossible and is of huge benefit during the course. The universities’ offering Dentistry can be found using the following link:
http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/uk_dental_schools_list.htm

Nine of the sixteen universities offering Dentistry also require you to do the UKCAT examination. The Dental Schools that require this are, Dundee, King’s College, London, Queen Mary College, London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, (plus pre-Dental course), Newcastle, Sheffield and the results are used as additional information in the selection process.

UKCAT stands for United Kingdom Clinical Aptitude Test and contains five sections: Verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning, decision analysis and situational judgement test. No section contains any material from core GCSE or A Level curricula. Practice questions for this exam are available at the link below. The library also contains booklets to help you and practice sessions will be available to help you. The Student BMJ has also published an interesting article on the UKCAT:
http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/preparation/practice-test/
http://www.bmj.com/content/340/bmj.c478

Applicants with non-science A Levels can apply for Dental degrees with an additional pre-dental year. These courses are six years in length, but the workload in the pre-dental year is very intensive.
Financial support to train as a dentist

For the first four years, support for English home students on undergraduate dental courses will be on the same basis as for other higher education students – through their local Education Authority (LEA). Many universities now offer incentives in the form of bursaries and scholarships to students. Students gaining admission to the standard five year course will be entitled to receive student loans from the Student Loans Company for their maintenance. From year five onwards, tuition fees will be paid by the Department of Health and a means-tested bursary will be made available in addition to the standard maintenance loan from the Student Loans Company.

It is important to know that dentistry is an expensive course – from having to pay £150 for hepatitis injections, to up to £1,000 for equipment, not to mention books needed for the course.

Medical requirements

All prospective dentists will need to undergo a full course of Hepatitis B injections and take a blood test for Hepatitis B and C antigen which show evidence of that the student is not a carrier of these diseases. Full immunisation from MMR, Tetanus, Diptheria, and Polio is also a requirement. The Hepatitis course takes about six months to complete so it is advisable to commence this over holidays before entering the Upper Sixth.

How to apply for dental training

You must register for the UKCAT test by June and take the test by the end of September in the year before you intend to commence the course. Further information can be found on www.ukcat.ac.uk/home.

Applications for degree programmes in Dentistry are administered by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Applications for the course should normally be forwarded to UCAS between 1 September and 15 October before the course starts. Applications received after this time but before 30 June will be considered as late applications. Any application received after this period will be subject to clearing. Candidates are restricted to four choices when applying for courses in dentistry through UCAS, although it is possible to use the remaining one application for courses other than Dentistry or Medicine.

Training to be a dentist

Dental education comprises three main related stages:

- Undergraduate Dental Education
- Postgraduate Dental Education or Vocational Training
  - General professional/basic specialist training
  - Specialist training
- Continuing Professional Education
  - Continuing professional development

The first two stages permit progression to the next stage, whereas the final phase starts when a dentist takes up a career post and extends throughout a dentist’s career until retirement.

The General Dental Council (GDC) keeps a close check on the standards of UK dental education at undergraduate and postgraduate level. It publishes its requirements on the content and scope of undergraduate dental degree programmes. All new degree programmes and courses must meet these requirements and be GDC-approved. The GDC also makes regular visits to the schools.
**Undergraduate dental education**

All dentists in the UK initially follow the same education and training, in order to qualify to work as a dentist. A candidate initially needs to obtain a bachelor’s degree (either a BDS or BChD) from one of the 16 dental schools. This can then be followed by further training related to a particular specialty.

Dental schools are very different – in their philosophies, faculties, curricular, and the type of students they attract. Consequently, selecting the ‘best’ dental school for you can be very challenging. The set of questions in Appendix A was compiled by dental students from across the country to assist you in evaluating the schools you will visit.

**Standard Dental courses last five years** and include academic education combined with theoretical and practical training in all aspects of dental practice. Subjects studied should include a wide range of health, biological and behavioural sciences, as well as clinical skills in all dental disciplines.

