



Cardiff University
College of Biomedical and Life Sciences
School of Dentistry

Admissions Policy for Undergraduate Programmes

Appendix 1

Bachelor of Dental Surgery (A200/A204)

Entry 2019

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SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR THE BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (A200/A204) PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY CARDIFF UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

1.1 BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (BDS)

Competition for a place at Cardiff University School of Dentistry is intense. For example, in the 2015 intake the University has received more than 700 applications for 72 places; of these, approximately 240 applicants are invited to interview.

The School of Dentistry offers 2 programmes culminating in a Bachelor of Dental Surgery:

A200 Programme (5 years)

This is the conventional 5-year programme leading to the BDS degree.

A204 Programme with Preliminary Year (6 years)

This is the 6-year programme leading to the BDS degree. This Preliminary programme is designed for applicants who have demonstrated a high academic potential but who do not meet the specific **subject** requirements for entry to the five year dental programme, (e.g. those who have followed GCE Advanced level programmes in non-science subjects or who have not studied both Biology and Chemistry to AH level) or those who have not studied biology and chemistry to sufficient depth because of the nature of the programme of study followed (e.g. Irish Higher). Year 1 of this Programme has a modular structure in which students pursue twelve modules. Studies centre primarily on Chemistry and Biological Sciences, supported by other subjects such as Mathematics and various other non-science subjects. The modules are selected according to the student's prior qualifications.

1.2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of essential entry requirements before applications to these programmes will be accepted and applicants should be aware of these. In addition it is noted that most applicants have achieved at least 5A* in the GCSE / IGCSE grades scored at application in the past. Appendices 2.A and 2.B detail the **minimum** necessary requirements.

1.2. i ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The programme is delivered and examined in English therefore there are requirements for proficiency in English language to be demonstrated at application (section 1.4).

1.2. ii GCSEs / IGCSEs

GCSEs / IGCSEs - to include	
English Language (or Welsh First Language)	A
Sciences	Either AA grades at Double Award or AAA in Chemistry, Physics and Biology (any order).
Other subjects	Other subjects not stated above, to make a total of 7, at a minimum grade B
Please note that Dentistry is a very competitive programme and most applicants who are invited to interview hold GCSEs / IGCSEs at grades A* and A.	

1.2. iii UKCAT

All BDS applicants are required to take the national UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) during July and October of the year the applicant is submitting their application to UCAS. Test results obtained in previous years are not accepted. Comprehensive information on this, including specimen test questions, can be found on the UKCAT website www.ukcat.ac.uk

Cardiff University School of Dentistry does not have a minimum threshold score for the UKCAT and utilises all sections of the UKCAT examination to rank and select students both for interview and subsequent making of offers.

Candidate's unable to sit the UKCAT

From 2016, UKCAT no longer grant exemptions from the test. Candidates who felt they were unable to sit the UKCAT during their test cycle because of significant or unforeseen medical or personal issues or because war, civil unrest or natural disaster made travel to test centres unsafe were advised to contact their chosen Universities to see whether they would consider an application without a UKCAT result.

1.2. iv A LEVELS and Equivalentents

Appendices 2B and 2C detail the A level entry requirements and equivalencies for UK and non-UK based examinations.

1.2. v GRADUATE ENTRY

The school does not offer any shortened dentistry programmes for any graduates. Graduates wishing to consider dentistry at Cardiff will be considered for the A204 6 year programme if their A level subjects are non-science related and for the A200 5 year programme if they are science related subjects (please check with the Undergraduate Student Centre (Admissions) at DentalUGAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

Graduates must also satisfy any minimum entry requirements and will be expected to have a minimum of 1 A and 2 B's at full A level.

Applicants for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programmes (A200/A204) who re-sit A-levels will not be considered. All degrees must be at Honours level. Non-Honours Degrees are not accepted.

1.3 IMPORTANT DATES

1.3. i RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

All applications must be received via UCAS by the 15th October. Late applications are not accepted.

1.3. ii INVITATIONS FOR INTERVIEWS

Applicants who successfully come through the pre-selection process will be notified of such at least 2 weeks before the interview dates.

Applicants must attend at the given interview time; alternative times or dates are not possible.

1.3. iii CONFIRMATION OF OFFERS

Applicants who are successful at interview are generally notified with a period of 10 working days from the last interview date.

1.3. iv REJECTIONS

a. PRE-SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants who are unsuccessful in the pre-selection process are notified as soon as possible through UCAS.

b. AFTER INTERVIEW

Applicants who are unsuccessful at interview are generally notified within a period of 10 working days following the last interview date.

1.3. v HEALTH CHECKS AND CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

Successful applicants will be required to undergo a Health Check and complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check. These must be completed and returned within the specified time frame before successful interview applicants will be allowed to enrol. Further details can be found in UG Admissions Policy - General Information UG Programmes Section 1.17 Other Entry Conditions.

