



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE,
DENTISTRY AND
BIOMEDICAL
SCIENCES

ADMISSION POLICY STATEMENT FOR DENTISTRY FOR 2026 ENTRY

**SHAPING A
BETTER WORLD
SINCE 1845**

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

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ADMISSION POLICY STATEMENT FOR DENTISTRY FOR 2026 ENTRY

Introduction

The University will provide equality of opportunity and treatment to all, regardless of a person's gender identity/expression (this includes Transgender and Non-Binary people); pregnancy or maternity status; marital or civil partnership status; whether or not they have dependants (including caring responsibilities); religious belief or political opinion; race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, including Irish Travellers); disability; sexual orientation and age. However, potential applicants should be aware that under the Dentists Act 1984 6 (2), the minimum age for inclusion on the GDC Dental Register on graduation is 21. This means that it is not possible to admit students on to the five-year programme under the age of 16.

Administration of Undergraduate Admissions

All applications should be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) by the closing date of 15 October 2025 at 6.00 pm (BST). Applications are handled by the Academic Lead for Admission to Dentistry in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences in conjunction with the Admissions and Access Service and the School Office. The Academic Lead for Admission to Dentistry has final responsibility for decisions on Dental applications. These can only be made on the basis of the information given and applicants must show due care and diligence when completing their applications. In particular, full details must be included about qualifications completed or still to be completed.

Applications are received from UCAS by the Admissions and Access Service and assessed for the Academic Lead for Admission to Dentistry. Any additional information required is obtained and recommendations are made regarding decisions (unsuccessful or interview), where possible. After the interviews are completed and with the approval of the Academic Lead for Admission to Dentistry, all decisions are transmitted to UCAS by the Admissions and Access Service. Requests for feedback are handled by the Admissions and Access Service.

In August, the processing of results and the final decisions to UCAS is also undertaken by the Admissions and Access Service. The Admissions and Access Service along with the University's Recruitment Officers are largely responsible for liaising with applicants and should be the first point of contact.

Admission Criteria

1 Selection Process

The selection process for Dentistry involves two stages:

Stage 1: Cognitive Ability:

- Consideration of previous academic performance, including school, college and university grades as appropriate

- For UK and ROI Home Fee applicants only, aptitude testing using the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

Stage 2: Non-Cognitive Ability

This will comprise interviews carefully designed to objectively evaluate non-cognitive skills. The purpose of the interview is to confirm whether the candidate has the aptitude, motivation and personal qualities to succeed as a dental student at Queen's University and as a dental professional in the future.

All applicants will be scored at Stage 1 of the selection process and ranked on the basis of their combined academic and UCAT score. From this, candidates will be selected for interview (Stage 2) and a final decision about whether or not to make an offer (conditional or unconditional) or unsuccessful will be based solely on interview performance.

2 **Interviews**

Interviews are designed to test the following:

- Resilience
- Maturity and Responsibility
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Confidence
- Self Awareness
- Empathy
- Ethical and moral values
- Professionalism and Integrity
- Awareness of the demands of training as a dental surgeon

Entry to dentistry is highly competitive and the scores at interview are used to create a rank order. Offers are made to the applicants who rank highest after interview. Should places be available in August, this rank order will also be the primary factor in considering candidates who have satisfied the academic criteria and are not holding an offer with any other Dental School through UCAS.

If candidates consider that they have a disability that would require reasonable adjustments it is important that they inform the University in advance and provide appropriate medical evidence.

Please note that if an applicant presents for interview, they will be deemed fit to participate in the interview process. If you are unwell and unable to participate in a scheduled interview, please contact the Centre for Dentistry School Office immediately (email: dentistry@qub.ac.uk or telephone: 028 9097 6268).

Retrospective adjustments will not be made. Any extenuating circumstances that may affect an applicant's performance at interview must be stated when booking the interview. Any aspects of the interviews that an applicant feels may have not been fairly or properly applied must be brought to the attention of the Director at dentistry@qub.ac.uk on the day of the interviews.

Home Fee applicants

Please note if you are assigned as a Home applicant (or likely to be classified as a Home applicant by 1 September in year of entry) for tuition fees purposes you will be **required** to attend for interview in Belfast.

International / European Union Other (non ROI) Fee applicants

Please note if you are assigned as an International / EU Other (non-ROI) applicant for tuition fees purposes you will be required to complete an online interview.

3 **UCAT (Home Fee candidates only)**

The University Clinical Aptitude Test is required for admission to Dentistry and must be taken during the summer prior to completion of the UCAS application. Full details of how to apply are provided on their website: www.ucat.ac.uk. Please note the website includes information on the bursary scheme (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/register/bursary-scheme>) and details of access arrangements (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/register/access-arrangements>) and guidance for applicants on what if they are ill on the day of their scheduled test.. The website includes information on arrangements for those with disabilities or medical conditions and guidance for applicants on what to do if they are ill on the day of their scheduled test. For Home Fee candidates UCAT will be scored using the overall results from four papers. Candidates can obtain up to a maximum of nine additional points.

For all Home fee candidates UCAT will be scored using the overall results. From 2026 entry onwards this overall score includes the score on the three sections (verbal reasoning, decision making and quantitative reasoning). The section on abstract reasoning has been removed. Candidates can obtain a maximum of nine additional points based on the decile rank they achieve based on the results published by UCAT in the 2025 application cycle for entry in September 2026. Preliminary deciles are published on the UCAT website in mid September and the final statistics are available on UCAT after the testing date. Final mean, centiles and deciles are published after testing ends. (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/results/ucat-results/>).

