

Dental Institute

- ♦ Largest dental school in the UK: trains one in five UK dentists.
- ♦ Top ratings in latest research assessment reviews.
- ♦ State-of-the-art clinical and technical facilities.
- ♦ Evidence-based, research-led degree programme, providing excellent clinical experience in all areas.
- ♦ Partnership with the world-famous Guy's, King's College and St Thomas' hospitals.
- ♦ Opportunity to intercalate a BSc degree.



Contacts

SCHOOL LOCATION

Guy's Campus, with some departments based at the King's Denmark Hill Campus.

SCHOOL ADDRESS

King's College London,
Guy's Campus, London Bridge,
London SE1 1UL


CONTACT

Student Admissions Office

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TEL 020 7848 6512

FAX 020 7848 6510

 www.kcl.ac.uk/dentistry

PROFILE

Undergraduate students: 901

Graduate taught students: 155

Graduate research students: 68

Staff: 226



ALUMNI PROFILE

'Dental Foundation Training is an innovative programme for newly qualified dentists in the UK. I am benefiting from working in specialist practice and through study days led by senior clinicians. In hospital, I carry out research as well as working in a variety of dental disciplines with senior specialists. I did an intercalated BSc at undergraduate level which enabled me to present research at an international level. I also developed interests in a variety of clinical specialities, and my jobs in both hospital and practice are giving me opportunities to further develop skills in these areas. I made many close friends at King's and I enjoyed being involved in a variety of clubs and societies, such as the Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Hospital gazette, Musical Theatre Society and programmes which teach English overseas.'

Full name: Ryan Olley

Age: 25

Programme studied at King's:

Dental Surgery BDS and Craniofacial Science BSc

Year of graduation: 2008

Current job title: Dental Vocational Trainee (Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham VT Scheme) and Senior House Officer

Current employer: King's College Hospital and East Dulwich Dental Care

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Why study dentistry at King's?

The Dental Institute at King's is one of the largest dental schools in Europe and works in partnership with the world-famous hospitals Guy's, King's College and St Thomas'; together creating a world-leading Academic Health Sciences Centre, King's Health Partners.

The Institute received the joint highest percentage for world-leading research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. On this basis, the Dental Institute can claim to be the best in the country.

Programmes of study

The Dental Institute is committed to increasing the diversity of its entrants. There is only one BDS dental degree course but there are a number of entry routes to accommodate applicants with different educational experiences and backgrounds. In addition to the traditional five-year programme, King's offers a four-year Graduate/Professional Entry Programme primarily for graduates with degree-level education in biomedical sciences or a related subject. We also offer a three-year programme for medical graduates seeking a career in maxillofacial surgery or oral medicine/pathology.

Location and facilities

For the standard five-year programme, the majority of your first three years will be spent at the Guy's Campus where biomedical sciences are taught alongside applied dental science. In the last two years students divide their time more evenly between the Guy's and King's Denmark Hill campuses. Final-year students will also visit the St Thomas' Campus and the new Outreach Centre at Portsmouth University.

Career prospects and graduate destinations

A variety of career pathways are open to new dental graduates. The final career for many graduates is general practice, although a minority may aim to be a consultant in the hospital dental service, a senior clinical academic in a teaching hospital, or a specialist practitioner. Invariably newly qualified graduates will enter practice by way of a vocational training scheme. Vocational Dental Practitioners (VDPs) work in a general practice under supervision and have a day release course of lectures and demonstrations building on the undergraduate degree and giving instruction in all aspects of practice management. After this year, successful VDPs can begin work as an associate in a practice, later starting or purchasing their own practice. A further group of newly qualified graduates may enter the community dental service where the emphasis is on the prevention of dental

problems in the community and looking after priority groups such as those with medical problems, the elderly or young children.

Selection procedure

Further advice is given within each programme entry; however, the notes below apply to all programmes within the Dental Institute.