**Accelerated Dental courses last four years** and include academic education combined with theoretical and practical training in all aspects of dental practice. These are for graduates who hold a 2:1 (or better) degree with a large element of biology and chemistry.

**Course including pre-dental year** are for candidates with non-science subjects to offer at A Level (or equivalent). The Pre-dental year is a preliminary course in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology and lasts normally 30 weeks and would immediately precede the five year degree course.

The following Dental schools provide the five year degree courses in Dentistry:
- University of Aberdeen [www.abdn.ac.uk/smd/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smd/)
- Queens University of Belfast [www.qub.ac.uk/cd](http://www.qub.ac.uk/cd)
- University of Birmingham [www.dentistry.ac.uk](http://www.dentistry.ac.uk)
- University of Bristol [www.dentalschool.bris.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschool.bris.ac.uk)
- University of Cardiff [www.dentalschool.bris.ac.uk](http://www.dentalschool.bris.ac.uk)
- University of Dundee [www.dundee.ac.uk/dentalschool](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/dentalschool)
- University of Glasgow [www.gla.ac.uk/school/dental](http://www.gla.ac.uk/school/dental)
- King’s College London [www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/dentistry](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/dentistry)
- University of Central Lancaster [www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/medicine_and_dentistry/index.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/medicine_and_dentistry/index.php)
- Plymouth University Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry [www.pcmd.ac.uk/](http://www.pcmd.ac.uk/)
- University of Leeds [www.leeds.ac.uk/dental](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/dental)
- University of Liverpool [www.liv.ac/uds/root/school%20of%20dentistry/index.html](http://www.liv.ac/uds/root/school%20of%20dentistry/index.html)
- University of Manchester [www.dent.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.dent.ncl.ac.uk)
- University of Newcastle [www.ncl.ac.uk/dental](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/dental)
- University of Sheffield [www.shef.ac.uk/dentalschool](http://www.shef.ac.uk/dentalschool)
- Queen Mary London [www.smd.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.smd.qmul.ac.uk)

For the current league table ratings see [http://www.theguardian.com/education/table/2013/jun/04/university-guide-dentistry](http://www.theguardian.com/education/table/2013/jun/04/university-guide-dentistry)
[http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?s=dentistry](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?s=dentistry)

Please note that graduate employment at university is 100%, so it is actually more important to check you will be happy in the environment where you go – remember you will be in that city for five years, and research shows that most dental graduates settle near their university town. Take a look at Appendix B to find out how current students rate their university.

**How to get that all important interview**

Most universities, but in particular Birmingham, look closely at your GCSE results, and expect A* in your options for A Levels. They also study your personal statement very carefully, so be sure to be able to discuss whatever you have written. The main attributes required in dentistry are interpersonal skills and manual dexterity. Without evidence of these there is no point in applying! They are also keen on positions of responsibility held, and any leadership qualities you possess. Work experience is of paramount importance. Simple dental terms should be known (a glossary can be found at the back of this booklet) and how to chart would be useful, although no essential.
PERSONAL STATEMENT

Areas that need to be addressed

Reasons for choosing Dentistry: Give some insight onto what attracted you, as an individual, to dentistry in the first place and what has sustained or confirmed this choice.

Amount of work experience: You must have observed a general dental practitioner at work before you make your application or explain why this has not been possible. Ideally, this should be for a minimal period of 14 working days which need to be consecutive. (Bristol requires four weeks). The quality of your work experience, in terms of what you learn from it about being a dentist, is more significant than its duration. Should you wish to arrange additional work experience in a specialist area of dentistry this will not be detrimental but will not offer you any advantage in terms of the selection process. However, a variety of experiences of Dentistry for example, Orthodontics or Dental therapy is useful as this will show that you have considered all areas of the job. It is not necessary for you to have fulfilled the role of a dental nurse. If you can work in the community at some point, for example, at your local nursing home, this will look good as it will prove that you appreciate the ‘hands on’ side of the job.