Banding of UCAT scores per centile recorded by UCAT for 2025 application cycle for entry in 2026	Points awarded as part of pre interview score for 2026 entry
≤10 th percentile	0
>10 th centile to ≤20 th centile	1
>20 th centile to ≤30 th centile	2
>30 th centile to ≤40 th centile	3
>40 th centile to ≤50 th centile	4
>50 th centile to ≤60 th centile	5
>60 th centile to ≤70 th centile	6
>70 th centile to ≤80 th centile	7
>80 th centile to ≤90 th centile	8
>90 th centile to ≤100 th centile	9

For Home Fee candidates UCAT is therefore taken into account at stage 1 of the selection process.

The UCAT Situational Judgement Test (SJT) can be used at two points to inform decisions:

- a. On borderline applicants who have achieved a similar combined academic and UCAT score.
- b. On borderline applicants who have achieved a similar score at interview.

UCAT is compulsory for all Home Fee applicants to Dentistry at QUB. The University will only grant exemptions in very exceptional circumstances and where appropriate supporting evidence is provided. Applicants who believe they qualify for an exemption should contact: ukcat-exemption@qub.ac.uk

Guidance on exemptions and reasonable adjustments:

Illness or Personal Circumstances	The UCAT Fitness to Test Policy states that: • Candidates who attend their test are declaring that they are fit to test. • Candidates experiencing illness/injury or personal circumstances that might adversely affect their performance on the day, should not sit the test. This applies even if they fall ill or experience issues on the day of their test. • Candidates unable to declare themselves fit to test, must contact the UCAT Office for advice and support before sitting their test. • If a candidate chooses to sit their test against this advice, UCAT will not normally take any action. Information regarding the Fitness to Test Policy: Full Policy: https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-us/policies/ Advice for candidates: https://www.ucat.ac.uk/sit/fitness-to-test/ Below is a list of circumstances that may affect fitness to test declarations. This list is not exhaustive. • Candidate illness or injury at or near the time of testing. • Flare-up or significant worsening of a candidate's existing disability or medical condition (i.e. difficulties over and above those related to any previously approved access arrangements) at or near the time of testing. • Death of a member of the candidate's immediate family (parent/carer, spouse, sibling or child), usually within 6 months of the latest test date. • Death of a member of the candidate's extended family (grandparent, aunt/uncle, cousin) or close friend, usually within 2 months of the latest test date. • A member of the candidate's immediate family (parent/carer, spouse, sibling or child) or extended family (grandparent, aunt/uncle, cousin) is affected by a significant illness at or near the time of testing. This
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	would normally involve a recent diagnosis of a life-threatening illness or the family member being towards the end stage of a terminal illness. • Serious crisis/incident leading to distress at or near the time of testing. • Safeguarding concerns at or near the time of testing. <i>Circumstances which are foreseeable or preventable are not considered.</i> Withdrawal of a Fitness to Test Declaration If a candidate has sat their test, UCAT will not normally take any action. On occasion, UCAT may allow a candidate to withdraw a fitness to test declaration after testing if they experienced exceptional mitigating circumstances very close to their test where their judgement was impaired, and they were unable to make a rational decision about whether they were well enough to test. Below is a list of circumstances that UCAT consider exceptional mitigating circumstances for the purposes of this policy. This list is not exhaustive. • If a candidate receives a notification about a significant bereavement immediately before their test it could reasonably be considered to result in a temporary lack of capacity to determine if they should take the test or not. • If a candidate experiences a mental health crisis such as a psychotic episode that leads to them lacking the capacity to make decisions in their best interest. • A candidate witnesses or is involved in a serious or fatal accident immediately before their test which seriously impacts on their capacity to make decisions. • The candidate takes a new type of medication on the morning of the test, and they do not immediately recognise that the side effects have had an impact on their cognitive function. • The candidate is a victim of a crime, such as theft and assault, immediately before their test and this has a severe impact on their mental state.
Geographical Circumstances	Candidates may be eligible to sit the OnVUE online proctored test if they live, work or are studying in a country where: • there is no test centre. • the nearest test centre is a significant distance or travel time away. • travel to a test centre is difficult because of pandemic, war, civil unrest or natural disaster. Pearson VUE cannot deliver online proctored exams to candidates with a registered address in China (including Macau), Cuba, Iran, North Korea, the province of Quebec (Canada), Sudan, Syria, Russia, Belarus and

	the Donetsk, Luhansk, Sevastopol, and Crimea regions of Ukraine. Candidates may not have the correct equipment or a stable internet connection to be able to test online. UCAT will consider the candidate's situation and advise on testing options. If online proctored testing is not possible due to their circumstances, they will be advised to contact their chosen Universities (with supporting evidence) for advice about their application.
Candidates Requiring Adjustments to the Test	UCAT will also consider requests for access arrangements: https://www.ucat.ac.uk/register/access-arrangements/ All requests for extra test time and/or rest breaks must be approved by the UCAT Office before an extended test can be booked.

