

Welcome to our online course about becoming a dentist. We look forward to working with you over the next two weeks. Our short course is aimed at people who are exploring the possibility of studying dentistry at university and would like to learn more about the dental profession and what it's like to be a dentist.

Our course is interactive and throughout you'll get the opportunity to participate in discussions polls which will allow you to interact with the course facilitators. We'll also invite you to read articles, watch videos and listen to podcasts to illustrate the key learning points from each week.

We know that COVID-19 has had a big impact on everyone's ability to access work shadowing particularly in dentistry. This short course aims to improve your understanding of dentistry by offering an alternative to work shadowing and will help you to decide if this is the right career for you.

During Week 1 we'll look at the qualities and skills we think prospective dentists should have and why those are important. This might help you when writing your personal statement or when deciding on extra-curricular activities that might help you with your application.

Next, we'll take you on a tour of a dental practice to introduce you to the dental team. Here you'll meet one of our general dental practice colleagues who'll tell you about his career path and help you to understand what sorts of treatments are provided in general dental practice and how the whole team contributes to a patient's treatment and experience in the practice.

Lastly in Week 1 we'll look at the impact of COVID-19 on dentistry and take a look at the cross infection measures we now have to comply with to provide dental care safely.

In Week 2 we'll tell you about the process of getting into dental school and will hear from dental students about their experiences of applying to dental school and studying dentistry. We'll cover some of the topics you'll study and speak to the students about their experiences of treating patients as students.

We'll then take a look at the various career paths open to you when you graduate from dental school and hear from people at various stages of their careers about the best and most challenging parts of their jobs.

Lastly in Week 2 we'll learn about why good oral health is so important in terms of your general health.

We hope by the end of the course that you'll have enough information to feel ready to make your decision about studying dentistry