Health clearance

Any offer of a place at King's is subject to satisfactory health clearance coordinated by our Occupational Health Service. There is further information about health clearance, and details of recommended protection against a range of diseases and other medical conditions within our online prospectus (www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus).

The final health clearance decision on your admission to (or continued enrolment on) the programme will be decided by the Dental Institute based upon recommendations from the Occupational Health Service.

Applicants with disabilities/special needs

King's is keen to encourage applicants from all sections of the community, including those with disabilities/special needs. If you are thinking of applying and you have a disability or health condition, you are welcome to visit King's for an information visit before you apply. As the dental programmes lead to professional registration, in accordance with General Dental Council guidance, students with disabilities can be admitted provided their disability would not prevent them from completing all parts of the dental programme and thus restrict their dental practice to certain activities. When you tell us about a disability/special need, it will not be considered in the main selection procedure. If you are offered a place and accept it as your firm choice you will be referred to Occupational Health who will make a formal assessment, as part of the normal Occupational Health appointment and clearance. The Dental Institute will make a final decision based on their recommendations. Any details on your disability/special needs will assist the College in providing support during your programme.

Criminal Records Bureau Clearance

All offers of a place, and continued enrolment, are made subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure, and registration with, and clearance by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. All applicants are required to declare on their UCAS form if they have any spent or unspent convictions, cautions or reprimands.

Dentistry BDS



'King's is well known for its excellence in teaching, learning and research and also known as one of the top universities in the world for dentistry. Being a professional from the very beginning with early clinical exposure is one of the most enjoyable experiences of the course. My goal is to become a professional dentist and King's, with its high educational standards, is definitely going to help me achieve this goal.'

Selvaggia Brigo
Dentistry BDS

KEY PROGRAMME DETAILS

UCAS CODE A205


STUDY MODE Full time

DURATION Five years

LOCATION

Guy's, King's Denmark Hill and St Thomas' campuses, and Portsmouth University

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS See box

 www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/dentistry

PROFILE

Students admitted: 128

Number of offers made: 1 in 5 applicants

Teaching style

The King's dental degree programme, in line with General Dental Council recommendations, incorporates the latest thinking in dental education – early clinical exposure, an emphasis on ideas as well as facts, integrated teaching of all subjects with an emphasis on a systems approach, and a dimension of choice of special subjects by the student. The integrated nature of the programme means that basic science teaching will relate to clinical practice and clinical teaching will be underpinned by scientific understanding. You will have contact with patients from the first few weeks of the first year and will be encouraged to assume an appropriate level of responsibility for patient care at an early stage. The programme emphasises whole patient care, which implies consideration of the patients' total dental and medical needs, rather than just the provision of items of treatment. Most of the teaching is carried out in small groups where students and staff get to know each other well. The fact that the Institute is the largest in the country with a total intake (for all programmes) of 164 students brings many advantages, including expertise in all areas of dentistry.

Structure of programme

The programme has three main components. The first consists of subjects common to medicine and dentistry, progressing from biomedical sciences, through behavioural sciences, epidemiology, pathology and microbiology to human disease. The second includes oral and dental aspects of the biological sciences leading to an understanding of the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of oral and dental diseases and disorders and the effects of systemic disease on the oral and dental tissues. The third component consists of the clinical and technical aspects of dentistry with the provision of comprehensive oral and dental healthcare for patients of all ages. These components are vertically integrated with a larger proportion of basic sciences at first and a larger clinical component at the end. Throughout the five years of the programme you will, in addition to acquiring the practical skills necessary to become a dentist, acquire communication skills, personal management skills, information technology skills and an appreciation and analysis of ethical and legal issues in dentistry. Examinations are held at the end of each year, and a percentage of the marks for each examination are derived from in-course assessment, which may take the form of essays, practical tests or project work.