4

Personal Statement and References

Personal statements are not scored as part of the selection process and the following general factors are taken into account when considering applications:-

- (i) Candidates are expected to state explicitly that Dentistry is their career choice. (Please note that an applicant cannot be considered for both Medicine and Dentistry).
- (ii) There should be evidence of commitment and motivation to follow a career in Dentistry.
- (iii) Work experience in a dental clinical setting is not a requirement for admission however, applicants are expected to show insight into the profession and enthusiasm to study the subject.
- (iv) UCAS uses software to detect plagiarism in personal statements. In instances where there is significant similarity both the university and the applicant are advised. For Dentistry, where a high level of integrity and trust is required, the Admissions and Access Service will write to the applicant (assuming that the application is likely to be given serious consideration on the basis of academic and other criteria). This letter will advise that a similarity detection warning has been received and will include a copy of the University's Policy on Procedures for Handling Similarity Detection Warnings. The applicant will be requested to provide a written explanation. When received, this will be forwarded to the Academic Lead for Admission to Dentistry who will decide on what action should be taken.
- (v) Satisfactory support from the academic referee, particularly relating to the applicant's character, resilience, suitability for the course, communication skills and initiative.

5 **Subject Requirements**

A-level requirements

AAA at A-level to include Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology. A-level Critical Thinking and General Studies are not acceptable.

GCSE Subject Requirements

Mathematics and English minimum grade C/4 are required if not offered at AS or A-level.

Alternative qualifications, deemed equivalent by the Dental School may be acceptable in fulfillment of the subject requirements.

6 **School-leavers Completing A-levels for the first time in 2026**

When decisions are being made both GCSE and UCAT performance (see 3 above) will be taken into account. GCSEs will be scored using a points system as shown below. The total points score will be based on results in the best nine subjects, at first attempt unless the GCSE was taken a year early and then repeated at the normal stage. Only GCSEs taken in Years 11 and 12 will be counted (Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales).

Scoring of Full GCSEs

Alphabetic Grading	Numeric Grading	Points
A*	9	4
A	7 and 8	3
B	6	2
C and C*	4 and 5	1

Scoring of GCSE Short Courses

Alphabetic Grading	Numeric Grading	Points
A*	9	2.0
A	7 and 8	1.5
B	6	1.0
C and C*	4 and 5	0.5

A maximum of one BTEC/OCR Level 2 qualifications will be considered equivalent to one or two GCSEs as appropriate, and taken into account. A decision as to how many points to award will be dependent on performance in individual units, as well as the overall result(s).

The UCAT score will then be added to this total (see paragraph 3 above). Candidates are then ranked on the combined GCSE/UCAT scores and the threshold required to qualify for an interview varies from year to year depending on competition for places and cannot be predicted in advance. The following table indicates where the threshold has been over the last five years:

2017	28 points and above
2018	30 points and above
2019	32 points and above
2020	32 points and above
2021	33 points and above
2022*	33 points and above
2023*	37 points and above
2024*	38 points and above
2025*	36 points and above

* Please note from 2022 grades B and C were scored for the first time and the threshold is not therefore directly comparable with previous years.

The pre interview score is calculated as a combined score based on the UCAT result and academic background. In past years a maximum of 36 points was available for the academic background and six points for the UCAT result (maximum of 42 points). Please be aware that the UCAT scoring must change for 2026 entry due to changes occurring in the UCAT itself. Hence the pre interview score will be out of a maximum of 45 points (36 points for academic background and nine points for the UCAT result) for 2026 entry (and not 42 points as previously recorded).

Additional grade As at GCSE may also be used to distinguish between applicants on the same points score, if necessary.

A-level module repeats within the normal two-year period between GCSE and A-level do not place applicants at any disadvantage. An A-level taken a year early would also be counted, but not those taken prior to this ie only A-levels taken in Years 13 and 14 (Years 12 and 13 in England and Wales) will contribute towards satisfying the normal entrance requirements. All three A-levels must normally be completed within two years of completion of GCSEs.

7 Widening Participation Initiatives and Contextualized Admissions

The Centre for Dentistry has two programmes in place to widen participation in dentistry for candidates from Northern Ireland.

(i) For those who completed their GCSEs in a Secondary School with a Northern Ireland BT postcode

Applicants who have been educated at a Secondary School in Northern Ireland to at least Year 12 will be shortlisted on the basis of AS-level grades (rather than GCSE performance) plus UCAT results and predicted A-level performance. This results in more students from this academic background progressing through to the interview stage.

You can check if your School qualifies for consideration under these arrangements at:

<http://apps.education-ni.gov.uk/appinstitutes/default.aspx>

(ii) **Pathway Opportunity Programme (POP) - School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences pathway**

The School is participating in the University's Pathway Opportunity Programme. Throughout Years 13 and 14, students accepted onto the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences pathway will benefit from a structured series of events designed to prepare them for the transition to undergraduate study at Queen's, including insight into academic and extracurricular aspects of student life, admissions guidance and support and a one-week residential summer school. Students will complete assessed work and those who are successful will receive a guaranteed interview and a possible offer of one A Level grade below the normal target. Specific details of the eligibility criteria used for selection for this pathway are on the Pathway Opportunity Programme website. This programme is only open to applicants with a BT postcode and attending a school within Northern Ireland.

Full details are on the website:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpu/Post16Programmes/PathwayOpportunityProgramme/>

(iii) **Pathway Opportunity Programme (POP) - other pathways**

Applicants who have successfully completed any other POP programme at Queen's University and have the potential to satisfy the normal academic requirements will receive a guaranteed interview. The normal entry requirements will apply.

Full details are on the website:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpu/Post16Programmes/PathwayOpportunityProgramme/>

The Centre for Dentistry will monitor the performance of students admitted through a Widening Participation stream.

