

Strategic Applications Guide

Your guide to **securing** interviews

Dentistry

/dɛn'tɪ-strē/

The study, diagnosis, and treatment
of conditions of the teeth and oral
cavity



UCAT



Personal
Statements



Interview
Prep



Acceptance

Who are Medentors?

We are a team of **doctors, dentists, and dedicated mentors** on a mission to shape the next generation of high-achieving students and future healthcare leaders. Our team includes **successful** applicants and inspiring **role models** from **top UK** universities, offering students something no textbook can: **insider knowledge**, lived experience, and **unparalleled** support from people who've walked the **same path**.

What we offer



Mock MMIs & 1-1s – Personalised guidance from 4/4 offer holders, across a variety of UK Universities.



Free Webinars – Comprehensive, live sessions covering personal statements, interviews & more from the UK's highest scoring mentors!



Guides & Resources – Everything you need to ace your med & dent applications – in one clear, practical toolkit.



WhatsApp Community – Connect with like-minded peers on your application journey, receiving support from high-achieving Medical & Dental Students.



Medentors Academy Tuition - Results-driven A-Level & GCSE Tutoring, delivered by Specialist, A* Mentors, Focused on developing holistic academic success.

How to use this guide

This guide holistically covers all aspects of the UK Dental Schools' selection criteria, providing the latest* cut-offs, post interview chances, Interview information & **everything else** you could possibly need as an applicant!

Please **share** this comprehensive guide to all your friends & peers. We aim to assist all **28,000** UK Medical & Dental Applicants!

*These cut-offs are derived from the latest academic cycle, but may be subject to change. Only take this resource as a guide, and **NOT** an absolute!

Applying for **Medicine?** [Medical Guide Here](#)

Unis That Will Take You

Start by using the cut-offs given below to pick universities that you're close to the thresholds. Aim for a maximum of 10 UCAT points off the previous cut-off so you're in the running. This narrows your options down to all realistic choices



Dream Course



Shortlist universities that fit your preferences, not just your scores. Think city vs campus life, research- vs clinical-skills focus, integrated vs traditional teaching, and dissection vs prosection. Also consider prestige (if it matters to you), intercalation opportunities, and international links so the course matches your long-term goals.

Aspirational VS Safe

Pick 4 universities: 1–2 aspirational (≤ 20 UCAT points above your score) and 2–3 safer (well below cut-offs). Include at least one with high post-interview offer rates to maximise your chances.



UK Dental Schools

1. Queen's University Belfast
2. University of Birmingham
3. University of Bristol
4. Cardiff University
5. University of Dundee
6. University of Glasgow
7. King's College London
8. University of Leeds
9. University of Liverpool
10. University of Manchester
11. University of Newcastle
12. University of Plymouth
13. Queen Mary's London
14. University of Sheffield



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Summary table

>1900

University	Weightings	Post interview chances
Belfast	9 Grade 9s with 1600+. 1800+ safer. Scored /42. GCSEs /36, UCAT /6 2024 38+	15%
Dundee	1850+ A*A*A predicted & UCAT & high GCSEs. 60:40 (GCSEs/Predicted : UCAT)	13% (RUK) 44% (Scottish)
Cardiff	7 8s & 9s GCSE (full 28/28 pts). Cut off for UCAT only used if 300+ students score full points on GCSEs. Has been 1900+ ish in the past	39%
Liverpool	Students with 1850+ UCAT score and strong Non Academic form. 1800+ is doable but NAF must be exceptional.	22%

1900 - 2000

Leeds	1900+ last year, strong personal statement & at least 8 Grade 8s GCSEs in Maths, English Language & Sciences	13%
Glasgow	Students with a lower SJT band, 1870+ UCAT Scottish (2024) UK 1970+ (2024)	60% (RUK) 70% (Scottish)
Plymouth	2000+ UCAT with strong A-Level Predicted Grades or a contextual background	15%
Sheffield	2000+ UCAT, 6 grade 7 subjects including Maths, English & Sciences, good personal statement	42%

2000 - 2200

QMUL	Students with 2030+ UCAT scores & high predicted grades (A*AA minimum)	68%
Newcastle	2100+ UCAT student with weaker GCSE choices (minimum grade 4 in Maths & English)	55%
Manchester	2130+ UCAT, contextual criteria reduces UCAT thresholds & grades, At least seven GCSEs at grade 7 or above English Language, Maths & 2 sciences (6)	36%

Summary table

University	Weightings	Post interview chances
KCL	2150+ B1 UCAT scores & 8 grade 8s and 9s	49%
Birmingham	Students with 2160+ UCAT scores & minimum GCSE scores	43%
Bristol	2300+ UCAT, students with contextual criteria & GCSE grades of Minimum 7 in Maths & 4 in English	55%

Accepts Band 4 SJT

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Dundee
University of Leeds
University of Glasgow
University of Newcastle

Don't consider PS

Plymouth (Dentistry)
Plymouth (Medicine)
Bristol (Medicine)

