

School of Dentistry – Variation to admissions policy for 2025 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 Dental 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 All applicants must provide evidence of prior academic capability in externally moderated, publicly validated examinations, e.g., GCSE, IGCSE, or equivalent qualifications. For applicants with UK qualifications, only those that are defined in the [National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) are acceptable.

2.3 Non-standard entry requirements: Applicants who do not meet the standard entry requirements should refer to the appendices for further guidance.

2.3 Resits:

- For the BDS programme (A200), A Level resit applicants are not considered. Resits will be considered for those applying with predicted grades who are given a Conditional Offer after interview and accept the offer as their Firm choice. Applicants will have their offer honoured for one year only, based on the minimum entry requirements being achieved at resit.
- 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.

2.4.1 Any extenuating circumstances relating to the UCAT must be submitted to UCAT and follow their policy and procedures

2.5 Transfers: Transfers (also known as [RPL](#)) onto A200, B750, and B752 are not accepted.

2.6 Current undergraduate students: Applicants applying before final completion of an honours degree should be in their final year. Any offer will be based on achieving a 2:1 or higher (A200) or 2:2 (B750 and B752) as well as having achieved the minimum entry requirements for

graduates Applicants who have started a degree, but have chosen not to complete it, may apply but must have:

- withdrawn from their course and
- have provided the Dental Admissions Team (dentalcentralenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk) with a letter from their university confirming the withdrawal was voluntary and not as the result of failure to progress due to poor academic performance or probity concerns.
- As long as both these conditions are met, the application will be considered within the applicant cohort for the year of application and will be subject to the full selection process in line with those applying with achieved A levels.

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 15 October 2024 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 give an academic score to your application due to missing information, including where a personal statement or reference has not been supplied, 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 (29 January 2025 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 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, we recommend you email certificates and transcripts to us 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 entry requirements at Level 2 (typically GCSEs) and Level 3 (typically A levels), have submitted an acceptable personal statement and reference, and have completed the UCAT within the required timeframe (A200 only), your application will be given an academic score based on the qualifications you have completed.

4.1.1 Applications are scored based on achieved qualifications only.

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

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 The UCAT may be used in the A200 selection process where the number of applicants with the same score exceeds the number of interview places.

4.3 Additional consideration is given in the scoring process for:

- applicants who are classed as contextual. Please see the [contextual admissions policy](#) for more information on who is considered contextual and how this is applied to each programme.
- Welsh-domiciled applicants.
- applicants who have completed or are participating in one of the following widening participation initiatives in the year of application, and meet the minimum entry requirements, will be guaranteed an interview:
 - Cardiff University Step-Up to University programme
 - Cardiff University Sutton Trust Dental Summer School
 - Deintyddion Yfory (Tomorrow's Dentists)
 - The North Wales Dentistry Scheme
 - 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.
 - applicants who are currently enrolled on the [International Foundation Year in Health, Medical and Life Sciences](#) at the Cardiff University International Study Centre
 - **B750 or B752 only:** applicants who are currently enrolled on the Cardiff University Pathway to Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
 - **B750 or B752 only:** applicants who are domiciled in Wales and have either completed or are pending a Level 3/4 Access to Higher Education Diploma.

4.3.1 If you are eligible in more than one category listed above, you will only be given additional consideration in one of these categories.

5. Oversubscription

5.1 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 1 - 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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: 2:1 Honours degree in any subject</p>
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> <p>Applicants unable to sit Level 2 qualifications due to their local educational system will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</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. 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 Dentistry 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>National 5s: to include Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics at minimum B.</p> <p>SQA Highers: AAAAB by end of S5 and offers would then be subject to BB at Advanced Higher in S6 (in Chemistry and Biology).</p> <p>Subject requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highers: Chemistry and Biology, and either Mathematics/ Applications of Mathematics or Physics. For some applicants this subject combination is not possible at S5. Students who meet the grade requirements in S5 but are missing one or more sciences may take the missing subject(s) in S6. Human Biology may replace Biology. • Highers must be in one sitting • Applications will not be considered from anyone who only offers five S5 Scottish Highers without additional S6 studies

Appendix 2- BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene (B752)

<p>Access to Higher Education in a science or health based subject (with Biology or Human Biology)</p>	<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>
<p>Dental nursing qualification</p>	<p>A recognised qualification will be accepted in lieu of one A Level (not including Biology).</p>
<p>Graduate applicants with a Cardiff University MSc in Oral Biology</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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>
<p>Graduate applicants with an Honours Biology degree</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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

	<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>
<p>Graduate applicants with an Honours degree in any subject</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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>
<p>International qualifications</p>	<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>
<p>Irish Leaving Certificate</p>	<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>
<p>Other UK qualifications</p>	<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 Dentistry 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>
<p>Pathway to Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (delivered by Cardiff University)</p>	<p>Typical offer: Pass with 60 credits</p>
<p>Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers</p>	<p>National 5s: 5 subjects required at grade C including English.</p> <p>SQA Highers: ABBB by end of S5 and offers would then be subject to CC at Advanced Higher in S6 (including Biology).</p>

	<p>Subject requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highers: Biology or Human Biology.• Highers must be in one sitting• Applications will not be considered from anyone who only offers four S5 Scottish Highers without additional S6 studies
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Appendix 3 - DipHE Dental Hygiene (B750)

<p>Access to Higher Education in a science or health based subject (with Biology or Human Biology)</p>	<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>
<p>Dental nursing qualification</p>	<p>A recognised qualification will be accepted in lieu of one A Level (not including Biology).</p>
<p>Graduate applicants with a Cardiff University MSc in Oral Biology</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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>
<p>Graduate applicants with an Honours Biology degree</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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>

<p>Graduate applicants with an Honours degree in any subject</p>	<p>Level 2 requirements must be met (subjects and grades).</p> <p>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>
<p>International qualifications</p>	<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>
<p>Irish Leaving Certificate</p>	<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>
<p>Other UK qualifications</p>	<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 Dentistry 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>
<p>Pathway to Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy (delivered by Cardiff University)</p>	<p>Typical offer: 60 pass credits overall</p>
<p>Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers</p>	<p>National 5s: 5 subjects required at grade C including English.</p> <p>SQA Highers: CCC</p> <p>Subject requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highers: Biology or Human Biology. • Highers must be in one sitting.