8 **Repeat Candidates (also see 14 and 18 below)**

Due to the competition for places the number of offers made to students resitting A-levels has to be restricted. Only those who had applied to study Dentistry at Queen's at the first attempt and held an offer (if made) as their Conditional firm (CF) choice are considered. In addition, to having applied for Dentistry at Queen's in their first sitting of A-level, they must have achieved AAB at first attempt or a maximum of one A-level grade below the standard accepted in the previous year, if lower. The offer for repeat candidates is AAA at A-level provided both A-level Biology and Chemistry are offered (see paragraph 5 above). Only two attempts at A-levels will be permitted.

For repeat candidates at Stage One, 36 points will be allocated for meeting the above criteria and points then awarded according to performance in UCAT (as indicated above in Section 3) to give an overall score for short listing purposes. UCAT must be retaken as it is only valid for one application cycle.

9 **Applicants who have already Satisfied Academic Requirements (Please also refer to 14 and 18 below)**

Applications from candidates who have already achieved the normal academic requirements in their second level examinations, for example AAA at A-level including Biology and Chemistry and are applying for Dentistry for a second time, will only be considered if they included Queen's as one of their Dental choices first time round ie evidence of commitment to the University is important from the outset. Such candidates who have satisfied the subject requirements, will be awarded 36 points at Stage One. Points will then be awarded according to performance in UCAT (as indicated above in Section 3) to give an overall score for shortlisting purposes. UCAT must be retaken as it is only valid for one application cycle.

Applications from candidates who have already achieved the normal academic requirements in their second level examinations (as above) will also be considered if they have never applied through UCAS for dentistry before and are therefore applying to this subject for the first time because of a change in career plans. UCAT must be also be taken.

10 **Mature Non-Graduate Entry**

Applications from candidates who have had a significant break in study and who are returning to undertake further qualifications are considered individually on their merits taking into account academic background and UCAT score in short listing for interview. Where offers are made, the normal A-level requirements apply and applicants must also have the appropriate background in the relevant subjects at GCSE to fulfil the course requirements. The UCAT and the dental interview must be taken during the year of application.

Access Course qualifications are not acceptable.

11 **Graduate Applicants (also see 17 below)**

Graduate applicants are considered for the normal five-year programme. In making decisions on graduate applications, the full academic background is taken into account. Applicants must have achieved, or have the potential to achieve, at least an Upper Second Class Honours classification in their first undergraduate degree and an average of BBB at A-level/B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 B2/H3 H3 H3 H3 H3 H3 at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate/BBBBB in Scottish Highers at the first attempt (candidates who have taken Advanced Highers must also have a minimum grade B at first attempt in any subject taken). In the case of candidates with a First Class Honours degree or a PhD (plus an Upper Second Class Honours degree), a minimum of BBC at A-level or equivalent in other qualifications at the first attempt will be acceptable.

Applicants applying for a second time for entry as a graduate will only be considered if they included Queen's as one of their Dental choices when making their first application as a graduate. This includes any attempt made during the final year of their first undergraduate degree programme.

Candidates must have a relevant science background. This must include Chemistry and Biology at A-level or acceptable alternative. A grade C at A-level or B2/H3 at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate is the lowest grade that will be considered in either Chemistry or Biology.

For graduates (and those applying in the final year of their degree), at Stage One, 36 points are currently allocated for meeting the academic criteria required to qualify for consideration and points then awarded according to performance in UCAT (as indicated above in Section 3) to give an overall score for short listing purposes.

Applicants from a non-science background but who fulfil the conditions in terms of grades at A-level at the first attempt and degree performance will be considered if they undertake the appropriate science qualifications on completion of their degree. Such candidates are advised to contact the Admissions and Access Service for guidance.

12 **School Leavers Completing Irish Leaving Certificate Applicants for the First Time in 2026**

When shortlisting applicants for interview performance in the best nine Junior Certificate subjects and UCAT performance (see Section 3 above) are important and these are scored.

Junior Certificate Grade		Points Awarded
Old Grading System	New Grading System	
A	Distinction	4
B	Higher Merit	3
C	Merit	1

Where offers are made these are conditional on obtaining H1 H1 (Biology and Chemistry) H1 H1 H2 H2 at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate. Grade 03 in English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level are required if not offered at Higher Level.

13 **School Leavers Completing Scottish Applicants Advanced Highers for the First Time in 2026**

When short listing applicants for interview, previous academic performance and UCAT are important and will be scored. Applicants with a minimum of ABBBB in Scottish Highers are given serious consideration.

Scottish Highers (Grades achieved at first attempt)	Points	Advanced Higher grades required if shortlisted for an offer
ABBBB	28	AAA
AABBB	30	AAA
AAABB	32	AAA
AAAAB	34	AAB
AAAAA	36	AA

Where conditional offers are made, the standard specified in Advanced Highers is dependent on performance in Scottish Highers and are set out in the above table. In all cases, Advanced Higher Chemistry grade A and Advanced Higher Biology grade A are required. Three Advanced Highers are necessary unless applicants achieved five A grades in their Highers.

If not taken as an Higher or Advanced Higher, Standard Grade or Intermediate 2 or National 5 English and Mathematics are also necessary.

14 **Starting an Alternative Degree Course**

Applicants who had initially applied for Dentistry and who are either repeating A-levels or who have already achieved the relevant A and AS-level qualifications, are strongly advised not to commence an alternative degree course. If they have done so, then applicants will be required to complete the year in full and to pass all examinations at first attempt with a weighted average mark of 60% (UK 2:1 standard or an acceptable equivalent as deemed by Queen's University) by July of the appropriate application cycle.