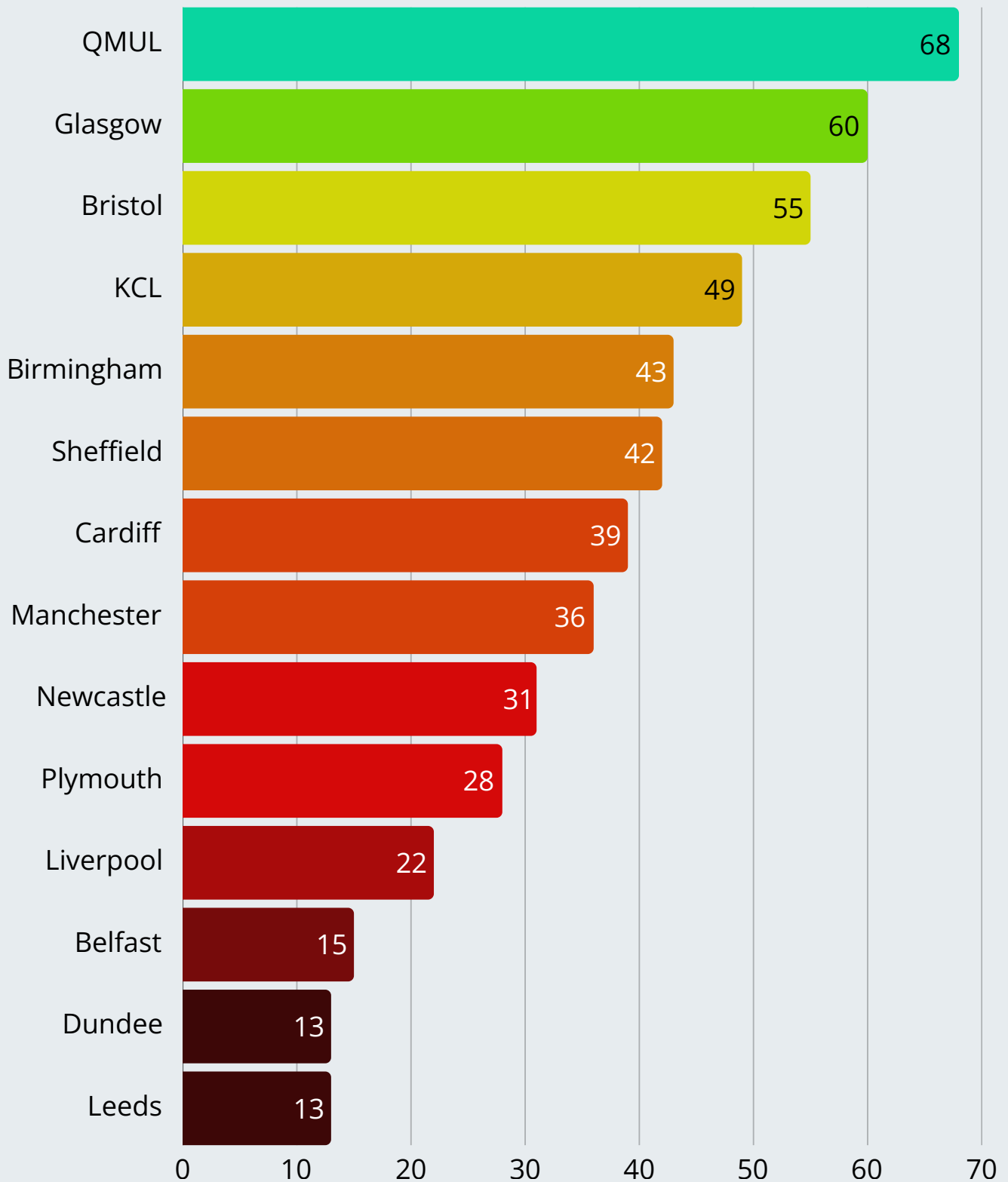
No use of predicted grades

Cardiff (Dentistry)

A-level Resit Tolerance

Very Lenient	Somewhat Lenient	Strict	Strictest
Sheffield - must have a minimum of Grade B in first sitting; however, they welcome resit applications	Manchester - they allow you to either resit year 12 OR year 13, must achieve minimum B in subjects pre-resit then achieve A*AA post-resit (A* must be in either Bio or Chem)	QMUL - Extenuating circumstances must fall under Equality and Diversity Act 2010	Bristol - they do not accept A-Level resits for dental applications but accept GCSE resits
	Plymouth - ABB in the first sitting or applicants must re-sit required qualifications & apply once suitable grads are provided	Birmingham - Not accepted except as detailed in extenuating circumstances	
	Cardiff - If you firm Cardiff, they save your place for the next year if you miss your offer so you can resit your exams	Glasgow - only accepts resits in extenuating circumstances	
	King's College London - Resit accepted - other (non-resit) applicants might be viewed more favourably	Liverpool - Must be due to significant extenuating circumstances	
	Leeds - the dental schools allows 1 resit attempt	Belfast - only if previously applied to Belfast, need AAA or A*AB in first attempt	
	Newcastle - They accept resits one time if you have previously applied		

Post interview offer rate





Queen's University Belfast

Perfect Match for: 9 Grade 9s with 1600+. 1800+ safer. Scored /42. GCSEs /36, UCAT /6 2024 38+

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

Scores are banded & awarded 0-6 points dependant on the band

Contextual offer

Contact Belfast Admissions for more information

GCSEs

9 highest GCSE grades are scored: 9 (4 points), 8/7 (3 points), 6 (2 points), 5/4 (1 point)

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Screened for suitability
Unweighted

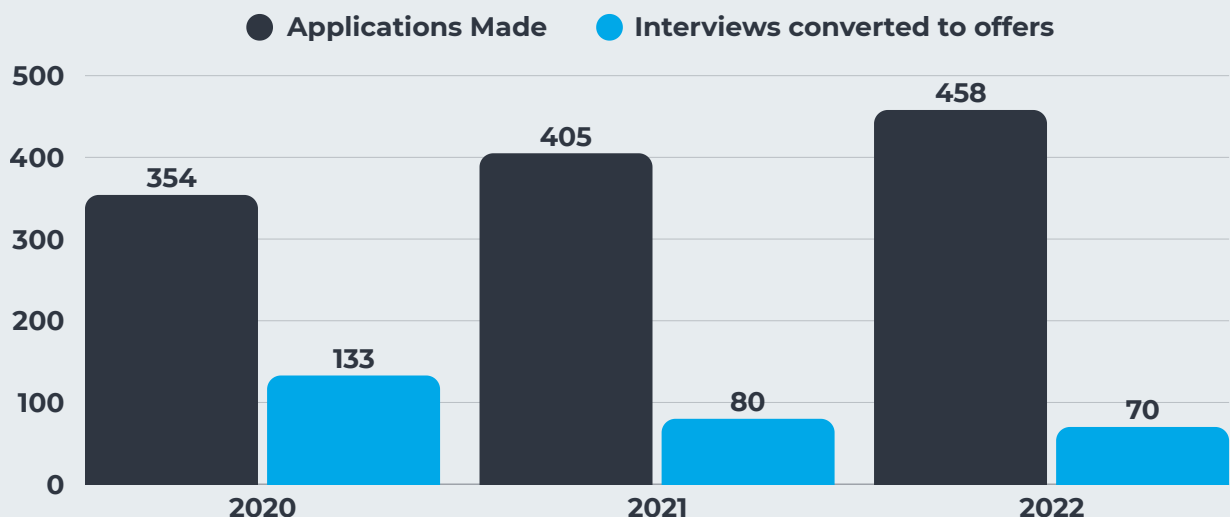
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not mentioned

Post Interview Chances are unclear





University of Belfast

Interview Briefing

- Post interview weighting:
100% Interview performance
- In person (International
online)
- Confirmed via interview invite
when offered

Common Topics

- Resilience
- Communication
- Empathy
- Ethics
- Understanding of dentistry

Teaching style

Mixture of lectures, e-learning, practicals & clinical teaching

What's Unique

Queen's University Belfast has been training dentists for over 150 years!





University of Birmingham

Perfect Match for: students with **2160+** UCAT scores & minimum GCSE scores (below)

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

100% weighting pre-interview
2160 (2025), 2170 (2024)

Contextual offer

Contact UoB Admissions for more information

GCSEs

English Language or Literature (7), Maths (7), Biology **and** Chemistry (8)

*unweighted

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Screened for suitability
Unweighted

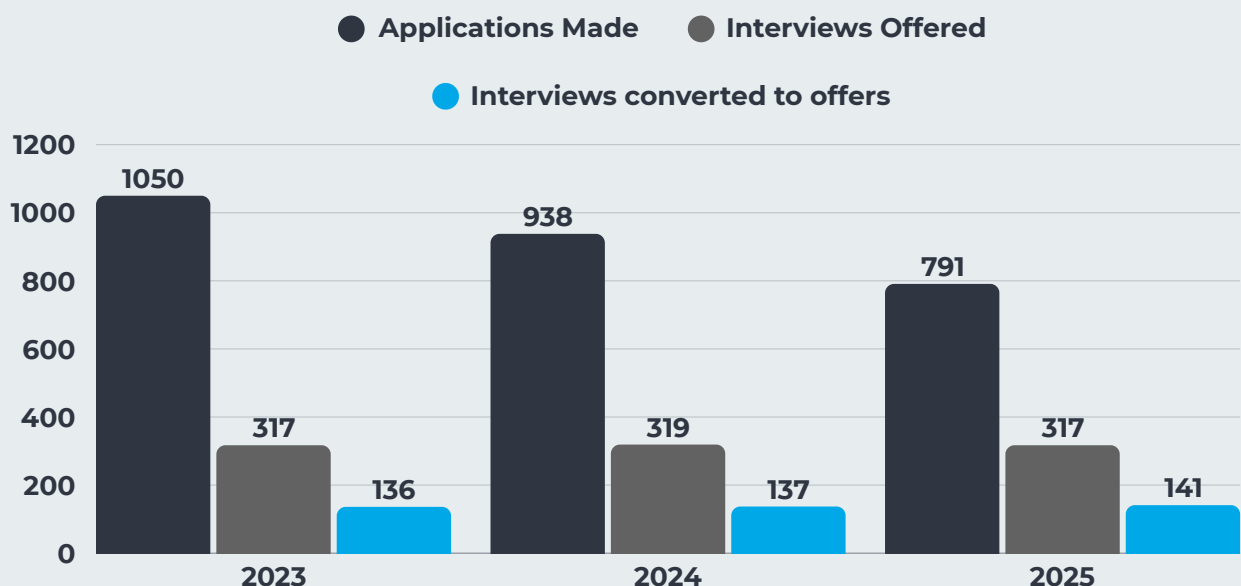
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Unweighted

44% chance to get an offer post-interview





University of Birmingham

Interview Briefing

- In person
- 4 stations split into 2 (8 stations)

Common Topics

- Motivation
- Manual Dexterity
- Leadership
- Self-insight
- Ethical Reasoning

Teaching style

Mixture of small group teaching (PBL) with lectures & lab work

What's Unique

Very early clinical exposure – observe treatments from 1st year & carry out treatments in 2nd year! Basic sciences lecturers with UoB Medical school!)