Intercalated BSc

At the end of year three, you will have the opportunity to take an intercalated BSc degree which allows you to pursue the subjects of your choice in greater depth. The advantage of studying at a multifaculty institution such as King's is that modules can be taken in a wide variety of subjects. For example, you may wish to study clinically relevant subjects and related topics such as health services management or psychology as well as more traditional subjects, such as neuroscience and biochemistry. You can even include a foreign language.

Selection procedure

Applications must reach UCAS by 15 October 2010. A maximum of four choices on the UCAS form may be made for courses which lead to a professional qualification in dentistry. A gap year is encouraged, but evidence of how that year will be spent should be included in your application. You may add an alternative non-health programme to your UCAS application. Please be assured that you will be considered as having a full commitment to dentistry whether you include non-health programme choices or not. We are happy for our dental applicants to choose non-health programmes at other Schools within King's.

The UKCAT aptitude test

Please note that all applicants applying in 2010 for 2011 (or deferred 2012) entry are required to sit the UKCAT aptitude test in the summer of 2010, prior to applying to the BDS degree. Please refer to the UKCAT website for details on registration at www.ukcat.ac.uk

Selection for interview

The Dental Institute aims to select the most able and appropriate students, not only in terms of academic ability, but also in relation to other interests and talents you may have which will contribute to the vitality of the Institute and College and with regard to your suitability as a future member of the dental profession. All UCAS applications received by 15 October are given equal consideration and scrutinised very carefully by the selection panels. Approximately 30 per cent of dental applicants are invited to interview after the initial consideration of UCAS forms.

Academic achievement

You should carefully check that you will meet the Dental Institute's minimum academic standards before making an application. Please note that many applicants meet the minimum requirements and so all applications are considered within a competitive environment.

In line with the recommendations of the report *Fair Admissions to Higher Education: Recommendations for Good Practice* produced by the Admissions to Higher Education Review in 2004, King's will endeavour to consider other factors in addition to examination results, including the educational context of an applicant's formal achievement. As well as achievement at formal examination, King's will look for other indicators of potential and capability.

In line with these policies, from September 2011 entry our standard academic requirements for the five-year BDS will be AAA/A. We are keen to ensure we are selecting the very best students. Therefore, if you are performing exceptionally well within your peer group, and have achieved good scores in the UKCAT, we may consider predictions or achieved grades down to BBB/C.

Personal statement and reference

Your personal statement is one of the many factors in the overall assessment of your application. We are looking particularly for evidence of appropriate commitment to, and realistic appreciation of, the academic, physical and emotional demands of a dental degree programme and career. We would normally expect that you will have undertaken some work experience in a caring environment and/or observation in a dental clinical setting. If this is not possible, we look for evidence that you have worked in a setting where you can interact with the general public, eg in a pharmacy or restaurant. Communication skills and the ability to work successfully in a team are of great importance. Your interests, achievements and contribution to your community are taken into account in addition to academic ability. We aim to ensure that all of our students can cope with the heavy academic workload of the programme and display those professional qualities, skills and attitudes that help to make competent and caring dentists. We would expect your application to be strongly supported by your referee both in terms of academic achievements/potential and in terms of your character and suitability for dentistry.

Your UKCAT scores will be considered in our selection for interview. They will not be the sole indicator for selection, but will be balanced against achievement in other areas, in particular your academic performance to date. All indicators will be considered together in deciding who will be selected for interview. It is therefore important to understand that there is no universal 'cut off' score for the UKCAT when applying for 2011 entry.

For example, if an applicant has an excellent academic background then the test scores will not play such a significant part in selection. For those with weaker academic backgrounds (relative to our overall applicant pool), the scores will become more important. An applicant who may not normally be considered on academic grounds could be invited to interview on the strength of strong UKCAT scores that may indicate potential. Also, if applicants are very similar in all other ways, the scores may be the determining factor in selection for interview.