In addition, applicants who had not previously applied for Dentistry and who have already achieved relevant A and AS-level qualifications, are strongly advised not to commence an alternative degree course. If they have done so, then applicants will be required to complete the year in full and to pass all examinations at first attempt with a weighted average mark of 60% (UK 2:1 standard or an acceptable equivalent as deemed by Queen's University) by July of the appropriate application cycle.

Please note these criteria are under review for the 2027 application cycle.

15 **International Applicants**

All applicants who do not qualify for Home fee status will be deemed to be international. In order to qualify for Home fee status, both of the following criteria must be met prior to the first day of the first academic year of the course:

- You must be 'settled' in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of the course. To be 'settled' you must either have the Right of Abode or Indefinite Leave to Enter or Remain in the UK; or be a British or Irish citizen. EU/EEA/Swiss nationals (and their relevant family members) who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme, or the relevant family member of a 'settled person' may also qualify depending on the individual's circumstances;
and
- You must have been ordinarily resident in the UK/EEA/Switzerland/Gibraltar for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of the course, for purposes other than receiving full time education. For courses starting between 1 August and 31 December, the first day of the academic year is defined as 1 September.

Dentistry has 15 places for International students. In shortlisting for interview, previous academic background, predicted grades in any qualifications still to be completed, evidence of proficiency in English, the academic reference and personal statement will be taken into consideration. International applicants are not required to complete UCAT, and it is not used as part of our selection criteria. Applications will be considered holistically; no scoring system is used and the different factors are not weighted.

If an applicant is made an offer in one tuition fee status and their subsequent fee status changes this may lead to the applicant's offer having to be withdrawn due to the fixed number of places in each tuition fee category.

Where applicants have not previously taken any formal examinations (eg either GCSEs or O-levels) they will be considered on the basis of High School reports and this information will also be used to assess whether or not they are able to fulfil subject requirements eg GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Where offers are made, the requirements are currently AAA (including Chemistry and Biology) at A-level or equivalent in terms of other qualifications. The normal subject requirements apply. In the case of the International Baccalaureate Diploma, an overall score of 36 points is required with 6,6,6 (to include Chemistry and Biology) at Higher Level. A range of other qualifications including Canadian or Australian High School Diplomas and the HKDSE are also accepted. **Please see the 'Qualifications Table – International' below for further information. Guidance in relation to the comparability of international qualifications can be found at:**

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/international-students/your-country/>

Online interviews are used and international applicants are not required to travel to Belfast. Candidates should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice on entry requirements at intl.admissions@qub.ac.uk.

All applicants are required to provide the required evidence of proficiency in English Language.

16 **Applicants who have previously withdrawn from Dentistry**

Applicants who previously commenced a Dental degree at any University and have chosen to withdraw or have failed exams or been asked to withdraw from the course for any reason will not normally be considered.

In the interests of patient and public safety, and to prevent fraudulent applications to courses which lead to entry to a registered profession in the UK, we wish to share some of the information provided in your application form with the Medical, Dental, Pharmacy and Veterinary Schools Councils. If a fitness to practise outcome is made against you in the future, this information and a copy of the decision against you will also be stored on a central database which is accessible only to other schools with courses leading to entry to a registered profession in the UK. It is used only for proper fitness to practise purposes to protect patients and the public, and to prevent fraudulent applications. Where an offer is made, this is conditional on you having disclosed any previous fitness to practise outcomes against you, and your consent being given to this use of information. You have a right of access to any information held about you on the database and to correct any errors.

The University may check information provided in your application form with the database maintained by the Dental Schools Council in relation to students who have been excluded through Fitness to Practise procedures.

The outcome of fitness to practise (FtP) proceedings may be shared with the General Dental Council, Dental Schools Council, Postgraduate Deaneries and the host trust(s) who provide clinical training placements.

17 **Transfer from other Dental Schools**

Home Transfers

Dental Schools do not accept transfers of students from other schools. This is because the requirements for graduation defined by the General Dental Council (GDC) are not taught and assessed in a similar order. Government capped places would also be disrupted by student transfers.

Schools may consider transfers for students in unforeseen exceptional circumstances with approval of both the sending and receiving programmes. In most cases the student would need to re-start from year one for the reasons described previously.

The Dental Schools Council (DSC) encourages prospective students to consider the intensity of oral healthcare courses and their potential geographical distance from their support networks, when applying for dental school.

All normal entry requirements must be satisfied and applicants must apply via UCAS by the normal application deadline.

International transfers

Students from a dental school outside the UK are unable to transfer into a programme in a UK dental school. This is because international programmes follow their local regulatory requirements which are likely to differ from those in the UK.

All normal entry requirements must be satisfied and applicants must apply via UCAS by the normal application deadline.

18 Number of Attempts (Applications Permitted)

In view of the competition for places, it is the policy of the Dental School to allow a maximum of four attempts (ie applications in four different UCAS admissions cycles) overall (including applications made to other Dental Schools) to gain admission and not more than two at A-level (or equivalent) or graduate level (includes applications submitted in final year of degree studies).

19 Age at Graduation

It is a requirement within the Dentists Act 1984 6 (2): "Notwithstanding anything in any enactment, charter or other document, a dental authority (*University*) shall not grant a degree or licence in dentistry to a person who has not attained the age of 21 years."

