Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Undergraduate Degree Programme

Person Specification
September 2021 Entry

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Interested parties should note that the following outlines the academic qualifications and other requirements for applications to the BDS Programme and should be read in conjunction with the information published on the website. The Dental School reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the person specification at any time, as required.

The UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test), work shadowing and other extra-curricular activity are essential components of applying. There are a range of personal characteristics important in the selection of prospective dental professionals; these are detailed in this document, and assessed throughout our selection process.

Academic Requirements

Essential—School students must apply from S6. Applications from S5 will not be considered.

Highers/Advanced Highers

AAAAB in 5 different subjects—these MUST include:
• Higher Biology—Grade A
• Higher Chemistry—Grade A
• Advanced Higher Biology or Chemistry at Grade B or better
• Higher Maths or Higher Physics
• Higher English/ESOL (pass at Grade C or above accepted provided the overall conditions are met).

S6
At least 3 subjects should be studied and MUST include at least 1 Advanced Higher (Chemistry and/or Biology). See prospectus for full details and adjusted Higher requirements.

To meet the academic criteria for interview, we will look at S5 results and expect applicants to have attained AABB. This must include Biology and/or Chemistry at Grade A as a minimum. Please see prospectus/subject leaflet for adjusted requirements.

A Levels

AAA in 3 different subjects by the end of Year 13 PLUS the GCSE requirements. A Levels MUST be attained at the 1st sitting and include
• Biology/Human Biology at Grade A
• Chemistry at Grade A
• GCSE—6 subjects at Grade A/7-9 MUST include
• Maths and/or Physics
• English Language or English Literature (pass at Grade B/6 or above accepted provided the overall conditions are met).
Please Note

- We are unable to consider applications based on re-taken examinations.

- We are unable to consider transfer requests from students who have commenced a degree course at another institution and not completed it. Likewise, we do not consider any current degree students unless in the final year of their Programme.

- Re-applicants to the Programme will be considered. Re-applicants must apply through the usual channels and take the UCAT test in the year of application.

International Qualifications

All international qualifications are assessed by the NARIC guidelines to ensure that they are of the equivalent level of UK qualifications. In addition, applicants whose first language is not English must provide proof of their English Language proficiency.

www.gla.ac.uk/international/englishlanguagerequirements/

Graduates

Graduates will be considered provided they have attained the minimum of a 2.1 honours degree in a relevant subject and can demonstrate the equivalence of:

- Chemistry and Biology (equivalent to Grade A Higher, Grade A A level or better)
- Maths and/or Physics (equivalent to Grade A Higher, Grade A GCSE or better)

Attainment of these qualifications can be evidenced through the degree transcript or from prior qualifications (within 6 years). Where any of the above have not been met, interested parties can achieve them as additional qualifications prior to applying.

Mature Applicants

Will be expected to demonstrate equivalent academic and extra-curricular attainment to all other applicants. Updated qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Maths or Physics may be obtained at FE Colleges or through an Approved Access to Medicine course. Please contact the admissions office for further information.

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UCAT

All applicants are required to undertake the UCAT test in the year of application, registration opens in May and closes in September. Applicants will be ranked on the basis of their UCAT score and around 200 will be selected for interview. The percentile cut off point varies from year to year, and will normally be above the national average. We do not disclose the score used in the year of application.

Work Shadowing

For entry in September 2021 we are not asking applicants to carry out work shadowing. In an effort to keep things as straightforward as possible whilst there is so much uncertainty around, we will not be replacing this with any additional requirements.

We do realise that this will mean a huge change to personal statements, particularly with the cancellation of many other extra curricular activities, our BDS person specification contains a list of the attributes we look for at interview and we do hope that the majority of applicants will have alternative experiences, out with a dental environment that they can draw on to demonstrate these attributes.

Important Characteristics

Applicants also need to demonstrate characteristics which are important for the dental profession including being able to:

- Be diligent and ethical
- Demonstrate having a caring nature, are empathetic and respectful of the views of others
- Demonstrate good communication skills
- Work in a team and have the capacity to act as a leader
- Be self critical and self motivating
- Capable of independent thinking
- Plan and think on the spot and enjoy problem solving
- Show strong evidence of manual dexterity, creativity and spatial awareness

Our MMI interview process has been designed to test these characteristics.