University of Bristol

Perfect Match for: 2300+ UCAT, students with contextual criteria & GCSE grades of Minimum 7 in Maths & 4 in English

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

100% weighting pre interview: 2300 (2025), 2190 (2024), 2170 (2023)

Contextual offer

ABB (A must be in Chem)

GCSEs

Minimum 7 in Maths & 4 in English

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Used to differentiate borderline applicants

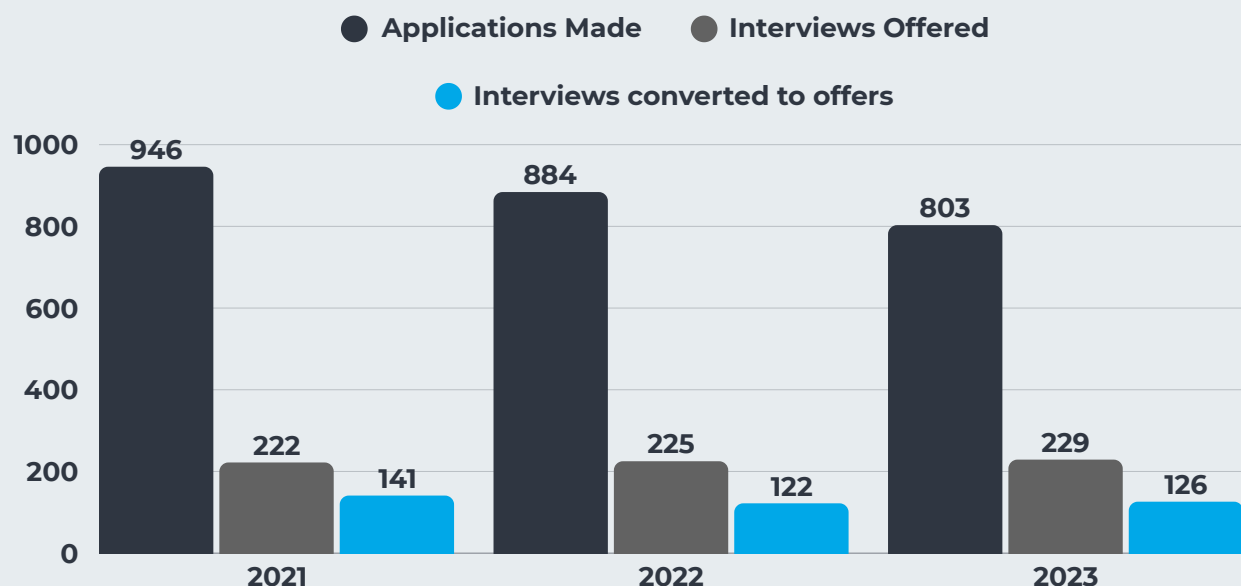
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology/Maths/Further Maths/Physics

EPQ

Not mentioned

55% chance to get an offer post interview





University of Bristol

Interview Briefing

- Virtual
- 6 stations
- 5 mins each

Common Topics

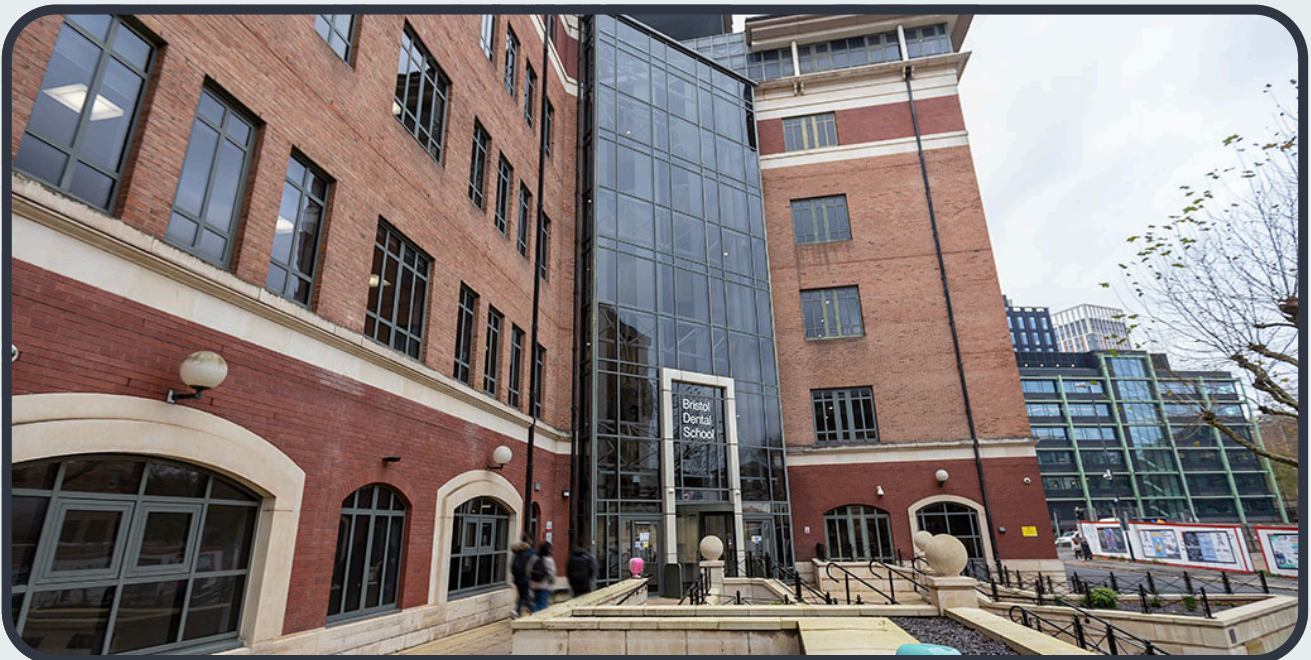
- Motivation for Dentistry
- Role-Play
- Communication
- Data Interpretation
- Problem Solving

Teaching style

The course is structured around 4 key themes of development: developing you as a practitioner, scholar & scientist, professional & agent of change and as a person & citizen.

What's Unique

In 2023-24, students provided over 18,000 free dental appointments to local patients!



Cardiff University

Perfect match for: 7 8s & 9s GCSE (full 28/28 pts). Cut off for UCAT only used if 300+ students score full points on GCSEs. Has been 1900+ish in the past, so would consider an option if 1900+ with 28/28

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

1950 (2023), 2030 (2024), 2030 (2025)

Contextual offer

AAB

GCSEs

English Language (6)
Biology **and** Chemistry (7)
or Double Science (7)

Minimum Predicted

Not Considered

Personal Statement

Evaluated, **Unscored**

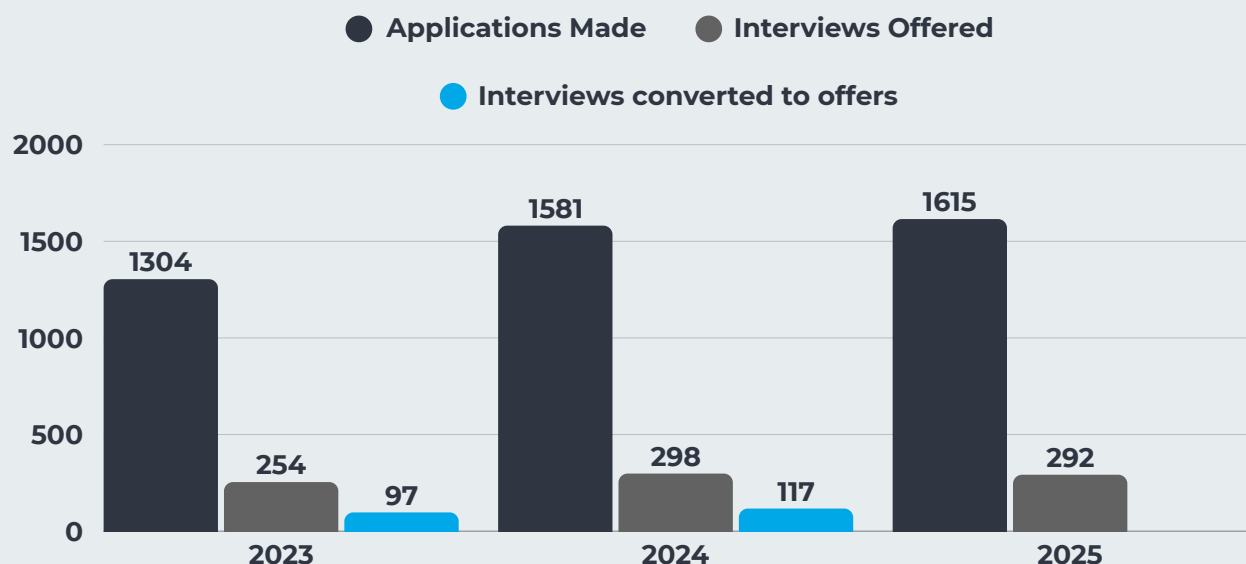
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not considered

39% chance to get an offer post-interview



Cardiff University

Interview Briefing

- In person
- (not mentioned) Stations
- (not mentioned) minutes per station
- Rest stations present

Common Topics

- Communication
- Work Experience
- Hot Topics
- Problem Solving
- Ethics

Teaching style

Traditional integrated course, which blends pre-clinical sciences with patient exposure.
This is great to allow contextualisation of knowledge from the beginning!

What's Unique

Cardiff's Research spectrum is not just confined to oral health, it spans many categories including societal issues, education, disease mechanisms & dental materials





University of Dundee

Perfect Match for: 1850+ A*A*A predicted & UCAT & high GCSEs. 60:40
(GCSEs/Predicted : UCAT)

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

40% weighting: 1870 (2022), 1930 (2023), 1900 (2024)

Contextual offer

N/A

GCSEs

30% use in shortlisting
Minimum: English (6) Maths (6)
All GCSEs are weighted

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Not used pre-interview, can be brought up at interview

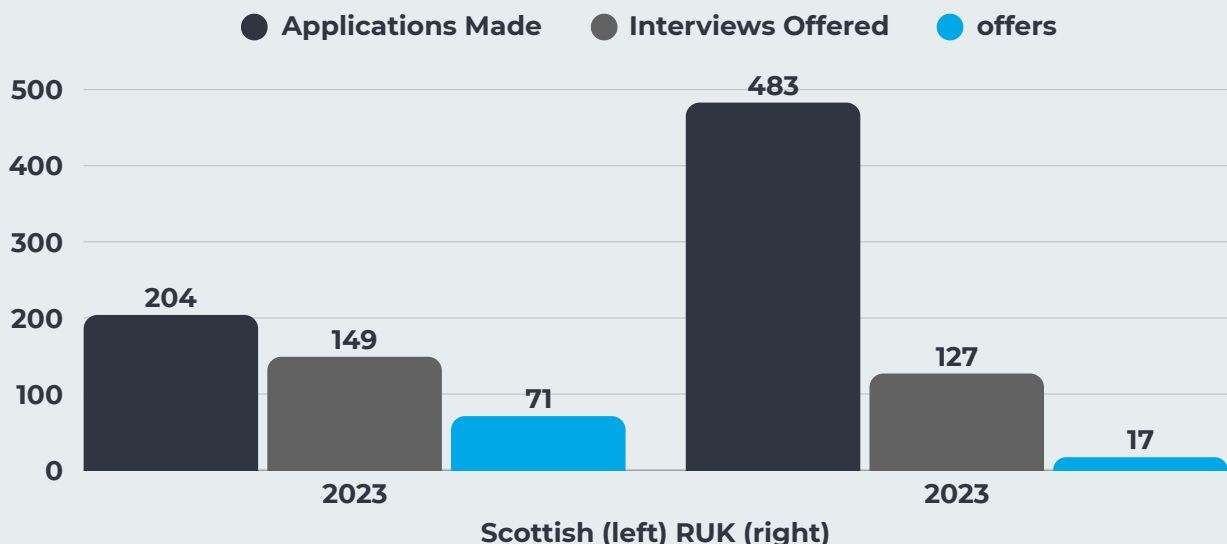
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not considered

13% chance to get an offer post-interview. (RUK)
48% Scottish.





University of Dundee

Interview Briefing

- In person
- 7 Stations
- Rest stations present

Common Topics

- Role Play
- Critical Thinking
- Work Experience
- Ethics
- Communication

Teaching style

Dundee employs a 4-Dimensional Curriculum (i.e., a spiral curriculum). Early in the course you will build the foundations of your clinical sciences, then these will be revisited, expanded on & solidified throughout the programme.

What's Unique

Thiel Cadavers are used in anatomy teaching. The soft-mix preservative applied to these cadavers allows tissues to maintain a "life-like" quality, colour and flexibility. This is very rarely used in UK dentistry teaching!





University of Glasgow

Perfect Match for: students with a lower SJT band, 1870+ UCAT Scottish (2024)
Rest of UK 1970+ (2024)

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

100% weighting pre interview , No SJT consideration

Contextual offer

AAB (A in Biology and Chemistry)

GCSEs

6 subjects at grade 7 including Maths/ Physics **and** English Language/Literature

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Screen for minimum requirements for interview selection

Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

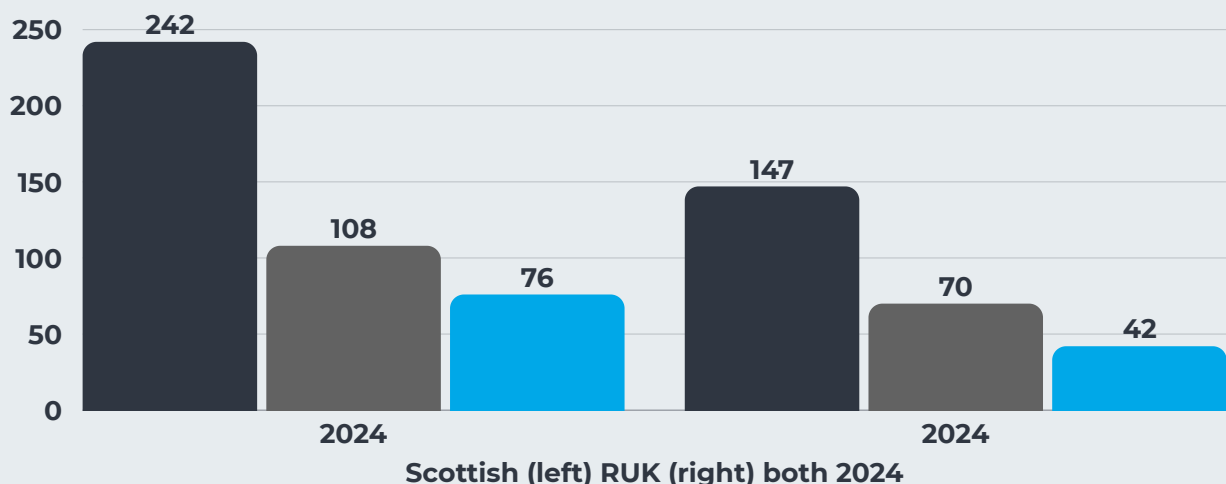
No mention

70% chance to get an offer post-interview (Scottish)