Team and Leadership Experience The practice of dentistry involves a considerable amount of teamwork and in many situations the dentist takes on the role of team leader. Although your skills in team working will be developed throughout the course, the method of learning used increasingly in universities, particularly Manchester, is Problem Based Learning (PBL) which relies on your ability to work as part of a group. Give evidence of any experience you have of working as part of a team. This does not have to be a school-based activity – it could be in connection with a part time job, sport, volunteer work or your religious community for example.

Manual Dexterity From your own experiences of dental treatment and your observation of a dentist during work experience, you will be aware of the degree of manual dexterity required in your chosen profession. You must be able to show that you have some basic fine motor skills and hand–eye co-ordination and a desire to enter a profession of which these skills are central. You may have studied art or craft at school or pursue a hobby which required considerable dexterity or you may play a musical instrument.

Other Information Write about yourself – what you enjoy doing, what you feel passionate about and what you excel at. Are there any contributions that you have made to school or community life of which you feel particularly proud? Dentistry can be a stressful profession, as can being a dental student. What do you do to relax when you take a break from academic work? Mention any mitigating circumstances that may have affected your academic performance.

Don’t forget – they want you find out about you as a person. Give the interviewers a focal point that you wish to talk about in the interview. For example, mention an aspect of your work experience which you found interesting. You can then expand on this in the interview. The more you can do this, the fewer technicalities they are likely to be able to fit in.

Potential interview questions

The obvious question is “Why dentistry?” Prepare this question thoroughly, and thoughtfully, making it personal to yourself, and make sure it is specific to dentistry and not any other caring profession. Don’t rely on coming up with an answer on the spur of the moment – if you can get this one answer right, they won’t need to ask you anymore! Be prepared for “Why dentistry, not medicine?” The Principles of Ethics (Appendix C) are important to apply to the case studies (Appendix D) that you may be given in the interview.

www.admissionsforum.co.uk is an excellent website for prospective dental applicants and gives superb up-to-date information – you may even get to know people who will be starting with you later in the year! (See Appendix E which gives you some actual questions asked at interview)
What types of dentist are there?

Dentists working for the NHS will work in one of the following areas

- General Dental Service (GDS)
- Community Dental Service (CDS)
- Hospital Dental Services (HDS)
- Dental Public Health

General Dental Services (GDS)

Most dentists work as general dental practitioners (GDPs), where they can choose where they work and the hours they keep. They may practise under the National Health Service or privately – most dentists do a mixture of NHS and private work. There have been major changes in payment to dentists, with treatment for adults and children under the NHs paid for under the new contract since April 2006. If a patient pays NHS charges, instead of paying a proportion of the cost of the treatment they will pay one of the four fixed charges relating to the type of care and treatment they have had.

NHS dental care is still free to children under 18 or under 19 and in full-time education as well as pregnant women and new mothers and people on certain state benefits. Although being a self-employed general dental practitioner is demanding and there are risks involved in running your own business, it can be a most rewarding career.

General dental practitioners can in addition work part-time in hospital, teaching in a dental hospital, as hospital practitioners or clinical assistants.

Community Dental Service (CDS)

The Community Dental Service currently provides dental care for patients who have difficulty getting treatment on referral which is not available in the GDS. For example, CDS dentists who are salaried employees of a primary care trust, can often be provided with opportunities to take on managerial and research duties. CDS dentists can also be involved in school screening work in epidemiological studies of oral health.

CDS dentists work in a variety of locations – for example, a patient’s own home, nursing homes, in community clinics and occasionally, in a mobile clinic. They work with a wider clinical team, including other professionals complementary to dentistry and other health professionals such as school nurses, health visitors and district nurses.

Hospital Dental Services (HDS)

The hospital dental service has four main functions:

- The provision of consultant advice and treatment for cases of special difficulty referred to hospitals by GDP’s or for patients admitted to hospital as a result of trauma or disease.
- The dental care, including comprehensive treatment, of long-stay hospital in-patients.
- The dental care of short-stay patients when this is required for the relief of pain or other emergency, or as part of, or in support of, their general treatment.
- The treatment of certain out-patients, where there are medical considerations which make it desirable for the treatment to be carried out in a hospital.

