

SO, YOU'RE CONSIDERING BEING A **DENTIST**?

Studying dentistry will lead you to an amazing life-long flexible career that is enjoyable, versatile and hands on. It allows you to engage and communicate with all types of patients. Thinking of the practical sides of things, most dentists are self-employed which gives you flexibility of your hours and the days you work. On the whole, you will be working 9 to 5 hours meaning you can '*actually have a social life*' whilst being rewarded for the work you put in.



WHAT'S THE **APPLICATION PROCESS** LIKE?

Try and simplify it for yourself. Create yourself a tick-box checklist so that when you are writing you're applying and writing a CV you include all the main points. Areas to think about include;

- Why am I doing dentistry?
- Grades – have I met, or on track for meeting them to get in. (GCSE, A-Levels, UCAT)
- Work experience – most universities have minimum 'recommendations'
- Voluntary work
- Manual dexterity
- Sporting activities and other interests
- Team leadership and teamwork
- Interview

What you want to be showing is that you are an all rounded talented individual that can really engage with the course, *it's as simple as that*. For the interview process, ask different people to practice questions and have a conversation with you. Avoid just memorising paragraphs of answers, but do have a good idea of what questions that they can ask you and practice how you would respond to them.

WORRIED THERE IS TOO MUCH **HARD WORK** AT UNIVERSITY?

Doing well at anything '*in life*' will need some form of dedication and motivation. Whether it's working hard to perfect being a tattoo artist, doing night shifts in a hospital or teaching a class full of six-year olds algebra, as long as it is something that has captured your interest and are willing to put a shift in, you'll be fine!

HOW **DO YOU KNOW** IF DENTISTRY IS FOR YOU?

Work experience! Try and get as much experience in all types of field – not just dentistry. Have some experience in a hospital, accountancy, pharmacy, dental practice, at a bank and whatever else you can think of. It doesn't have to be long! A few days somewhere will give a great insight in that environment. Once you like something the most (*of course it will be dentistry,*) go to a few different practices to give you a broad idea of what it is like.

WHAT IS THE **TRANSITION** LIKE FROM: UNIVERSITY TO FOUNDATION TRAINING?

Studying dentistry is unlike most courses - whilst you are training, you are very hands on it treating patients in hospital. You pretty much get to do every normal procedure. Such so, when you finish university you are competent to be working safely on patients.

For me, clinical work and treating patients is something that I find rewarding and thrive upon. When working in hospital, make the most of the experienced clinical tutors that are there to support you. Really get stuck in and take on complex clinical cases, so that once you come out on the other side into foundation training, the transition to treating patients is a lot smoother and less stressful. Foundation training will allow you to make the transition into working life by working in a dental practice but still having support from your trainer when needed.

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