The interview

No offers are made without an interview. Interviews are held between November and April and you must be available for interview in order to be considered for admission. The interview is conducted by at least two senior members of the clinical and biomedical sciences staff. The aim of the interview is to assess your personal qualities and to find out whether you have the potential to become a successful member of the dental profession. In this context, strong interpersonal and communication skills are most important, particularly when you consider the relationships which dentists need to build with their patients. If you are made an offer for dentistry you will be invited to attend one of our post-offer open days.

EU and international applicants

There is no quota on the number of EU students who may be admitted. For international applicants, the UK government places a restriction on the number of entrants.

Graduate applicants to dentistry

We encourage graduate applicants to apply to study dentistry. Graduate applicants do not normally have to satisfy the usual A/AS-level or other entry requirements (eg you are not expected to have AAA at A-level at the first attempt). The minimum entry requirement is a pass at A/AS-level Chemistry and Biology plus an upper second class honours degree. Alternatively, a lower second class honours degree is acceptable combined with a master's degree (with at least a merit). For 2009 entry, approximately six per cent of our five-year programme dental students were graduates.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UCAS CODE
A205

3 A-LEVELS AND 1 AS-LEVEL

AAA/A – BBB/C (please see the website for further details and grade boundaries)

A/AS-LEVEL COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Chemistry and Biology, at least one at A-level, the other must be at AS level. If A-level Maths is offered, Further Maths is acceptable at AS-level only. GCSE requirement: at least grade B at English Language and Maths, if not offered at A/AS-level

ACCESS

Specific one-year (full-time) 'Access to Medicine/Dentistry' programmes offered by a UK Further Education Institution, or one-year (full-time) science foundation programmes offered by a UK Higher Education Institution

SCOTTISH HIGHERS AND ADVANCED HIGHERS

AA at Advanced Highers and AAB at three further Highers. Chemistry and Biology required, one at Advanced level

IRISH LEAVING CERTIFICATE

A1 A1 A1 A2 A2 B1 at Higher level including A1 in Chemistry and Biology

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

38 including 6, 6, 6 at HL including Chemistry and Biology, at least one at HL. Please note GCSE requirements. If no GCSE (or equivalent), passes are required at SL in English and Maths if not offered at HL

USA: ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS (TWO SEMESTER ONLY)

Four AP subjects with 5554 including Chemistry and Biology

APTITUDE TEST

UKCAT required

More information including requirements for 36 other countries can be found on our website www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus

Graduate/Professional Entry Programme BDS



'Having studied Biomedical Science at King's for three years, I feel at home in this area of London and really love living near here. I was particularly attracted to this course because it allows science graduates to start in year two of the Dentistry BDS programme. The programme itself is highly integrated which means we see patients very soon after starting. The Dental Institute has a reputation for having good facilities and teaching from staff who are experts in their fields. We are being taught to be good clinical dentists by enthusiastic and interested staff who are themselves practising clinicians.'

Philip Adams
Dentistry Graduate/Professional
Entry Programme BDS

KEY PROGRAMME DETAILS


UCAS CODE A202

STUDY MODE Full time

DURATION Four years

LOCATION Guy's, King's Denmark Hill and St Thomas' campuses, and Portsmouth University

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS See box

 www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/dentistry_graduate_professional_entry_programme

PROFILE

Students admitted: 30

Number of offers made: 1 in 7 applicants

Teaching style

This innovative entry route into dentistry is designed to enable graduates with honours degrees in biomedical-related science subjects and healthcare professionals with a degree, to study for a degree in dentistry on a four-year programme. See also Dentistry BDS entry on page 110.

Structure of programme

Students admitted to this programme will be exempt from the first year of the standard five-year programme A205 on the basis of their previous studies. Students will undertake a three to four week preparatory course in September 2011 before joining year two of the five-year programme. Examinations are held at the end of each year, and a percentage of the marks for each examination are derived from in-course assessment, which may take the form of essays, practical tests or project work.