1.4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must possess an acceptable English Language qualification

The following qualifications satisfy the minimum requirement: GCE O Level, GCSE / IGCSE: English Language or Welsh First Language	Grade A
GCE O Level (1119)	Grade A
IELTS	An average score of 7.0 or above (with a minimum of 7.0 in speaking, 6.5 in listening, 6.5 in reading and 6.5 in writing)
Certificate of Proficiency in English (AEB; Cambridge)	Grade A
Certificate in Attainment in English (ULEAC)	Level 6
International Baccalaureate: Syllabus A1 or A2 (Higher or Standard)	Grade 6
International Baccalaureate: Syllabus B (Higher)	Grade 6
European Baccalaureate: English as First Language	8.0 out of 10 (80%)
Irish Leaving Certificate English	H1
Scottish Standard Level English	Grade 1
Hong Kong Certificate of Extended Education (HKCEE) English	Grade 7
South African National Senior Certificate English	Grade 6
Test in English for Educational Purposes	Band score of 7.0
Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)	Score 90

1.5 QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY TO BDS; UK BASED EXAMINATIONS

A levels

AAA grades from 3 A levels.

Five year Programme: 2 A grades must be achieved in Chemistry and Biology.

Six year Programme: Either NO SCIENCE subjects or a maximum of ONE SCIENCE subject (Chemistry, Biology or Physics) to be taken.

General studies and Critical thinking are not considered suitable A levels for either of the Programmes.

Overall 36 points excluding Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. Minimum of 19 at HL including 6 in Biology and Chemistry OR 19 points at HL including 6 in Chemistry and a 6 at HL in Physics, Mathematics or Statistics and 7 in SL Biology OR 19 points at HL including 6 in Biology and a 6 at HL in Physics, Mathematics or Statistics and 7 in SL Chemistry

GCSEs / IGCSEs

Five and Six year Programme: NO SPECIFIC number of A grades at GCSE /IGCSE level are required but a reasonable range of grades is expected that must include a **minimum** of **A** grades in the **Sciences** plus an A grade in **English Language** or **Welsh First Language**.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

Five year Programme: Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate – to be achieved, with an overall grade A in the core, in addition to AA grades in Chemistry and Biology.

Six year Programme: Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate – to be achieved, with an overall grade A in the core, in addition to AA grades in two other A levels.

Scottish Highers

Six year Programme: An applicant with Scottish Highers can apply for entry to the six year Programme. We currently ask for AAAAAA grades which must include at least two of Chemistry, Biology or Physics, plus English Language.

Scottish Advanced Highers

For the **Five year BDS Programme:** We would require at least two subjects at Advanced Highers in addition to the Scottish Highers (as mentioned above). These must include Chemistry and Biology at A grades.

If a student has completed Scottish Highers (achieved good grades) then went on to do the Scottish Advanced Highers but achieved less than the required grades they would not be considered.

Irish Leaving Certificate

Six year Programme: The Irish Leaving Certificate is considered. Our standard requirements are for **6 x H1** grades to be achieved at the first attempt which must

include at least two of Chemistry, Biology or Physics plus English Language. All grades must be at Highers/Hons level. Grades are always required as we do not work on a points score total.

Degrees

A minimum of 2i Honours classification. Applicants should be aware that the subjects taken at A level determine which Programme you are eligible for, i.e., Biology and Chemistry for A200 entry, otherwise entry is for the A204 Programme.

In addition school leaving qualifications are taken into account and a minimum of ABB grades at A levels is required.

N.B. Graduates are self-financing.

BTEC Qualifications

MUST BE IN EITHER MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE OR APPLIED SCIENCE ONLY

Applicants taking the BTEC Extended Diploma Programme in Science or Medical Laboratory Science will be considered for entry to the six year A204 Programme.

A typical offer would be that DDD was achieved.

Resit Students

Resit applicants are not considered unless they have held a conditional firm offer in the previous year and not met the conditions of that offer.

Access

ONLY ACCEPTABLE FOR THE 6 YEAR PROGRAMME
60 credits overall with a minimum of 45 at level 3 to include a minimum of **30 distinctions** and **15 merits**.

The only acceptable Access Programmes are the **ACCESS TO SCIENCE** Programme which must have both Chemistry and Biology components and the **ACCESS TO MEDICINE, DENTISTRY or PHARMACY Programme**.

Overseas Applicants

The expected EU equivalencies to A levels are listed (by country) in section 1.6.

Overseas applicants **NOT** offering GCSE / IGCSE English Language are required to satisfy the University's English Language requirement.

Applicants must offer an internationally recognised English Language qualification that must include

reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

1.6 QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY TO BDS; Non-UK BASED EXAMINATIONS

International Baccalaureate

Five Year Programme: To obtain the IB Diploma with an overall score of 36 points, with a minimum score of 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and Biology.