60% chance to get an offer post interview (RUK)

● Applications Made ● Interviews Offered

● Interviews converted to offers





University of Glasgow

Interview Briefing

- In person
- Panel (common in Scotland)
- All interview information is confirmed via email to successful applicants

Common Topics

- Ethics
- Empathy
- Communication
- Leadership
- Dexterity

Teaching style

The University of Glasgow offers a traditionally structured course. The first two years (pre-clinical years) are spent building a strong foundation in clinical sciences. The following three years (clinical years) involves application & expansion of this pre-clinical knowledge.

What's Unique

It is rare to find a traditionally taught dental course in the UK, as most courses opt for the integrated approach to learning, so if you enjoy the clinical science behind dentistry this would be an amazing option!



King's College London

Perfect Match for: students with **2150+ B1 UCAT scores & 8 8s and 9s** GCSE grades Mix of UCAT, GCSE, Contextual (unclear ratio likely 45:45:10?) **2050+ B1 all 8s and 9s is also doable**, but risky. 2070+ safer

Standard Offer

A*AA

UCAT

Weighted **same** as GCSEs
~2130 average (2023)

Contextual offer

N/A

GCSEs

45% approx weighting?: 8s and 9s safer
Minimum: English Language (6)
Maths (6)

Minimum Predicted

A*AA

Personal Statement

Considered - Show communication, extracurriculars, understanding of dentistry as a course and a job, work experience & volunteering

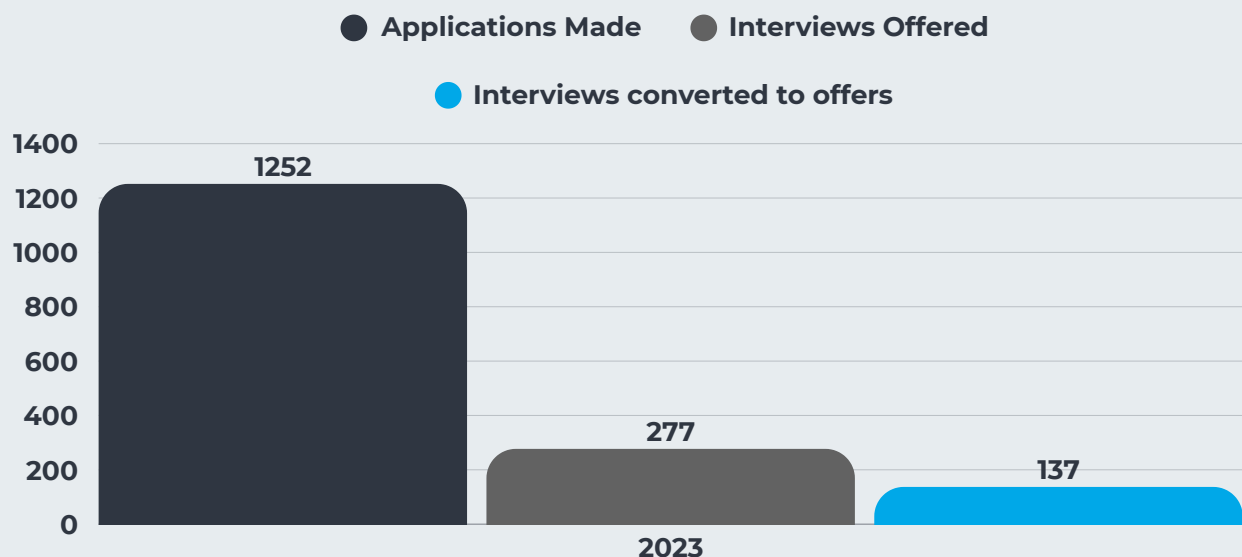
Compulsory Subjects

Biology or Chemistry **and** 1 other science/mathematics (including psych)

EPQ

Not considered

49% chance to get an offer post-interview





King's College London

Interview Briefing

- Virtual
- Panel Interview
- Two interviewers present

Common Topics

- Communication
- Ethics
- Contribution to university
- Work Experience
- Hot Topics

Teaching style

King's College London teaches via an integrated course. This has become increasingly popular over the past decade as it allows contextualisation of clinical sciences.

What's Unique

The King's Dental School is home to an augmented reality haptic simulation area which is very rare to find in any type of undergraduate teaching!





University of Leeds

Perfect Match for: 1900+ last year, although was 2030 in 2024. 1980+ safe.
high GCSEs (8s) & strong personal statement

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

1900+ 2025
2030+ 2024

Contextual offer

ABB (Access to Leeds offer) - A must be in
Bio or Chem

GCSEs

Heavily weighted: 6 GCSEs at 6 or above, including
Biology, Chemistry, English, and Maths. Seem to score
this, so 8 8s and 9s ideal although less is fine.

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Focus on **reflection**

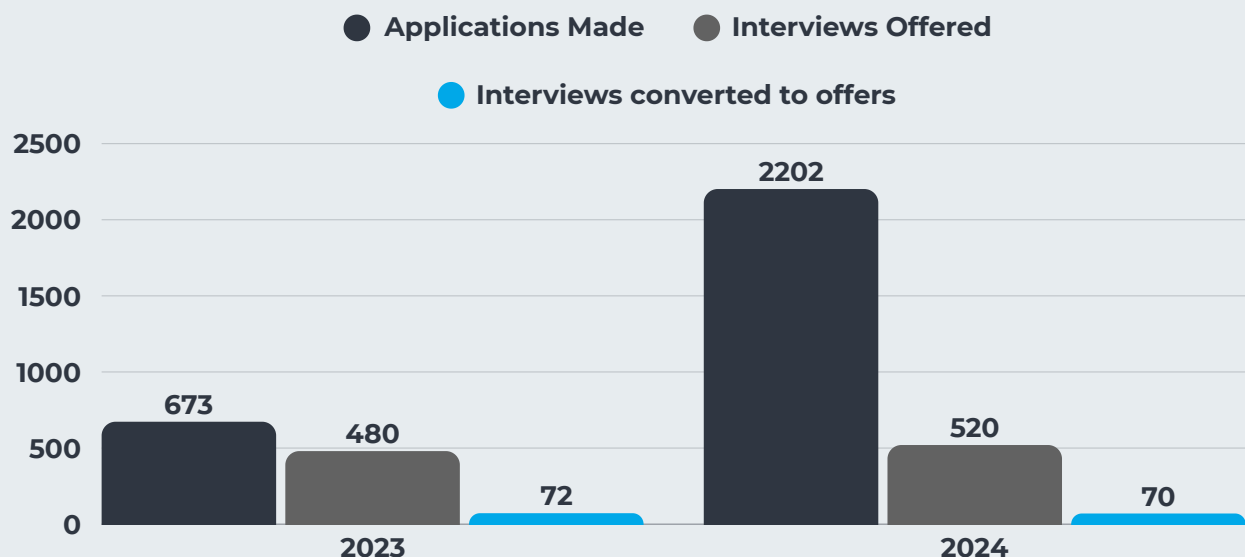
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

No mention

13% chance to get an offer post-interview





University of Leeds

Interview Briefing

- All interview information is released to successful applicants year on year - not very open unfortunately :(
- Has previously been 5 stations
Online MMIs

Common Topics

- Ethics
- Hot Topics
- NHS Constitution Values
- Communication

Teaching style

Leeds Dental School emphasises the importance of the patient from the beginning, as you will have clinical exposure from year 1! The course blends a mixture of traditional teaching clinical (practical) application of this knowledge.

