

School of Dentistry

Undergraduate Admissions Policy for 2024 entry

This policy provides detail on the additional requirements of the following programmes offered by the School of Dentistry:

- BDS Bachelor of Dental Surgery (A200)
- BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene (B752)
- DipHE Diploma in Dental Hygiene (B750)

Note: this policy should be read in conjunction with the [Cardiff University Admissions Policies](#) and published entry requirements.

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1. Pre-application eligibility checks

1.1 To be eligible to apply for these programmes you must:

- a) be 18 years of age by 31 December of year 1 (please see the [age on entry policy](#) for more information),
- b) and fulfil the Fitness to Practice regulations and eligibility to pursue regulated programmes requirements (please see the [Fitness to Practise and eligibility to pursue regulated programmes policy](#) for more information),
- c) and meet the minimum entry requirements at Level 2 (typically GCSE) and Level 3 (typically A Level), including grade and subject requirements.

2. Entry requirements

2.1 The typical entry requirements for GCSEs, A Level, BTEC, International Baccalaureate (IB), and T Level applicants are published on [Coursefinder](#) and [UCAS](#) (including grade and subject requirements, and whether or not these qualifications are accepted).

2.2 Non-standard entry requirements

For applicants not offering GCSEs, A Level, BTEC, IB, and T Levels please see our list of acceptable alternative qualifications:

- [Appendix A - Bachelor of Dental Surgery \(A200\)](#)
- [Appendix B - DipHE Dental Hygiene \(B750\)](#)
- [Appendix C - BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene \(B752\)](#)

2.3 Resits

- For the BDS programme (A200), A Level resit applicants are not considered.
- Resits are considered acceptable for entry for B750 and B752 in line with the University's resit policy.
- GCSE resits are considered entry for A200, B750, and B752 but the resit grade must be achieved by the relevant application deadline.

2.4 UCAT (A200 only)

Applicants to A200 are required to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) during July to October of the year of application. Test results obtained in previous years are not accepted. The UCAT score may be used as part of the interview shortlisting or offer selection process. There is no minimum score and the cut-off (if the UCAT is used) varies each cycle.

2.5. Transfers

We do not accept external transfers (also known as [RPL](#)) onto any of our undergraduate Dentistry programmes.

3. UCAS application deadlines

3.1 For the BDS programme (A200), you must submit a fully completed application (including all achieved and pending academic and English language qualifications, reference, and personal statement) via UCAS by 16 October 2023 at 18:00hrs (UK time).

3.1.1 Applications submitted after the stipulated UCAS deadline will not be considered and will be rejected as late.

3.1.2 Where we are unable to fully score your application due to missing information your application will be rejected as incomplete.

3.2 For the BSc Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene (B752) and DipHE Dental Hygiene (B750) programmes, you must submit a fully completed application (including achieved and pending academic and English language qualifications, references, and personal statement) via UCAS by the equal consideration deadline (26 January 2024 at 18:00 (UK time)) to be guaranteed consideration.

3.2.1 Applications received after the Equal Consideration Deadline (ECD) will be considered subject to interview places being available. If no places are available, applications submitted after the ECD will not be considered and will be rejected as late.

3.2.2 Where time in the cycle permits, we will contact applicants to request additional relevant information to allow us to make a decision. As this is time-sensitive due to the highly competitive nature of the programmes, applicants will be given a strict deadline to respond. If you are asked for more information and do not supply this by the stipulated deadline your application will be rejected as incomplete. However, in this circumstance you may reapply for the programme through the UCAS Extra or Clearing process if applications remain open.

3.3 If you have non-standard qualifications or Level 3+ qualifications that have already been achieved, you are invited to email certificates and transcripts at the same time as submitting your UCAS application. You can upload copies of your qualifications to our application portal (sims.cf.ac.uk) upon receipt of your Cardiff University username and password, or PDF/JPEG copies can be sent directly to admissions@cardiff.ac.uk from the email address you have given on your UCAS application with 'Dentistry application – supporting documents' in the subject line and your full name, programme you have applied to, and UCAS ID in the body of the email.