Hospital practice is highly specialised and covers oral surgery, restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry and orthodontics. Hospital dentists tend to see fewer patients than general dental practitioners, but their treatment is usually more complex as they have generally been referred by a general dental practitioner or doctor. Patients may be referred with complex medical conditions, cognitive abnormalities, complex facial injuries or oral facial disease. They generally work as part of a team and have access to specialised knowledge and facilities.

Within the hospital service, there is a defined career structure and training pathway, and advancement requires obtaining recognised postgraduate qualifications. Dentists employed in hospitals have the same terms and conditions of service as hospital doctors.

The four main sub-specialties in the hospital dental service are

- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Orthodontics
- Paediatric dentistry
- Restorative dentistry
**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery deals with a variety of conditions associated with the mouth, jaws, face, and neck. This encompasses the management of developmental facial anomalies including cleft lip and palate and facial trauma. An extensive array of procedures is performed, ranging from the relatively minor dento-alveolar surgery, through to complex, major head and neck surgery. The specialty is unique in primary practise surgery involving both hard and soft tissue with anatomical specialisation in the face, mouth, and jaws. Operating in this emotionally and cosmetically sensitive area provides considerable clinical challenges.

To become a consultant in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, you need to be qualified in both medicine and dentistry.

**Orthodontics**

Orthodontics is the branch of dentistry concerned with the growth of the face, the development of the occlusion and the correction and prevention of occlusal abnormalities. Orthodontic treatment deals with variations in facial growth and facial appearance and the health and function of the masticatory system.

Orthodontics has a strong hospital-based Paediatric Dentistry is to improve the oral health care of infants, children and adolescents through appropriate preventative, educational and treatment services. There is a very broad nature of work undertaken, which requires a skilled combination of medical, dental and communication skills training. A large number of children are treated who have varying special needs and who are fearful or resistant to care by general dental practitioners. There are clinical challenges in dealing with developmental problems and in providing care for those with disabilities.

**Restorative Dentistry**

Within Restorative Dentistry, skills range from those involving the management of patients with special clinical needs and the care of people with periodontal diseases, with involves surgical, non-surgical and clinical skills.

**Dental Public Health**

Dental Public Health is a non-clinical specialty involving assessment of dental health needs and ensuring dental services meet those needs. It is concerned with improving the dental health populations rather than individuals and it involves working in Primary Care Trusts, Strategic health Authorities and Government Offices. There are a few academic posts in universities and posts in the Department of Health.

Dental Public Health is a relatively new and expanding specialty with many training opportunities available and a current national shortage of consultants. The specialty involves working with people from all branches of dentistry as well as the NHS and other agencies.

**Dentistry in the Armed Forces**

The Defence Dental Services (DDS) encompasses the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Enrolment gives you the opportunity to work at Service establishments (dental centres) both in the UK and oversees. Applications to join the DDS can be taken while you are under training at your dental school, or after qualifying. Financial assistance is given in the form of cadetships. For the latest information of this, contact your Service career centres locally.
APPENDIX A

Checklist before making an application to dental school

This list is by no means complete; it was designed to serve as a base for your own questions. Keep in mind that the interview/open day represents a time for you to learn, do don’t be shy about asking anyone your questions. Beware of asking something that is clearly written about in the Prospectus, however.

Curriculum:
- Is there any Problem-based learning? What does it involve?
- Does the school allow for students to do outreach at other institutions or internationally?
- Are there opportunities for students to design, conduct, and publish their own research?
- How are students assessed academically? How are clinical tests performed?

Counselling/Student support:
- What kind of academic, personal, financial, and career counselling is available?
- Is there a mentor/advisor system? Who are the advisors – faculty members, other students, or both?
- How diverse is the student body? Are there support services or organisations for ethnic minorities and women?

Faculties:
- Are there computer facilities available to students? Are they integrated into the curriculum/learning?
- Is a car necessary for clinical outreach? Is parking a problem?
- Tell me about the extracurricular facilities (i.e., housing and sports facilities)

Financial Aid
- Is someone available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
- Does this school provide guidance to its students on debt management?