Six Year Programme: To obtain the IB Diploma with an overall score of 36 points, with a minimum score of 6 at Higher Level in ONE of Chemistry or Biology

European Baccalaureate

8 or 80% overall. Must include both Chemistry and Biology for 5 year Programme.

EU Equivalencies to A level requirements:

Country	Qualification	AAA equivalent
Austria	Reifeprüfungszeugnis/Maturazeugnis, grading 1-5 with 1 being the highest	1.4 overall
Belgium	Certificat D'Enseignement Secondaire, grading 1-10, with 10 being the highest; Supérieur/Diploma van Hoger Secundair Onderwijs 1-20 with 20 being the highest	Certificat : 8/10 or Diploma : 16/20
Bulgaria	Diploma za Zavarsheno Sredno Obrazovanie (Diploma of Completed Secondary Education), grading 2-6 with 6 being the highest	5.5 overall (including at least 2 state maturity exams)
Croatia	Svjedodzba o Maturi (Matura Certificate), grading 1-5 with 5 being the highest	5 overall
Cyprus	Apolytirion (School Leaving Certificate), grading 1-20, with 20 being the highest	18/20 + AA at A level, or a foundation year/Access Diploma
Czech Republic	Maturitní Zkouška, grading 1-5 with 1 being the highest	1 overall
Denmark	Bevis for Studentereksamen, grading -3-12 with 12 being the highest	10 overall to Include 2 Level A subjects at grade 12
Estonia	Riigieksamitunnistus (National (State) Examination Certificate), assessment on 100 point scale Gümnaasiumilõputunnistus (Secondary School Leaving Certificate), grading 1-5, with 5 being the highest	Overall average score of at least 4.5 (including at least 3 state exams) with scores of 90% in 5 individual subjects
Finland	Ylioppilastutkinto / Studentexamen (matriculation examination), grading 0-7 (please note 1 is not used)	7 Laudatur overall
France	Baccalauréat (General or OIB options), grading 0-20 with 20 being the highest	15 overall
Germany	Abitur, grading 1-6, with 1 being the highest	1.4 overall
Greece	Apolytirion of Geniko Lykeio, grading 1-20 with 20 being the highest	19 overall with Pan-Hellenic Examinations

Hungary	Erettsegi/Matura, grading at school from 1-5 with 5 being the highest, 100 point scale for maturity exams	5 final (standard or higher) examination subjects taken in grade 12 with an overall average of 5
Italy	Esame di Stato, grading 60-100 with 100 being the highest	93 overall
Latvia	Atestats par visparejo videjo izglitibu (Certificate of General Secondary Education), grading 1-10 at school, for state exams A-F till 2012, and 1-100 percentage scores from 2012/3.	Atestats with 9 + at least a foundation/Access year or one year of undergraduate study at a Latvian university
Lithuania	Brandos Atestatas (Maturity Certificate), grading 1-10 at school, 1-100 for state exams	9 overall in the school exams to include at least 3 state level examinations
Luxembourg	Diplome de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires, grading 1-60 with 60 being the highest	47 overall
Malta	Matriculation Certificate (Advanced Level), grading GCE examinations and all other UK examinations taken in Malta are marked as in the UK, The Matriculation Certificate Examination at Advanced and Intermediate levels offered by the University of Malta is graded A-E, with A being the highest	A in 2 advanced level subjects plus A in 3 intermediate level subjects
Netherlands	Diploma Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (VWO), grading 1-10 with 10 being the highest	8 overall
Poland	Matura, grading 1-100 percentage stage	85 % overall to include at least three subjects at extended level
Portugal	Diploma de Ensino Secundario (previously known as Certificado do 12 ano), grading 0-20 with 20 being the highest	18 overall
Romania	Diploma de Bacalaureat, grading 1-10 with 10 being the highest	9 overall
Slovakia	Vysvedcenie Maturitnej Skuske/Maturita, grading 1-5 with 1 being the highest	1 overall
Slovenia	Spričevalo o splošni maturi (General Matura Certificate) grading 1-5 with 5 being the highest	4.5 overall
Spain	Titulo de Bachiller, grading 0-10 with 10 being the highest	8.5 overall

Sweden	Swedish Fullstandyg Slutbetyg fran Gymnasienskolan, grading W/F to MVG with MVG being the highest up to 2013, and A-F with A being the highest from 2014	2250 points with MVG or grade A in 9 subjects
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US equivalencies to A level requirements

Applicants must study three subjects in-depth, including any subjects stated in our online prospectus as 'compulsory' for the programme. We will therefore ask for three subjects at Advanced Placement, or three subjects at SAT-S (or a combination of any three different subjects). Comparable requirements:

UK A-Level	Comparable AP	Comparable SAT-S
AAA	555	650 in each subject

2) **In addition**, all applicants must achieve strong scores in **either** the SAT-R **or** ACT. Comparable requirements:

UK A-Level	Comparable ACT	Comparable SAT-R
AAA	28	1950 (with minimum 580 in each section)