What's Unique

The University of Leeds Dental School is the only UK dental school to offer an integrated dentistry course with a masters degree!





University of Liverpool

Perfect Match for: students with **1850+ UCAT score** and **strong Non-Academic form. 1800+ is doable** but NAF must be exceptional.

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

Median scores for interview:
2611 (2021), 2696 (2022), 2570 (2023)

Contextual offer

Case dependant

GCSEs

6 GCSEs at 6 or above, including Biology, Chemistry, English, and Maths

Minimum Predicted

N/A

Personal Statement

Somewhat assessed. Expanded upon in the NAIQ.
Focus on work experience and motivation to study dentistry

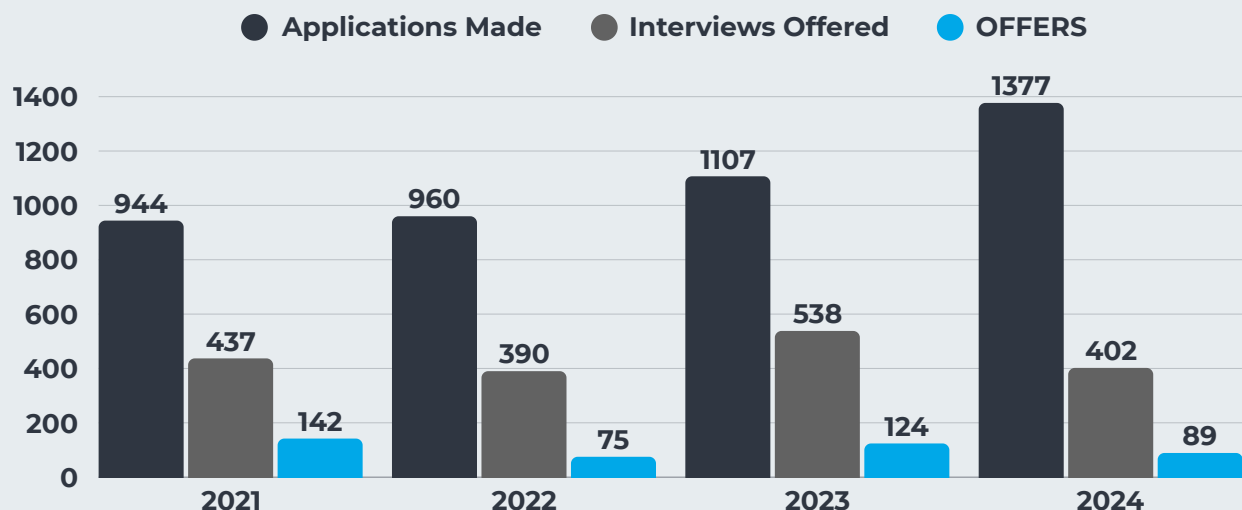
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

No mention

22% chance to get an offer post-interview





University of Liverpool

Interview Briefing

- In person
- 11 Stations
- 2 Rest stations present

Common Topics

- Ethics
- Communication
- Hot Topics
- Motivation for Dentistry

Teaching style

Liverpool's School of Dentistry has opted for an integrated approach to teaching. This mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials & clinical experience blends together to provide a solid grounding in pre-clinical science & patient interactions.

What's Unique

Liverpool is one of the few dental schools which provides patient contact in first year! This will allow you to develop your patient interaction skills early in the course!





University of Manchester

Perfect Match for: 2130+ B1/2 UCAT with strong GCSEs, also contextual criteria would help with reduced UCAT thresholds & grades. **Contextual 2070+**

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

Cut off used, can be lower with strong GCSEs and Predicted: 2130 (2025), 2120 (2024)

WP: 2060 (2025) 2070 (2024)

Contextual offer

AAB

GCSEs

At least seven GCSEs at grade 7 or above English Language, Maths & 2 sciences (6)

Minimum Predicted

N/A

Personal Statement

Screened in admissions process

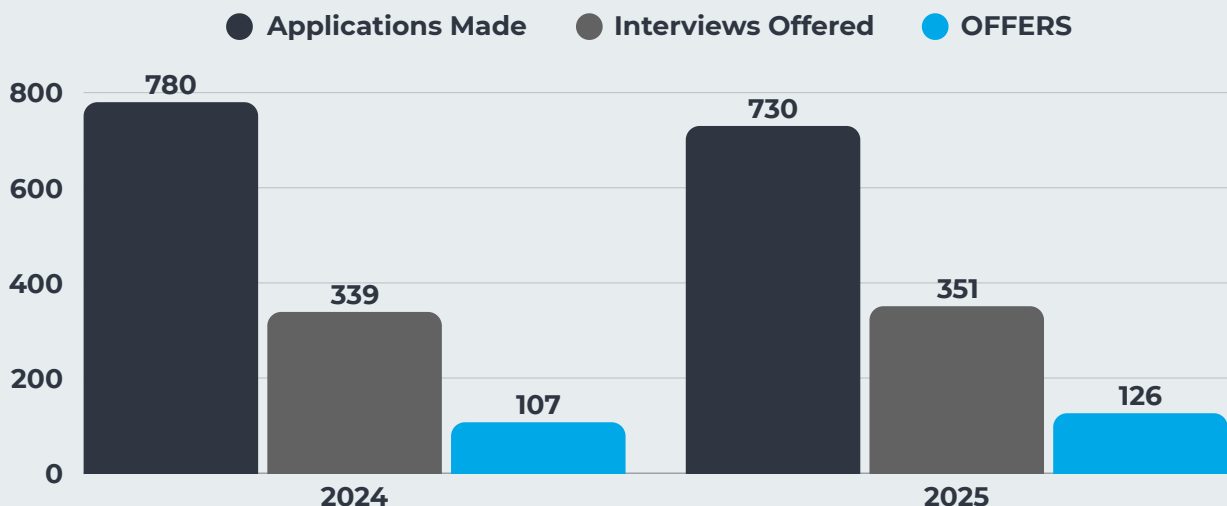
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not part of offer