Student Involvement
- What dental school committees (e.g. curriculum committee) have student representation?
- Are students involved in (required or voluntary) community service?
- How active is the student council? Are there other student organisations?

Policies
- Is there an established protocol for dealing with student exposure to infectious diseases? Is disability insurance provided to cover this exposure?
- Does this school provide, or does the student pay for, vaccinations against Hepatitis B or prophylactic AZT treatment in case of a needle-stick or accident?
APPENDIX B

How do current students rate their Dental School?

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON (GKT)
“I strive for excellence in every walk of life and with King’s having been named the best dental school in Europe for the past three years it was the natural choice for me. From the very outset, we had close patient contact on a regular basis which is absolutely vital for such a practical course”.

Moshin Ali

“As a dental student, I find myself travelling between the Guy’s, King’s and St Thomas’ Campuses, which are surprisingly within easy to reach of each other. The biggest plus point for me as a student of King’s is knowing that every possible amenity is available usually 24 hours a day and every greatest attraction is only ever a stone’s throw away. The global reputation that King’s has in teaching and research means that I know my academic achievement will be valued on completion of my degree. Each campus at King’s has its own character and offers its own cosy retreat both study and social interaction. All in all, my time at King’s has been really enjoyable and living in one of the most vibrant and exciting cities, makes it even more appealing to me as both a student and resident”.

David Gilmore

SHEFFIELD
“Although we sometime wonder what we’re doing when all of the other students are on holiday or enjoying their six hours of lectures each week, dentistry can be really rewarding. It’s certainly true that it’s one of the most intensive courses in university, bit it’s unique in several ways. There are very few other courses that allow you such a ‘hands-on’ experience, and the buzz you get when you’ve done a good job on a patient is great. One of the plus points here at Sheffield is the ability to start the clinical side early. After an introduction in the first year, it’s straight in with patients in the second year, building skills through the next four years. The workload is quite large, but a lot of it is in the clinical and practical sessions and so there’s less to do out of the 9-5 than in some other courses. In the end it’s all worthwhile, with a guaranteed good job which will be vital with the student loan to pay off”.

NEWCASTLE
“Dentistry in Newcastle, what more can I say – great staff, great students, it’s the number one place to come. I’ve had an absolutely fantastic time studying at the University and I wouldn’t change it for the world”.

APPENDIX C

What are the ethical principles of medicine and dentistry?

• Putting patients interests first
• Respecting patients dignity and choices
• Informed consent by the patient
• Confidentiality of patient information

What is Consent?

• The patient must have the ability to understand the proposed procedure.
• The patient must freely submit to treatment without coercion or under influence.
• Sufficient information must be given on consequence of various options of treatment.
APPENDIX D

Case Study 1
A 50 year old gentleman presents with a request for a full clearance and full dentures. He has a heavily filled natural dentition but claims that he is unable to afford routine dental care. Explain how you would advise this gentleman and what treatment you would provide, and the ethical reasons behind your decision.

Case Study 2
You examine a child of five years who presents with a dental abscess and multiple carious teeth. What advice do you offer the mother?

Case Study 3
A patient attends for a routine examination and appears quite different to the last visit in terms of alertness and general health. How would you manage the observation?

Case Study 4
A patient needs an extraction. They mention they have had a replacement heart valve since their last visit and that the consultant has suggested they have antibiotics before the treatment. They insist on having the extraction due to their personal commitments but have not taken any antibiotics. Discuss.

Case Study 5
A patient complains that the tooth you filled eight months ago, at a cost of £250, has broken and demands a crown at no extra charge. What investigations would you perform and how would you manage the situation?

APPENDIX E

General questions
- How was your journey?
- Why Dentistry?
- Do you have evidence of manual dexterity?
- What work experience have you done?
- What did you observe? Did it shock you?
- What do you do to relax?
- What are the negative aspects of dentistry?
- What do you think you can contribute to the course and to the university?
- What made you decide dentistry was for you?
- What qualities should a good dentist have?
- Rant them in importance
- Do you have these?
- Questions about fluoridation.
- Define professionalism
- What are the current issues/advancements in the NHS?
- Any questions?