Selection procedure

Selection procedures follow those determined for the five-year BDS programme. Applications must reach UCAS by 15 October 2010. A maximum of four choices on the UCAS form may be made for programmes which lead to a professional qualification in dentistry. All suitably qualified graduates with biomedical-related science or healthcare degrees, as judged by the Dental Institute, are eligible to apply. Approximately 30 places are available on the programme and applications from Channel Islands and overseas fee-paying graduates will be considered. Please see page 110 for more information on selection for this programme.

The UKCAT aptitude test

Please note that all applicants applying in 2010 for 2011 (or deferred 2012) entry are required to sit the UKCAT aptitude test in the summer of 2010, prior to applying to the Dentistry Graduate Professional Entry Programme. Please refer to the UKCAT website for details on registration at www.ukcat.ac.uk

Frequently asked questions

Can I apply for the four-year A202 and the five-year A205 programme?

As applicants to Dentistry are only allowed to list four dental choices on their UCAS form, we recommend to all suitably qualified graduate applicants that they apply for the shortened four-year programme A202 in the first instance. Suitably qualified applicants to A202, who have been interviewed, will also be considered for our five-year programme A205. As only approximately 30 places will

be available for September 2011 entry on the A202 programme, we expect many graduates will still be taught on the standard A205 programme.

Do I need specific A/AS-level passes or a particular class of degree to be accepted?

Graduate applicants do not normally have to satisfy the usual A/AS-level or other entry requirements (eg you are not expected to have AAA at A-level at the first attempt). However, the minimum entry requirement is an upper second class honours degree in a biomedical-related science or healthcare degree. Alternatively, a lower second class honours degree is acceptable combined with a master's degree (with at least a merit). Health service professionals with an honours degree, master's degree, PhD or equivalent qualification will be considered. Health service professionals without an honours degree, but with appropriate post-qualification experience, may be considered.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UCAS CODE
A202

COMPULSORY QUALIFICATIONS

At least an upper second class honours degree in a biomedical-related or health professional subject or a lower second in a biomedical-related or health professional subject with a graduate degree (with at least a merit)

APTITUDE TEST
UKCAT required

More information including requirements for 36 other countries can be found on our website www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus

Dentistry Entry Programme for Medical Graduates BDS



'Since I have been at King's, I have been impressed by its resources and levels of academic achievement and research. I am privileged to be taught by people of such eminence in their fields and have been enveloped in the wealth of experience and ambition of my colleagues and teachers. I feel greatly supported by my tutors, both academically and pastorally.'

Mehrnoosh Dastaran
Dentistry Entry Programme for
Medical Graduates BDS

KEY PROGRAMME DETAILS

UCAS CODE A204

STUDY MODE Full time

DURATION Three years

LOCATION Guy's, King's Denmark Hill and St Thomas' campuses, and Portsmouth University

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS See box

 www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/dentistry_entry_programme_for_medical_graduates

PROFILE

Students admitted: 7

Number of offers made: 1 in 4 applicants

This three-year dental degree programme is designed specifically for a very limited number of qualified doctors wishing to pursue a career in either oral and maxillofacial surgery or oral medicine/pathology.

Structure of programme

Students admitted to this programme will be exempt from the first two years of the standard five-year programme A205 on the basis of their previous studies. Students will undertake a two- to three-week preparatory course in September 2011 before joining year three of the five-year BDS programme.

Selection procedure

For 2011 entry, the application deadline at King's for A204 is 15 January 2011 and not the usual 15 October dental programme deadline. There are seven places available for this programme and candidates will be expected to demonstrate a firm commitment to a career in either oral and maxillofacial surgery or oral medicine/pathology.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UCAS CODE
A204

COMPULSORY QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a qualified doctor (registered with the GMC) wishing to pursue a career in either oral and maxillofacial surgery or oral medicine/pathology

APTITUDE TEST

None

More information including requirements for 36 other countries can be found on our website www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus