

Course Summary: December 8, 2020

Oral and Dental Health Sciences (Dental Hygiene and Therapy)

BSc Honours

- UCAS code: **A207**
- Full time
- 3 years
- Next start date: **September 2021**

Prepare for a career as a caring and competent dental hygienist and therapist benefiting from research-led teaching in world-class facilities.

Fees (per year)

- Home: **£9250**
- International: **£37800**

Entry requirements

- A Level: **ABB**
- IB: **34 points**

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Course overview

Our students are helping transform the oral health of local communities. You'll help patients avoid and manage oral disease by promoting good oral health and providing treatments. This degree will provide you with the practical, theoretical and professional skills required for this role.

At Newcastle our work has worldwide impact and you'll be taught by some of the top academics and internationally renowned experts in their field.

This degree begins with a foundation in biomedical sciences, providing a basis for clinical work as the course progresses. You'll study advanced topics such as human disease, managing medical emergencies, and health promotion.

COVID-19

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the courses, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to COVID-19.

[See our terms and conditions for more information](#)

[View our Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Quality and ranking

- 4th in the UK – The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020
- 4th in the UK – The Complete University Guide 2021
- 97% overall student satisfaction score – National Student Survey 2019
- top 50 – Dentistry category – QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020

- top 25% in the UK for world-class research – Research Excellence Framework 2014
- top 150 – Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health category – Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2020

Professional accreditation

This course is professionally accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC), which means it meets the standards set by the dental regulator.

Visit the [General Dental Council's website](#) for more information.

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.



Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year.

This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#).

In Stage 1, you'll study basic biomedical sciences, providing a foundation for clinical work in later stages.

Topics include: aetiology; physiology; pathology and presentation of oral disease; dental, oral, and craniofacial anatomy; behavioural science and communication; basic pharmacology; and dental materials science.

You'll also cover study skills, evidence-based practice, critical appraisal of research, infection transmission and control, professionalism and ethics, health and safety, and medico-legal considerations. You'll begin to learn clinical skills during term 3, in a simulated clinical environment using manikins.

You'll begin to develop your clinical practice, which begins with an intensive clinical introductory course and continues with clinical attachments to a variety of clinics within the Newcastle Dental Hospital.

During the clinical attachments, you'll learn specific skills relating to patient assessment, such as clinical examination and history taking.

Running alongside the clinical attachments is lecture-based teaching in:

- human diseases and the management of medical emergencies
- pharmacology
- aspects of dental health education
- health promotion and disease prevention education
- diet and nutrition

- clinical investigations
- treatment plan delivery
- professional standards and expectations

You'll experience more varied clinical attachments, extending your experience and enhancing your clinical practice.

You'll attend restorative and paediatric diagnostic clinics and develop enhanced skills, for example, in:

- diagnostic skills
- radiography
- management of patient anxiety
- extraction of the primary dentition

Electives

An optional elective period at the end of Stage 2 gives you the opportunity to organise a few weeks studying outside Newcastle. In recent years this has taken students all over the world.

[Find out more about elective opportunities](#)

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

Teaching is by a combination of:

- lectures and seminars
- laboratory demonstrations (including closed-circuit TV)
- practical laboratory work
- clinical demonstrations

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assessments
- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Case studies
- Coursework
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Portfolio submission
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reports

Skills and experience

Practical skills

Clinical work forms a large part of your study programme, helping you develop professional skills for your future career.

In your first year, you'll begin clinical training. From your second year, you'll be treating patients at Newcastle Dental Hospital and other clinics, under the supervision of our expert dental team.

Facilities and environment

Facilities

Based within Newcastle Dental Hospital, [The School of Dental Sciences](#) at Newcastle is one of the most modern and best equipped in the country. By training in one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the country you'll gain a true insight into your future profession.

Our School is part of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, which is also home to Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Psychology and Pharmacy, encouraging inter-professional collaboration.

Clinical training facilities

You'll access cutting-edge clinical training facilities, comprising of a:

- conservation clinic
- cell and molecular biosciences laboratory
- children's clinic
- clinical skills unit
- Fell Cluster
- dental learning resource unit

Research laboratories

Within the School there are a range of research laboratories, undertaking work in:

- oral biology
- anthropology
- dental materials science

We also have a dedicated clinical research facility. We can offer clinical training and research opportunities of the highest international standard.

Find out about our laboratories and research facility at the [Centre for Oral Health Research](#).

We also foster strong collaboration with research institutes in the Medical School and University.

Take a [virtual tour](#) of our dental teaching and learning facilities.

Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have, when starting university.

Your future

Successful graduates from our Oral and Dental Health Sciences degree – subject to registration with the GDC – are eligible to begin working as a dental hygienist therapist.

Areas where graduates have found employment include: general dental practice; industry; community dental services; hospital dental services; and the armed forces.

Being a dental hygienist therapist is a rewarding career that helps people take care of their oral health and avoid disease.

Duties include:

- evaluating the dental and medical history of patients and planning their care
- providing preventative oral care
- non-surgical management of periodontal (gum) disease
- managing plaque-related diseases
- extracting deciduous teeth and restoration of teeth
- taking impressions and radiographs
- the application to teeth and gums of certain medicaments such as fluoride and fissure sealants
- teaching of oral hygiene methods
- providing advice on diet and smoking cessation

- scaling and polishing

Please note: to practise in the UK, dental hygienist therapists are required to enter their names in the [Register for Dental Hygienist Therapists](#), which is kept by the Registrar of the General Dental Council. There is a registration fee and annual retention fee for this registration.

Make a difference

Careers support

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Additional information

Transfer to our Dental Surgery degree

Any student registered on this degree may be eligible to apply to transfer to the first year of our Dental Surgery BDS degree at the end of their first year.

This scheme is highly competitive with a limited number of places available each year. To apply you must achieve a Merit in all assessments and have an A level in Chemistry (or equivalent qualification).

You will be interviewed as part of the application process and must have a valid UCAT test score.

[Find out about admissions testing for UK health professions.](#)

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit
www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle
- Visit **www.ncl.ac.uk/tour** to take virtual tours of the campus and city
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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