20 Professional Nature of the Course

Dental students must demonstrate during their undergraduate course that they have the knowledge, skills and attitudes expected of a registered dentist. Students must be aware that unprofessional behaviour or serious health problems during their dental training can affect their ability to be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) and to start practising. The GDC is responsible for decisions regarding registration and may consider any issue that could call the fitness to practise of a student into question. This includes anything that happened before or during their education and training, and any decisions made under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. Candidates are therefore required to declare any criminal offences and other related matters including cautions (where these are not deemed "protected" see guidance on Access NI website:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/accessni/disclosures/filtering.htm>

Entry to the undergraduate dental course will be conditional on a satisfactory criminal records check. International applicants are also required to produce appropriate evidence eg a Certificate of Good Conduct, before admission to the degree and to declare any criminal offences and other related matters including cautions.

Students entering the dental course will also be expected to sign a Student Agreement every year which places an emphasis on the continuing need for professional behaviour and a requirement to declare any convictions or cautions.

All potential applicants should ensure they are familiar with the following two documents which are available on the General Dental Council website: "Student Fitness to Practise" and "Standards for Dental Professionals" (available at www.gdc-uk.org).

Disability

A disability need not bar a candidate from becoming a dentist provided that they have the potential to fulfill the demands of practising as a dental surgeon. Due to the professional nature of the dental undergraduate programme candidates with a known disability must indicate this in their UCAS application and may be asked to provide additional information.

Applicants are required to declare a history of any physical or mental disorder. All such applications will be considered on a case by case basis. If the candidate meets the normal academic criteria for admission to the course but there are concerns over issues relating to health, a special advisory committee separate from the normal admission procedures will be convened. This Committee will take advice from the Occupational Health Service before reaching a decision. Candidates with a disability are strongly advised to read the guidance document produced by the Dental Schools Council and Higher Education Occupational Physicians/Practitioners:

<http://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Dental-Schools-Council-and-HEOPs-policy-on-Reasonable-Adjustments.pdf>

Health Assessment**Exposure prone procedures (EPPs)**

EPPs are defined as ‘those invasive procedures where there is a risk that injury to the worker may result in the exposure of the patient’s open tissues to the blood of the worker. These include procedures where the worker’s gloved hands may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (e.g. spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient’s open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands may not be completely visible at all times’. The dental undergraduate course entails extensive clinical practice involving EPPs. Dental students must gain competence in a wide range of EPPs as this is a requirement for gaining GDC registration following graduation.

Additional Health Clearance

All undergraduate dental students must undergo additional health clearance **before acceptance onto the course**. Additional health clearance stipulates that individuals must be non-infectious for HIV (antibody negative or on effective combination antiretroviral therapy [cART] and having a plasma viral load <200 copies/ml, or be an elite controller), hepatitis B (surface antigen negative or, if positive, e-antigen negative with a viral load of 200 IU/ml or less) and hepatitis C (antibody negative or, if positive, negative for hepatitis C RNA).

International applicants transferring to the UK will need to conform to the same testing arrangements as all other entrants to Queen’s University dental school.

It should be noted that potential applicants who are found to be infectious carriers of hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV and who are successfully treated and appropriately monitored for their BBV infection will then become eligible to perform EPPs and therefore to apply for admission to dental school.

Candidates who meet the academic conditions of their offer and accept a place will be required to undergo appropriate screening before enrolment in order to demonstrate they meet the satisfactory health clearance condition.

Tuberculosis

Additional health clearance also includes evidence of satisfactory BCG vaccination or Mantoux test result.

The performance of the BBV tests and other tests will be available from the University Occupational Health Service immediately prior to registration for the first year of study. Dental candidates may attend the University Occupational Health Service, by appointment, (Tel:02890 975520) for testing.

Qualifications Table – United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Candidates – School qualifications

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
A and AS-levels For those completing A-levels for the first time in 2026	GCSEs will be scored over the best nine subjects: Alphabetic grading: A* grade = 4 points A grade = 3 points B grade = 2 points C and C* grades = 1 point Numeric grading: 9 grade = 4 points 7 and 8 grades = 3 points 6 grade = 2 points 4 and 5 grades = 1 point GCSE Short courses = half of the points indicated above. A maximum of one BTEC/OCR Level 2 qualification will be considered equivalent to one or two GCSEs as appropriate. Points awarded will be dependent on performance in individual units as well as overall result.	AAA at A-level including A-level Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology.	GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics and English. Only GCSEs taken in Years 11 or 12 will be counted (Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales). Only AS/A-levels taken in Years 13 or 14 will be counted (Years 12 and 13 in England and Wales). All three A-levels must normally be completed within two years of completion of GCSEs. Only two attempts at application for entry to Dentistry through UCAS will be accepted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second application (see below).

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
Post A-level – those who have already satisfied our normal requirements	Those who have already completed their A-levels in appropriate subjects and achieved the normal A-level target grades for admission at first attempt (see above). 36 points will be awarded.	Unconditional if all subjects and grades achieved and have not commenced an alternative degree. For applicants who commence an alternative degree please see Section 14	If applied for Dentistry through UCAS previously must have included Dentistry at Queen's as one of the choices first time round. Only two attempts permitted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. This includes applications to other Dental Schools.
Post A-level who are undertaking additional qualifications to satisfy subject requirements	Those who have achieved the appropriate grades at first attempt but are taking an additional A/AS-level(s) or GCSE(s) in order to meet the subject requirements. Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important. 36 points will be awarded.	Conditional on achieving at least a grade A in relevant subject if an additional A-level is required to meet the subject requirements. Conditional on achieving at least a grade C/4 in relevant subject if a GCSE is required to meet the subject requirements.	If applied for Dentistry through UCAS previously must have included Dentistry at Queen's as one of the choices first time round. Only two attempts permitted on the basis of A/AS-level qualifications. This includes applications to other Dental Schools.
Resitting A-levels	AAB at A-level or a maximum of one A-level grade below the standard accepted in the previous year, if lower. 36 points will be awarded.	A grade in whichever A-level is required.	Must have applied to QUB for Dentistry at first attempt and if made an offer must have accepted as Conditional Firm (CF) choice. Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important.