4. Selection process

4.1 If you meet the minimum advertised entry requirements, your application will be given an academic score.

4.1.1 Applications are scored based on achieved qualifications only.

4.1.2 Mandatory subjects are scored first, then a score given to the remaining highest graded subjects.

4.2.2. If you fail to submit two scores for double science by the deadline, you will be given an assumed grade at one grade lower than the grade given. For example, if you state you achieved an A grade, you will be scored assuming you achieved AB grades.

4.1.3 For BDS, the UCAT may be used in the scoring process.

4.2 You must also submit a satisfactory personal statement and academic reference. You must evidence the following in your personal statement:

- Evidence of commitment to a career in the dental professions.
- Evidence of qualities and skills required for dental healthcare.
- Evidence of work experience or knowledge of the nature of the dental profession.

4.3 The highest scoring applicants are invited to interview (see also 4.4). (Please see our [interview and audition policy](#) for more information on the framework in which interviews are conducted.)

4.3.1 Where applicants to the BDS programme have the same academic score, the UCAT score may also be used.

4.3.2 Where applicants for the BSc or DipHE programmes have the same academic score, other aspects of the application including academic subjects and grades may be considered.

4.4 In line with our Widening Participation strategy, to comply with our tender agreement with HEIW (Health Education and Improvement Wales), and to address the underrepresentation in or disadvantage in accessing Higher Education and/or Dentistry/Medical professions, additional consideration is given in the selection process for certain applicants.

4.4.1 Contextual - please see our contextual admissions policy for more information on who is considered contextual and how this is applied to each programme.

4.4.2 If you have successfully completed one of the following programmes/schemes, meet the minimum entry requirements for the programme applied, and submit a fully completed application by the relevant deadlines, you will be guaranteed an interview:

- Cardiff University run Step-Up programme in the year of application
- Deintyddion Yfory (Tomorrow's Dentists) programme in year of application
- A dentistry focussed Seren Scheme in the year of application.

4.4.3 If you have successfully completed the Cardiff University's Sutton Trust Dental Summer School in year of application, meet the minimum entry requirements for the programme applied, and submit a fully completed application by the relevant deadline, your application will be ranked and the 10 applicants with the highest application score will be guaranteed an interview.

4.4.4 If you are currently enrolled on the [International Foundation Year in Health, Medical and Life Sciences](#) at the Cardiff University International Study Centre you will be guaranteed an interview for the BDS in the year of application.

4.4.5 If you are currently enrolled on the Cardiff University Pathway to Dental Hygiene and submit a fully completed application by the stipulated deadline you will be guaranteed an interview for the BSc or DipHE.

4.4.6 If you are domiciled in Wales, meet the minimum entry requirements for the programme applied, and submit a fully completed application by the relevant deadlines, you may be given additional consideration in the selection process.

4.4.7 If you attended a Welsh-language medium school or have completed a GCSE in Welsh first language you must supply evidence of this with your application by the stipulated deadline. Applicants who meet this requirement may be given additional consideration.

4.4.7.i Evidence required for consideration:

- Grade B in GCSE Welsh first language – state the full subject title and grade on your application form
- Current attendance at a Welsh medium high school – state the full name and address of your school on your UCAS form and ask your referee to confirm the language medium of the school in their reference
- Previous attendance at a Welsh medium high school - state the full name and address of your school on your UCAS form and email an additional reference from the school which confirms the language medium of the school to DentalUGAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk prior to the application deadline.

4.4.8 If you are domiciled in Wales and have either completed or are pending a Level 3/4 Access to Higher Education Diploma, meet the requirements set out in Appendix B or C, and submit a fully completed application by the stipulated deadline, you will be guaranteed an interview for B750 or B752.