36% chance of post-interview offer





University of Manchester

Interview Briefing

- In person
- 5 Stations
- 7 minutes per station
- 2 Minute Gap between stations

Common Topics

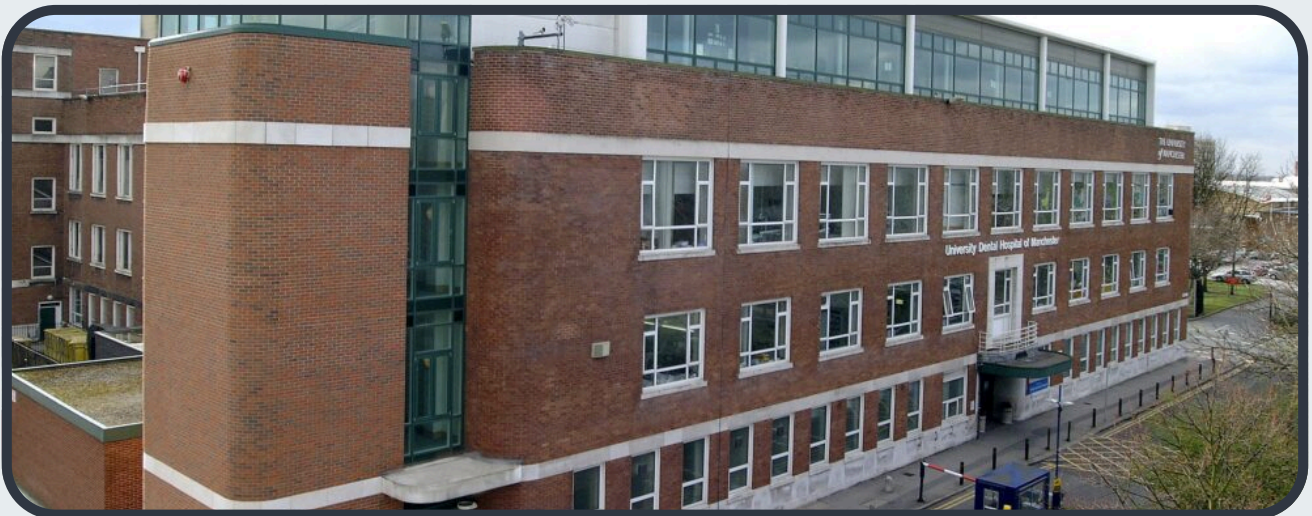
- Ethics
- Communication
- Hot Topics
- Motivation for Dentistry
- Work Experience

Teaching style

Manchester's School of Dentistry balances traditional & modern teaching styles. Traditional in the grounding of dental sciences via dissection sessions, seminars, lectures, PBL sessions, alongside the modern idea of early clinical exposure.

What's Unique

The University of Manchester offers a huge range of intercalation options which can truly help broaden your skillset pre-graduation!





University of Newcastle

Perfect Match for: 2100+ UCAT student with weaker GCSE choices
2080+ partners

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

Average scores for interview:
2130 (2023), 2080 (2022)

Contextual offer

Case-Dependent

GCSEs

GCSE Maths & English (grade 4 or above)

Minimum Predicted

Not Mentioned

Personal Statement

Screened in admissions process

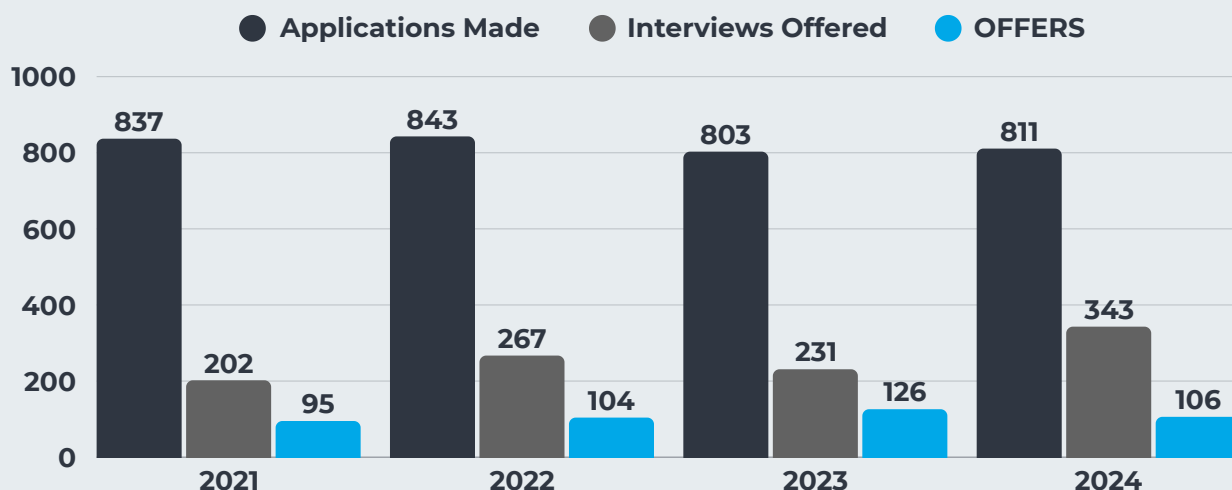
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not Mentioned

31% chance of post-interview offer





University of Newcastle

Interview Briefing

- Scoring: Motivation /30
- In person
- Panel Interview
- Approximately 20 mins
- 2 Interviewers

Common Topics

- Motivation /5
- Effective learning skills /5
- Team work /5
- Personal qualities/ resilience /5
- Empathy & Professionalism /5

Teaching style

Teaching at Newcastle is done via a combination of lectures & seminars, laboratory work (demonstrations & practical) & general clinical demonstrations.

What's Unique

Newcastle's Dental School provides a strong foundation in clinical sciences, whilst also allowing Year 1 students clinical exposure by shadowing senior students on clinics. This allows contextualisation of pre-clinical knowledge as you learn it!





University of Plymouth

Perfect Match for: 2000+ UCAT with strong A-Level Predicted Grades or a contextual background

Standard Offer

A*AA - AAA

UCAT

Average score for interview:
1960 (2023-25)

Contextual offer

AAB (both A's in Bio & Chem)

GCSEs

7 subjects at Grade 4 or above (including English Language, Maths & 2 sciences)

Minimum Predicted

Not Mentioned

Personal Statement

Not used in selection for interview

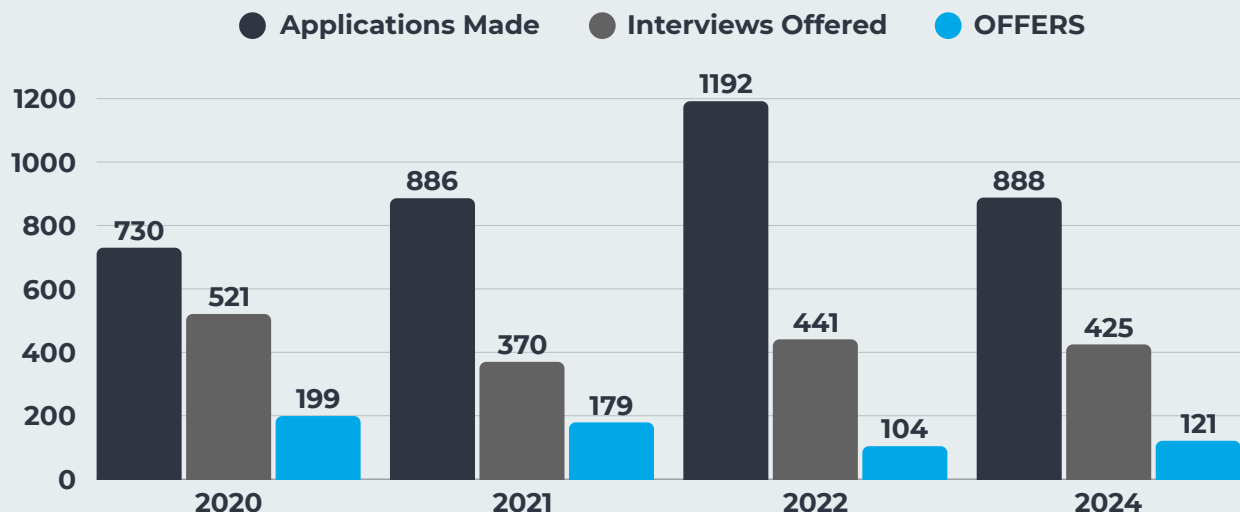
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not Mentioned

28% chance of post-interview offer





University of Plymouth

Interview Briefing

- In person
- 5 Stations
- 4 interviewers
- 55 Mins for entire interview
- Each station is scored numerically

Common Topics

- Communication
- Impact of Illness
- Reflection & Self-Insight
- Resilience & Adaptability
- Integrity & inclusivity

Teaching style

Plymouth's Dental Programme begins based in PBL groups, mirroring the teamwork required for effective provision of dental care. Students are supported by study guides, tutorials & wrap-up sessions.