University of Birmingham
- What are your views on animal testing?
- Are you a team player?
- Is dentistry repetitive?
- What are the differences between private and NHS dentistry?
- What recent advancements are there in dental treatments?
- Dentists and hairdressers both work for aesthetics and arguably a person’s confidence is a sign of good health what are the difference between them (apart from the obvious hair/teeth thing)?
- How do you feel about the shortage of dentists and the lack of funding?
- How do you feel about dentists being brought over to the UK from countries like Poland, where there are even fewer dentists?
University of Bristol

• What did you like/didn’t you like about your work experience?
• Do you have a job?
• How do you feel about offering an NHS patient private healthcare knowing that you have to keep your business running?
• Have you read any articles recently relating to dentistry?

University of Cardiff

• It’s far from home, are you sure you want to come here?
• Why not medicine?

University of Dundee

• Why Dundee? It is very far from where you live. Have you been here before?
• Did you like the tour of the school? What did you see? Was it interesting?
• What area of dentistry are you interested in?

University of Glasgow

• How did you get here today?
• Can you comment on the higher incidence of dental diseases and infections in Scotland, than in the rest of the UK?
• What do you want from a career in dentistry?
• Can you describe the causes and effects of tooth decay?
• What will you do if you do not get a place on a dentistry course?
• What makes dentists different from everyone else?
• Describe tooth decay
• Which metal is used in dental implants?
• Give an example of how you have helped others
• How can you demonstrate leadership and teamwork?
• Who is part of a dental team in a dental surgery?
• How are dentists paid under the NHS?
• Difference between NHS and private contracts, should there be a difference and why is there a difference?
• What is calculus?
• What does H.I.V mean?
• What fillings are available to dentists?
• What are the disadvantages of amalgam?
• What is the material contained in amalgam that is causing such controversy?
• What can increase the risk of oral cancer?
• What do you know about oral cancer, how is it visible?
• How are you a good communicator?
• How can dental caries be prevented in society?
• What is the importance of the dentist in the dental team?
• Do you have any weaknesses which could jeopardise a career in dentistry?
• Do you have any strengths advantageous to your application?
**Kings College London (GKT)**

There is a questionnaire and case study.

CASE STUDIES:

- A lady was referred to a dental hospital to have several decaying teeth pulled out. She wants a general anaesthetic, which is riskier than a routine local. Discuss.
- Issues arising from a dentist being negligent towards their work and patients i.e. administering inappropriate treatment to patients for many months and not turning up to work for a whole day without any prior warning, despite having patients booked. The dentist later explains that this was down to personal family problems etc.
- What non-science subjects could you have studied at GCSE / A Level that would help you in dentistry?
- How are you finding your A Levels?
- Are your friends and family supportive of you doing dentistry?
- Why do you think musicians tend to make good dentists?
- How long have you been interested in Dentistry? Has it been over a period of time or just a recent idea?
- What sort of relationship to the dental nurse and dentist have?
- Is the dental nurse job tougher than you expected?
- What do you think this university can offer you?
- What would be your main concerns upon joining this course?

**University of Leeds**

CASE STUDIES:

- If it was your best friend’s birthday and you were out partying with her till late, you wake up in the morning knowing you have patients to see and lecturers relying on you to come in, but you feel really tired, what would you do?
- You are in your first year and you are loving university life. Your best friend however, comes to you telling you that they really don’t enjoy the whole university experience and think that they have made the wrong decision in going, what would you do?
- How did your interest in Dentistry start?
- How do you cope with stress?
- How is dentistry different from other jobs?
- What do you do out of school?
- How are you coping with your A Levels?
- Give us an example of a situation where you have been under pressure and how you dealt with the situation?
- What articles have you read about dentistry recently?
- What are the responsibilities of each person in the dental team?
- How is science related to dentistry / treatments?
- Who do you idolise?