4.5 Additional consideration is given in the scoring process for applicants who are part of our High Performance Sports programmes. Please see the [full policy](#) for more information on eligibility and how this is applied to each programme.

5. Oversubscription

The School of Dentistry has in place an oversubscription policy to manage numbers on each course, as these are capped by the Welsh Government. Please see the [oversubscription policy](#) for more information on who this may apply to and how and when it may be used.

Appendix A - Bachelor of Dental Surgery (A200)

Access to Higher Education	Access courses are not accepted for this programme.
Graduate applicants with a Cardiff University MSc in Oral Biology	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level BBB including Biology and Chemistry must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the MSc must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: MSc in Oral Biology with an overall pass in all modules</p>
Graduate applicants with a science-based degree (with Biology and/or Chemistry)	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level BBB including Biology and Chemistry must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: 2:1 Honours degree in one of the subjects listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Biological sciences • Biomedical sciences • Chemistry • Dental Therapy • Medical Pharmacology • Medicinal Chemistry • Medicine • Midwifery • Neuroscience • Nursing • Optometry • Oral Health Sciences • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Psychology • Radiotherapy and Oncology <p>Other degrees may be accepted for this route but will be subject to module review. Applicants wishing a module review must email their transcript before or at the time of application.</p>
Graduate applicants with an Honours degree (without Biology and/or Chemistry)	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level AAB including AA in Biology and Chemistry must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer:</p>

	2:1 Honours degree in any subject
International qualifications	<p>International applicants should refer to the equivalency tables published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-criteria</p> <p>Subject requirements and grade equivalencies at Level 2 and 3 must be met.</p>
Irish Leaving Certificate	<p>In place of the typical Level 2 requirements you will need to have achieved grades H4 in English and H3 in six other subjects including Biology and Chemistry.</p> <p>Typical Offer: H1 and H1 in Biology and Chemistry and H2 in four other subjects</p>
Other UK qualifications	<p>Applicants offering other qualifications not listed here, or a combination of qualifications, may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Equivalent level, grade, and subject requirements must be met.</p> <p>If you are intending to apply with any qualifications not listed on our website or in this policy we recommend you discuss your eligibility with the School of Healthcare Sciences in advance.</p> <p>Applicants should also refer to the information published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/policies-and-procedures/qualification-acceptance</p>
Scottish National 5s, Highers, and Advanced Highers	<p>We will accept a combination National 5s and Highers in lieu of GCSE, and a combination of Highers and Advanced Highers in lieu of A Levels. Equivalent level, grade, and subject requirements must be met. Duplicate subjects will not be counted twice.</p> <p>Typical offer: AAB grades at Advanced Higher including Biology and Chemistry.</p>

Appendix B - BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene (B752)

Access to Higher Education in a science or health based subject (with Biology or Human Biology)	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>Access courses must include sufficient credits with relevant content. You are therefore advised to contact dentalcentralenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk prior to application so that the qualification content can be verified.</p> <p>Typical offer: 60 credits overall with 45 credits at Level 3 including 30 distinctions and 15 merits</p>
Dental nursing qualification	<p>A recognised qualification will be accepted in lieu of one A Level (not including Biology).</p>
Graduate applicants with a Cardiff University MSc in Oral Biology	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level BCC including Biology must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the MSc must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: MSc in Oral Biology with an overall pass in all modules</p>
Graduate applicants with an Honours Biology degree	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level BCC including Biology and Chemistry must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: 2:2 Honours degree in one of the subjects listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Biological sciences • Biomedical sciences • Chemistry • Dental Therapy • Medical Pharmacology • Medicinal Chemistry • Medicine • Midwifery • Neuroscience • Nursing • Optometry • Oral Health Sciences • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Psychology • Radiotherapy and Oncology