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
Irish Leaving Certificate (being completed for the first time in 2026)	Junior Certificate – best 9 subjects: Alphabetic grading: A grade = 4 points B grade = 3 points C grade = 1 point Or for the new grading system: Distinction = 4 points Higher Merit = 3 points Merit = 1 point	H1 H1 (Biology and Chemistry) H1 H1 H2 H2 at higher level in Leaving Certificate.	Grades O4 in English and Mathematics at ordinary level are required if not offered at higher level. Only two attempts at application for entry to Dentistry through UCAS will be accepted on the basis of Leaving Certificate qualifications. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second attempt. Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service if repeating Leaving Certificate since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important.
Scottish qualifications (for those completing Scottish Advanced Highers for the first time in 2026)	A minimum of ABBBB in Scottish Highers at the first attempt is required. Applicants will be scored as follows ABBBB = 28 points AABBB = 30 points AAABB = 32 points AAAAB = 34 points AAAAA = 36 points	Advanced Highers: AA (for those with AAAAA at Highers) All other candidates need three Advanced Highers: AAB (for those with AAAAB in Highers) AAA (for those with ABBBB- AAABB in Highers)	Advanced Highers must include A grades in Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology. In addition, Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 or National 5 English and Mathematics. Only two attempts at application for entry to Dentistry through UCAS will be accepted. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second attempt. Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service if repeating since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important.

Qualification	Scoring for Academic Ranking (Stage One)	A ranked list will be created after interview. Offers where made, will be on the following basis:	Any additional information or subject requirements
International Baccalaureate	GCSEs will be scored over the best nine subjects: Alphabetic grading: A* grade = 4 points A grade = 3 points B grade = 2 points C and C* grades = 1 point Numeric grading: 9 grade = 4 points 7 and 8 grades = 3 points 6 grade = 2 points 4 and 5 grades = 1 point GCSE Short courses = half of the points indicated above. A maximum of one BTEC/OCR Level 2 qualification will be considered equivalent to one or two GCSEs as appropriate. Points awarded will be dependent on performance in individual units as well as overall result.	36 points with 6,6,6 to include Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level	GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics and English. Only GCSEs taken in Years 11 or 12 will be counted (Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales). Only two attempts at application for entry to Dentistry through UCAS will be accepted on the basis of the International Baccalaureate. Please note that certain conditions apply if it is a second application (see below). Please seek advice from Admissions and Access Service if repeating since performance in the other subjects at the first attempt is important.

Graduates:

General: A 2.2 Honours degree will not be considered including those who have completed a postgraduate qualification. Only two attempts at admission will be permitted as a graduate (includes applications submitted in the final year of degree course) to this or any other Dental School and only those who applied to QUB for Dentistry on their first application as a graduate/expected graduate will be considered.

Qualifications Prior to Degree	Degree outcome	Points awarded	Subject requirements
Minimum of BBB/ABC at first attempt (ie two years post GCSE) at A-levels (or equivalent)	2.1 Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation prior to admission in your first primary degree	36	A-levels must include Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology. The minimum grade accepted for Chemistry and Biology is a grade C. GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics and English. Graduate applicants from a non-Science A-level background should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice about additional qualifications required, provided they have the grades specified in their other subjects at the first attempt. No specific degree subject required.
Candidates with BBC at first attempt (ie two years post GCSE) at A-levels (or equivalent)	First Class Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation prior to admission in your first primary degree OR 2.1 Honours degree in your first primary degree plus PhD	36	A-levels must include Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology. The minimum grade accepted for Chemistry and Biology is a grade C. GCSE grade C/4 in Mathematics and English. Graduate applicants from a non-Science A-level background should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice about additional qualifications required, provided they have the grades specified in their other subjects at the first attempt. No specific degree subject required.

Qualifications Prior to Degree	Degree outcome	Points awarded	Subject requirements
Irish Leaving Certificate grades B2 B2 B2 B2 B2 or H3 H3 H3 H3 H3 or better at first attempt of Leaving Certificate	2.1 Honours degree or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission.	36	Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level minimum grade HB2/H3. English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level grade OC/O4 are required if not offered at Higher Level. Graduate applicants without the appropriate Science background should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice about additional qualifications required, provided they have the grades specified in their other subjects at the first attempt. No specific degree subject required.
Irish Leaving Certificate grades B2 B2 B2 B2 C2 C2 or H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 or better at first attempt of Leaving Certificate	First Class Honours or potential to achieve on graduation on completion of programme prior to admission. OR 2.1 Honours degree plus PhD	36	Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level minimum grade HB2/H3. English and Mathematics at Ordinary Level grade OC/O4 are required if not offered at Higher Level. Graduate applicants without the appropriate Science background should contact the Admissions and Access Service for advice about additional qualifications required, provided they have the grades specified in their other subjects at the first attempt. No specific degree subject required.