**University of Liverpool**

- Do you know that Liverpool has started to teach my PBL?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of PBL?
- Do you know Liverpool is the capital of culture 2008?
- What are the benefits to students for the above?
University of Manchester

- Where can you see Dentistry in 50 years time?
- What diseases might a Dentist diagnose in a patient?
- How would you manage a patient with HIV?
- What skills are needed by a dentist?
- Why not medicine?
- What is special about our course and how does it work?
- Why do you need to complete a Criminal Record Disclosure?
- What do you do in your spare time?

University of Newcastle

- What avenue of dentistry do you want to work in after graduation? Why?
- Have you had any injuries to your hands?
- In your work, what do you think of the customers, what are they like?
- How would you deal with an awkward/aggressive customer?
- What questions should I be asking you?
- Have you seen any procedure which didn’t need doing?
- Have you seen any greedy dentists, I mean time is money isn’t it?
- What will you be doing in five years time?
- What makes a good dental team? What is the dentist’s role in the team?
- Why do people underestimate the value of teeth?
- Is a child losing teeth through an unhealthy diet a big problem?
- How should the government spend money on NHS dentistry and prevention?
- Are dentists portrayed badly in the media? Why?
- What stresses do dentists have other than the usual time management etc?
- Where would your main concern be... treating patients or managing your profits?
- What will be the most difficult thing about being a student, how will you cope with living away from home?
- Why do you think as a department, we have to spend a lot money updating our facilities?

Queen Mary and the London University Hospital

- What will make you decide to come to B&L instead of other dental schools you have applied for?
- What do you think of the Whitechapel area/have you been here before/what bearing do you think the area will have on the dental cases that you might see?
- How are you finding you A Levels at the moment?
- Do you think a dentist has to be a good businessman? Discuss.
- What do you know about the DBS here?
- Why do you think there are high levels of stress in dentistry?
- What have you recently heard or read regarding dentistry that was of particular interest to you?
- You said you’re working as an NHS dentist, how do you think you could change the way it is practised?
- What do you know about Hepatitis B?

University of Sheffield

- What is biochemistry?
- Can you think of what subjects/topics lectures in the first year are on?
- Why is the course in Sheffield different to other dentistry courses?
GLOSSARY OF DENTAL TERMS

**University of Leeds**

**Abscess** A localized infection in the bone or soft gum tissues, usually at the end of the root tip. Treated with antibiotics, and possibly a root canal, performed by an endodontist.

**Amalgam** The most common filling material used for fillings, also referred to as mercury or silver, which are often contained in the mixture. Alternatives are composite resins, and gold or porcelain inlays.

**Anaesthesia** Drugs and procedures that relieve the sensation of pain. Various types include general anaesthesia, IV sedation, needle-less anaesthesia, and local anaesthesia.

**Aspirator** A tube like a straw which the dentist puts in your mouth to suck up all the saliva.

**Bridge** Prosthetic (false) tooth or row of teeth that spans between two natural teeth to replace missing or lost teeth. An alternative to a bridge would be a dental implant.

**Caries** The medical term for dental cavities

**Cavity** A decay lesion or hole in the tooth, usually caused by diet which includes sugar, which allows bacteria to grow and secrete acid on to the enamel of the tooth.

**Composite** Filling a tooth-coloured filling composed of a polymer material that looks like a natural tooth. Used instead of amalgam. Alternatives are gold or porcelain inlays.

**Crown** A porcelain or gold cover for a decayed, damaged, brittle or discoloured tooth.

**Deciduous** Teeth A child’s first set of twenty teeth that are eventually replaced by permanent teeth. (Also known as primary or baby teeth).

**Enamel** The highly calcified covering over the outside of the tooth. It is the hardest substance in the body.

**Endodontist** A specialist who treats injuries, diseases, and infections of the tooth pulp (nerve tissue).

**Erupt** When a new tooth comes in, the tooth is said to erupt when the tooth breaks through the surface of your gums, so you can see the new tooth in your mouth.