	Other degrees may be accepted for this route but will be subject to module review. Applicants wishing a module review must email their transcript before or at the time of application.
Graduate applicants with an Honours degree in any subject	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level BCC including grade B in Biology must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: 2:2 Honours degree in any subject.</p>
International qualifications	<p>If you are offering international qualifications you can only be considered if you have been assessed as Home in relation to Fee Status.</p> <p>International applicants should refer to the equivalency tables published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-criteria</p> <p>Subject requirements and grade equivalencies at Level 2 and 3 must be met.</p>
Irish Leaving Certificate	<p>In place of the typical Level 2 requirements you will need to have achieved grades H4 in English and H4 in four other subjects.</p> <p>Typical Offer: H2 in Biology and H3 five other subjects</p>
Other UK qualifications	<p>Applicants offering other qualifications, or a combination of qualifications, may be considered. Level 2 and Level 3 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>Applicants should refer to the information published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/policies-and-procedures/qualification-acceptance</p>
Pathway to Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (delivered by Cardiff University)	<p>Typical offer: Pass with 60 credits</p>
Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers	<p>We will accept a combination National 5s and Highers in lieu of GCSE, and a combination of Highers and Advanced Highers in lieu of A Levels. Equivalent level, grade, and subject requirements must be met. Duplicate subjects will not be counted twice.</p> <p>Typical offer: CCC at Advanced Higher level including Biology</p>

Appendix C - DipHE Dental Hygiene (B750)

Access to Higher Education in a science or health based subject (with Biology or Human Biology)	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>Access courses must include sufficient credits with relevant content. You are therefore advised to contact dentalcentralenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk prior to application so that the qualification content can be verified.</p> <p>Typical offer: 60 credits overall with 45 credits at Level 3 including 15 distinctions and 30 merits</p>
Dental nursing qualification	<p>A recognised qualification will be accepted in lieu of one A Level (not including Biology).</p>
Graduate applicants with a Cardiff University MSc in Oral Biology	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level CC must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the MSc must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: MSc in Oral Biology with an overall pass in all modules</p>
Graduate applicants with an Honours Biology degree	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level CC must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: 2:2 Honours degree in one of the subjects listed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Biological sciences • Biomedical sciences • Chemistry • Dental Therapy • Medical Pharmacology • Medicinal Chemistry • Medicine • Midwifery • Neuroscience • Nursing • Optometry • Oral Health Sciences • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Psychology • Radiotherapy and Oncology <p>Other degrees may be accepted for this route but will be subject to module review. Applicants wishing a module review must email their transcript before or at the time of application.</p>

Graduate applicants with an Honours degree in any subject	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades). Level 3 requirements equivalent to A Level CC including grade C in Biology must be met.</p> <p>Resits of modules are permitted but the degree must be awarded by the release of the A Levels results in the year of application.</p> <p>Typical offer: 2:2 Honours degree in any subject.</p>
International qualifications	<p>If you are offering international qualifications you can only be considered if you have been assessed as Home in relation to Fee Status.</p> <p>International applicants should refer to the equivalency tables published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-criteria</p> <p>Subject requirements and grade equivalencies at Level 2 and 3 must be met.</p>
Irish Leaving Certificate	<p>In place of the typical Level 2 requirements you will need to have achieved grades H4 in English and H4 in four other subjects.</p> <p>Typical Offer: H3 in Biology and H3 in three other subjects</p>
Other UK qualifications	<p>Applicants offering other qualifications, or a combination of qualifications, may be considered. Level 2 and Level 3 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>Applicants should refer to the information published on our website for further information: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/policies-and-procedures/qualification-acceptance</p>
Pathway to Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (delivered by Cardiff University)	<p>Typical offer: 60 pass credits overall</p>
Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers	<p>We will accept a combination National 5s and Highers in lieu of GCSE, and a combination of Highers and Advanced Highers in lieu of A Levels. Equivalent level, grade, and subject requirements must be met. Duplicate subjects will not be counted twice.</p> <p>Typical offer: CCC at Higher level including Biology</p>