Qualifications Table – International

General: Please note that in shortlisting international applicants for interview a number of factors are taken into account, so previous academic performance (while important) is not scored as outlined for Home (UK and ROI) applicants above. Where applicants have not previously taken any formal examination (eg either GCSEs or O-levels) they will be considered on the basis of High School reports and this information will also be used to assess previous academic performance, and fulfilment of subject requirements eg GCSE Mathematics or equivalent. Where applicants have taken a small number of GCSEs we can consider a combination of GCSEs and Grade 10 High School reports. Please note that individual subjects will only be considered once, and that a GCSE grade result achieved will take precedence over any High School report score in the same subject.		
Qualification	Offer	Subject Requirements
A-levels	AAA (Chemistry and Biology) at A-level	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level.
Singapore/Cambridge A-Levels	AAA (Chemistry and Biology) in H2 Level subjects	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level
STPM (Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia)	AA (Chemistry and Biology) and A in another subject excluding Pengajian Am (General Studies) and Bahasa Melayu (Malay Language)	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level
International Baccalaureate Diploma	36 points overall with 6,6,6 (to include Chemistry and Biology) at Higher Level	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level
Canadian High School Graduation Diploma	Minimum of 90% overall at Grade 12 including marks of at least 90% in Grade 12 Chemistry and Biology	Evidence of study of Mathematics if not taken In Year 12, preferably to Year 11 standard
USA High School Diploma	Minimum GPA of 3.5 out of 4.00 plus 4 Advanced Placement (AP) Tests with Grades of 5,5 (Chemistry and Biology) 5,4 or higher will be necessary Grade 12 Honours/College courses are not accepted in lieu of AP tests for entry to Dentistry.	AP Tests are preferred though SAT subject Tests may be accepted in lieu. Evidence of study of Mathematics if not taken in Year 12, preferably to Year 11 standard

General: Please note that in shortlisting international applicants for interview a number of factors are taken into account, so previous academic performance (while important) is not scored as outlined for Home (UK and ROI) applicants above.

Where applicants have not previously taken any formal examination (eg either GCSEs or O-levels) they will be considered on the basis of High School reports and this information will also be used to assess previous academic performance, and fulfilment of subject requirements eg GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Where applicants have taken a small number of GCSEs we can consider a combination of GCSEs and Grade 10 High School reports. Please note that individual subjects will only be considered once, and that a GCSE grade result achieved will take precedence over any High School report score in the same subject.

Qualification	Offer	Subject Requirements
Hong Kong Diploma in Secondary Education (HKDSE)	HKDSE with Grade 5 in both Chemistry and Biology plus Grade 5 in another Category A core or elective subject (excluding Liberal Studies, Chinese Language and English Language). Where Mathematics is offered as one of three HKDSE subjects the compulsory and extended/optional components must have been taken, with the specified grade obtained in both elements. Chemistry must be offered as a separate subject, and may be considered with Combined Science (Biology and Physics).	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level. If formal GCSE examinations have not been taken, school reports may be considered as evidence of studies at this level
Indian Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (Standard XII)	Grade XII with 90% overall including marks of at least 90% in Chemistry and Biology	Grade X (A1-C2) in Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level
Australian High School Certificate (Year 12)	Australian School Leaving Certificate (Year 12) with ATAR at 97.5 or higher (including A grades in Chemistry and Biology). *Queensland Certificate of Education with Very High/High Achievement (including Chemistry and Biology), plus Overall Position Band 1 or 2.	GCSE Mathematics and English (or equivalent) are required, if not offered beyond this Level.
Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)	Successful completion of CAPE with Grade 1 in all units undertaken, including three Double unit courses to include Chemistry and Biology.	Mathematics to GCSE Grade C/4 standard also required - Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate with Grades I-III at General Proficiency comparable to GCSE Grades A*-C
Singaporean Diploma in Biomedical Science or Biotechnology	Minimum overall CGPA of 3.85 on a scale of 4.0 may be considered.	GCSE/SPM/O-Level (or equivalent) Grade C/4 Mathematics is required if not offered beyond this level
Degree or due to complete Degree	For those who have already completed or are due to complete a degree, both school and University qualifications are taken into account. A minimum of a UK 2.1 Honours degree, 78% in a Canadian degree (four year programme), CGPA of 3.3 on a scale of 4 or equivalent is required	Appropriate background at School level in science subjects is required – see requirements for different qualifications above. No specific degree subject required.

English Requirements for International Candidates:

Appropriate evidence of proficiency in English language is required. Most commonly accepted qualifications are:

Qualification	Minimum Score(s) Required
O-Level/IGCSE/GCSE	Grade C provided qualification includes assessment of Speaking and Listening. To be competitive a higher grade is normally necessary
IELTS Academic	Overall score of 7.5 with a minimum of 7.0 in speaking and listening and 6.0 in reading and writing, taken within two years of the course start date
TOEFL IBT	105, with not less than 24 – Listening; 21 – Reading; 23 – Speaking; 23 – Writing, taken within two years of the course start date
Cambridge GCE O Level English Language syllabus (UCLES)	Pre-2021: 1119 English with an overall grade of A2 or higher Post-2021: 1119 English with an overall grade of A2 or higher and with grades C2 in each of the four language sub-skills
International Baccalaureate Diploma: English	English A - Standard Level – Grade 7 Higher Level – Grade 6 English B – Standard Level – Not Accepted Higher Level – Grade 7