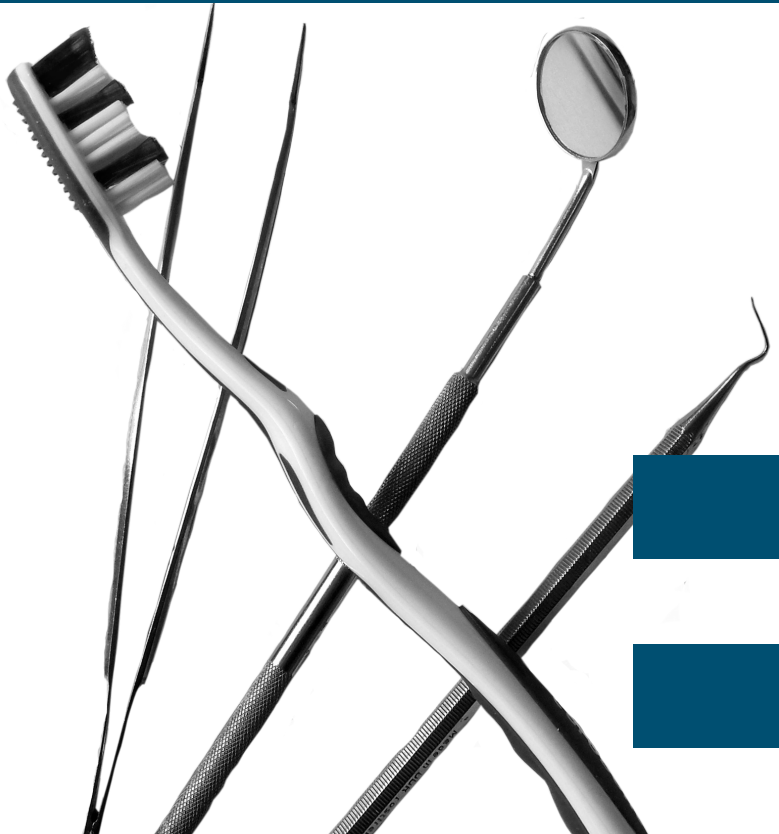




THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Medical School

Oral Health Sciences

Undergraduate opportunities 2024



[www.ed.ac.uk/dentistry/
undergraduate-study](http://www.ed.ac.uk/dentistry/undergraduate-study)

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extraordinary futures await

Studying Oral Health Sciences at Edinburgh

The BSc (Hons) in Oral Health Sciences at the University of Edinburgh is the only honours programme of its kind available in Scotland.

Studying with us at the University of Edinburgh is a unique and exciting opportunity to gain a qualification in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy.

The dual role BSc (Hons) Oral Health Sciences Course, accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC), gives the theory and practical skills required to register both as a dental hygienist and dental therapist with the GDC.

Only ten places are available on the course each year which lends itself to a more supported learning experience, particularly in relation to clinical work.

Scope of practice

The role of dental hygienists and dental therapists is varied.

They are able to provide clinical and educational care including disease prevention, periodontal (gum) therapy and routine restorative treatment (fillings)

The full scope of practice of a dental hygienist-therapist can be found by downloading the General Dental Council's document on their website:

 [The scope of your practice - General Dental Council](#)



Programme

Oral Health Science combines the application of dental science with the opportunity to make a major contribution to the prevention and treatment of oral disease and the maintenance of oral health for all members of the population.

It offers a modern and innovative curriculum and has a substantial clinical component where students begin to undertake dental treatment for patients in their first year.

Students are given the opportunity to explore dental services in a number of locations, allowing them to develop clinical and communication skills. Following graduation, individuals are required to register with the General Dental Council (GDC) in order to practice as a dental hygienist-therapist.

What will I study?

The oral health sciences learning outcomes are underpinned by the General Dental Council document 'Preparing for Practice' which must be met by the end of the four year programme.

The curriculum is broadly split into four courses which form the core of education and are expanded upon as knowledge and skills progress.

These are identified as:

- Health and Disease
- Clinical Practice
- Personal and Professional Development
- Preparation for Practice.

Year 1

Areas of study include: general histology; anatomy and physiology; human disease; microbiology; oral biology; immunology; preventive dentistry; behavioural science and periodontal clinical skills. Students undertake periodontal and preventive treatment of adult patients in the second semester of Year 1.

Year 2

During this year students expand on knowledge gained in Year 1 and are introduced to subjects such as: general pathology; dental caries; pharmacology; evidence-based dentistry and dental materials. Students will also develop skills in paediatric clinical treatment and commence restorative clinical skills.

Year 3 (Junior Honours)

Students will continue to elaborate on subjects covered in previous years but will also be introduced to: oral medicine and pathology, oral surgery, special care dentistry, radiology and radiography. Clinical skills and practice continue to be developed where more advanced teaching is pursued.

Year 4

Students concentrate on a literature based dissertation and also on developing individual clinical skills, both within Edinburgh Dental Institute and in outreach placements. Students are given the opportunity to work and observe in a number of different dental care settings.

What sort of teaching and assessment methods are used?

Teaching methods include:

- lectures/seminars
- Wooclap
- flipped classroom
- reflective practice
- peer-assisted learning
- case-based learning
- journal clubs
- blended learning.