**Filling** Restoring lost tooth structure with amalgam, metal, porcelain or composite resin. Used as part of the treatment of cavities.

**Floss** Product used to clean the area between the teeth and under the gum line.

**Fluoride** A chemical solution or gel which you put on your teeth. The fluoride hardens your teeth and prevents tooth decay.

**Gingivitis** The inflammation of your gums caused by improper brushing. The first sign of periodontal gum disease.

**Halitosis** Bad Breath

**Hydrogen Peroxide** The chemical bleaching product used in whitening products.

**Hygienist** A dental professional qualified to clean and scale teeth. They also educate patients on proper dental care.

**Impacted Tooth** A tooth that fails to erupt properly and remains fully or partially embedded and covered by bone or gum tissue. This most often occurs with wisdom teeth. If not removed, impacted teeth can cause pain, headaches, infection and malocclusion.

**Implant** A fixed replacement for a missing tooth. The procedure involves the implanting of a metal shaft, usually titanium, implanted in jaw bone. A prosthetic (artificial) tooth is then affixed to this shaft, providing a strong permanent replacement for the lost tooth. Implants also prevent the gradual loss of bone material over time with the use of dentures.

**Lasers** Dental lasers are a family of instruments, some used for oral surgery, some to cure (harden) restorative tooth materials and enhance tooth bleaching, and others to remove tooth structure to eliminate disease. Lasers are also sometime used to treat gingivitis (gum disease).

**Local Anaesthetic** Relieves the sensation of pain in a localised area. Done topically or by injection.

**Nightguard** A removable acrylic appliance used to minimise the effects of grinding the teeth (bruxism) or joint problems, usually worn at night.

**Oral Cancer Screening** Oral cancer is easily treated if detected early and your dental care team are the most likely people to notice it.
Oral Sedation  Any substance taken orally (i.e., a pill or liquid) to reduce anxiety, and relax the patient. Used in conjunction with some form of anaesthesia during dental procedures.

Orthodontics  Dental speciality that treats misalignment and malocclusion of teeth. Treatment usually consists of braces or a retainer.

Paediatric Dentistry  Dental speciality focusing on treatment of children’s teeth.

Pericorinitus  The inflammation of gum tissue through bacterial infection, particularly around erupting wisdom teeth.

Plaque  A sticky substance that forms on the surface of the teeth and harbours bacteria growth and acid formation beneath its surface, causing tooth decay. Plaque build-up can irritate and cause gum disease.

Prophylaxis  The professional cleaning and removal of plaque, stains, and calculus on the teeth performed by a dentist or dental hygienist.

Prosthodontics  The replacement of missing or lost teeth with artificial teeth. Common procedures are crowns, bridges, dentures, and implants.

Quadrant  One fourth of the mouth or half of the bottom or top section of the mouth.

Root Canal  A procedure used to save an abscessed in which the pulp chamber’s cleaned out, disinfected, and filled with a permanent filling. Generally performed by an Endodontist.

Scaling  A treatment for gum disease involving removal of hardened plaque (tartar or calculus) from teeth.

Shade guide  A chart used to assess the colour of teeth.

Sterilisation  The process of eliminating bacteria and viruses from tools, surfaces, and equipment. OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

Tartar  Also called calculus. Calcified plaque that forms from mineral salts in the saliva and deposits on the teeth. Removed in the course of a prophylaxis, or dental cleaning.

Ultrasonic Cleaning  Tooth cleaning (prophylaxis) that uses high frequency sound waves to gently remove deposits such as tartar and stains from the teeth.

Veneers  Plastic or porcelain facing which is bonded directly to a tooth to improve its appearance, producing a very natural appearance.

Whitening  A process of whitening the teeth that uses special compounds usually containing hydrogen peroxide.

Wisdom Teeth  The third set of molars, the last teeth to come in. For many people, wisdom teeth become compacted and must be removed by oral surgery.

X-Ray  Radiation used for diagnostic purposes to photograph the bone tissue of the tooth above and below the gum line.