What's Unique

Peninsula Dental School's Dental Education Facilities provides care to over 10,000 NHS patients per year!





Queen Mary (London)

Perfect Match for: students with 2030+ UCAT scores & high predicted grades (A*AA minimum)

Standard Offer

A*AA

UCAT

4th decile or above and SJT Band 1-3
2760 (2023), 2780 (2024), 2790 (2025)

Contextual offer

AAA

GCSEs

3 7s, 3 6s, Including English Literature/Language,
Maths, Biology, and Chemistry

Minimum Predicted

A*AA

Personal Statement

Unscored, but still considered

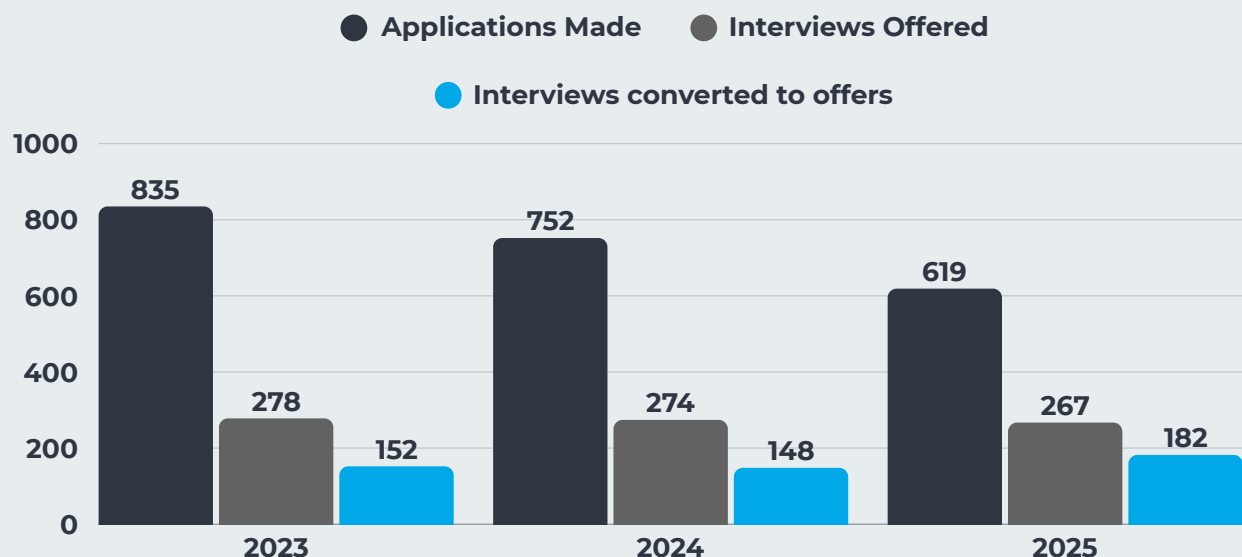
Compulsory Subjects

Biology **or** Chemistry **and**
Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Maths

EPQ

No mention

68% chance to get an offer post-interview





Queen Mary (London)

Interview Briefing

- Virtual
- Panel Interview
- Contains 2 members of clinical staff, a dental student, a member of the public

Common Topics

- Motivation for Dentistry
- Team Work
- Communication
- Contribution to University Life
- Ethics

Teaching style

Queen Mary's Dental School provides an integrated approach to teaching. Ranging from first year clinics, to lectures & seminar which provide a good grounding in biological & human sciences.

What's Unique

The Institute of Dentistry at QMUL was the first dental school made in the UK in over 40 years!





University of Sheffield

Perfect Match for: 2000+ UCAT B1-2. B3 is very risky. Strong GCSEs, good personal statement VR used in borderline cases.

Standard Offer

AAA

UCAT

UCAT cutoff for interview 100% weighting: 1990 (2024), 1990 (2023), 1990 (2022). **Autoreject SJT B4**

Contextual offer

AAB (both A's in Bio & Chem)

GCSEs

6 subjects minimum of Grade 7 (including Maths, English Language, Sciences)

Minimum Predicted

AAA

Personal Statement

Used in selection for interview

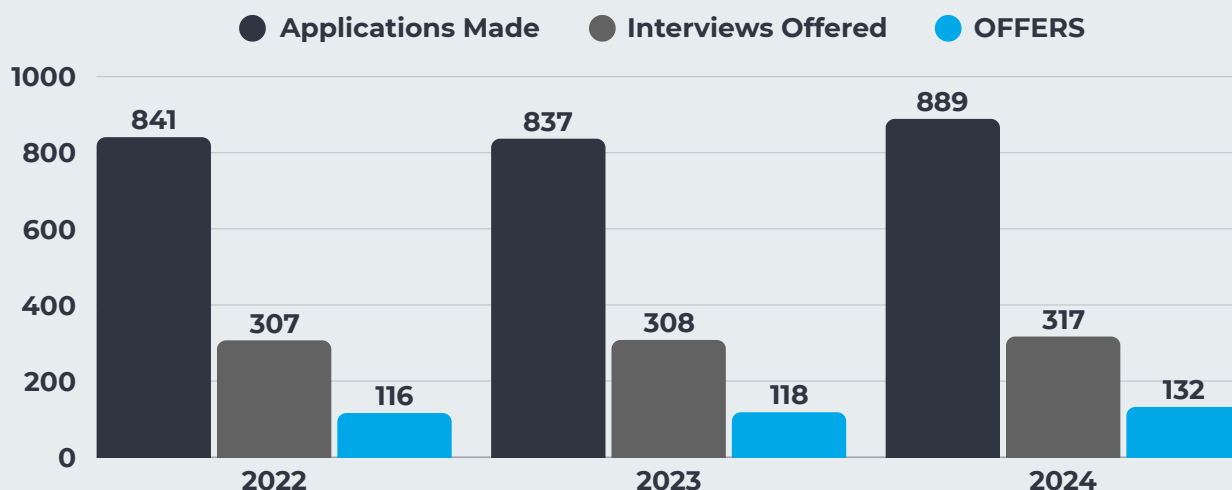
Compulsory Subjects

Chemistry
Biology

EPQ

Not mentioned

42% chance of post-interview offer





University of Sheffield

Interview Briefing

- In person
- Panel Interview
- Approx 15 mins
- 2 staff members & 1 senior student are interviewers

Common Topics

- Why Dentistry?
- Hot Topics
- Ability to apply knowledge
- Work Experience
- Personal Qualities & Values

Teaching style

Sheffield's course is based on teaching theory alongside clinical practice to allow the development of both dental sciences but also how to apply this clinically.

What's Unique

Sheffield's Dental School is another of the few dental schools which still train dentists alongside dental hygienist & dental therapists, this allows for a collaborative teaching approach, providing you with a better appreciation of the roles of the MDT.



Your Next Steps

1

Apply Strategically! Make use of this guide and utilise our [WhatsApp Community](#) to ask any questions

2

Utilise our free webinars! We're here for you, more than anything

3

Interview Season:

- **Research** interview questions and hot topics
- Make a **list** of things you've done and reflections; your **personal statement** should help with this!
- **Practice** as much as possible!
- Attend **Mock MMIs** and utilise the resources around you. We have you covered for that!

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A-Level season! Utilise our [Medentors Academy](#) and our free resources. We're here should you need that extra support or tutoring!



Results Day: we'll be here to congratulate you when you've entered your dream university!