Assessment methods

Combined assessment methods including structured short answer questions, multiple choice questions, clinical case assessments and in-course assessments are employed throughout the programme.

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and Directly Observed Procedures (DOPs) are used to determine clinical ability and progress.

Students are required to log and reflect on their clinical work using an e-portfolio system which is reviewed after each clinical session.



Academic requirements

SQA candidates	Minimum Higher grades
4 Highers, must include Biology/Human Biology at B (plus Nat 5 English at grade C).	BBBB by end of S5 or ABBB/BBBBB by end of S6. BBB must be achieved in one year of S4-S6.
GCE candidates	Minimum A Level grades
3 A Levels, must include Biology/Human Biology (plus GCSE English at grade C or 4).	BBB in one set of exams.
IB candidates	Minimum entry grades
Must have Biology/Human Biology at HL at 5 (plus English at SL grade 5).	32 points overall and 555 at Higher Level.
ILC candidates	Minimum entry grades
4 subjects at Higher/Honours level, must include Biology/Human Biology (plus English within the Junior Cert at grade C/Merit).	H3 H3 H3 H3.
HNC/HND	Minimum entry grades
HNC/HND in Dental Nursing.	Minimum grade(s) of B.
SWAP access	Minimum entry grades
Access to the Biological/Biomedical/Health & Life/Life/Medical Sciences.	AAB (Biology at A).
Qualified dental nurses	Minimum entry grades
Dental Nursing qualifications studied at SCQF Level 6/QCF Level 3 may be accepted along with additional qualifications as follows:	3 x SQA Highers at grades BBB to include Biology or Human Biology; or 2 x GCE A Levels at grades BB to include Biology or Human Biology.



Access courses

Some access courses are accepted but these are considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Admissions Team at futurestudents@ed.ac.uk before applying to have your particular course approved for eligibility.

Generally, an access course must be predominantly in Biology and meet the following: 60 credits overall with 30 credits achieved at Distinction; 15 credits achieved at Merit (from this 15 credits must be in Biology or 25% Biology at Level 3).

If you have undertaken your education outside of the UK and your qualifications are not listed above, please follow this link to each country's information:

 [Undergraduate entry requirements by region](#)

English language

All applicants must meet our minimum English language requirements regardless of where they are applying from. You will find our most common qualifications and minimum grade/score requirements via our degree finder webpage here:

 [Degree finder - Bsc Oral Health Sciences](#)

Please note: we do not ordinarily consider EU/International tuition fee applicants for this course.

How and when to apply

All applications must be submitted to us via UCAS. The Oral Health Sciences A900 programme applications open each year on 1 September and close again in January of the following year for that year's entry (deadline date is specified by UCAS). Late applications will not be considered.

Non-academic requirements



These requirements are assessed initially through reviewing the evidence and experience you have provided within your personal statement via your UCAS application.

In terms of your personal statement we look at the following three areas (weighted most heavily towards the career exploration section):

Personal qualities

- Suitability for health care profession
- Interpersonal relationships and skills
- Verbal and written communication skills.

Career exploration

- Work experience/shadowing in a dental setting
- Evidence of exploration of dental hygiene-therapy practice through previous studies; discussion with professionals; reading relevant material.

We appreciate that obtaining relevant work experience may still be challenging as we emerge from the pandemic. We would encourage applicants to seek information on the profession through online resources and webinars.

Non-academic achievement

- Broad range of interests and achievements (for example, music, sports, arts, etc)
- achievements at a local, national or international level
- leadership and organisational skills
- social responsibility.

Once an applicant's academics and personal statement are assessed, the cohort is ranked in order of score from highest to lowest.

Approximately the top 70 applicants are then invited for interview.

Interviews

These are structured in a multiple mini-interview (MMI) format and are ordinarily held in February/March each year for entry in the same year.

Applicants are assessed on the following four test types:

- communication
- professionalism
- leadership and management
- career exploration.

In addition to the MMI interview, applicants will be asked to submit a short two minute blog to talk about their skills relevant to a career in dental hygiene and dental therapy. Full instructions will be provided to applicants prior to submission.

The combined score of academics; personal statement; and interview are then added together to determine who will be offered a place.

The weightings applied to each area of an application are as follows:

- 15% = Academics
- 25% = Personal statement
- 60% = Interview.

Decisions are normally communicated to both successful and unsuccessful applicants by the end of March each year.

For unsuccessful applicants, feedback is available on request by emailing

✉ futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



Fitness to practise

The University has a responsibility to ensure that students studying on a programme which involves practical training in a clinical environment and which leads to a professional qualification which is registered with a regulatory body are fit to practise.

Students are expected to display professional behaviour and are monitored under a low-level concerns reporting system. Any issue raised will be considered by the Medical School Commendations and Concerns Panel.

Students are expected to inform the school of any issues which could mean that their fitness to practise is impaired. Practising as a dental professional requires high professional standards.

Find out more from the General Dental Council publication:

 **Professionalism & Fitness to Practise**

Contact details

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Contact

For further information, please contact:

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www.ed.ac.uk/dentistry/undergraduate-study

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