

Applying to Dentistry BDS from the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences Pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences Pathway

Which King's International Foundation pathway should I study if I want to apply to Dentistry?

You must be studying on the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences Pathway or the STEM & Natural Sciences Pathway.

Am I eligible to apply to the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences or STEM & Natural Sciences Pathway course?

Students wishing to apply to the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway must fulfil all the conditions below:

1. You must have completed or be in the process of completing high school in your country of residence and meet the entry requirements (please refer to the Entry Requirements section of the [Health, Life & Biosciences Pathway webpage](#) or the [STEM & Natural Sciences pathway webpage](#) for guidance on minimum required grades); AND
2. You must have studied a school curriculum that would not allow you to apply for direct entry to King's College London (for example your country's national high school diploma) and not have completed an international qualification like A levels or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.
3. You must have studied Biology or Chemistry, in addition to either Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics in your final year of high school and achieved high grades (please refer to the Entry Requirements section of the Health, Life & Biosciences pathway [webpage](#) or the STEM & Natural Sciences pathway [webpage](#) for details on scores required by country); AND
4. You must meet, or be expected to meet, the English language requirements as stated on [our website](#).

What are the guidelines for applicants to King's Dentistry BDS regarding additional requirements such as skills, aptitude and vocational experience?

If you intend to apply to King's [Dentistry BDS](#), you must fulfil the conditions below.

Before applying for the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway, you must provide evidence that you:

1. Appreciate the demands of a Dentistry degree and career; AND
2. Have normally undertaken work experience in a caring environment and/or observation in a clinical setting or, if this has not been possible, interacted with the general public through work, e.g. in a pharmacy, check-out or restaurant; AND
3. Have good communication skills; AND
4. Have the ability to work successfully in a team; AND
5. Have participated as fully as possible in school or college life; AND
6. Have some experience of society beyond your immediate environment; AND
7. Have already completed the UCAT before you begin your King's Foundation programme.

Before enrolling on the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway, you must **ALSO** provide evidence that you:

- Have achieved a high score on the [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#).

Unless you provide evidence of having fulfilled the conditions above in the personal statement of your application, we will **not** support your application to Dentistry.

For detailed information on each programme, including entry requirements and application procedures, please visit King's College London's Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences [website](#).

Are there any guarantees from King's School of Dentistry for King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences or STEM & Natural Sciences students?

Students on the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway applying to Dentistry will need **to meet these 3 requirements**:

- Reach the required University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) score for the proposed year of entry; AND
- Have the required skills, aptitude and vocational experience (described above); AND
- Receive predicted an overall grade of A with an A in each module.

If these above conditions are met, the student will be guaranteed an interview. Any offer made would be dependent on the student's interview and overall academic profile. If you successfully receive an offer, it will be conditional to completing the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway with the required progression requirements. These can be confirmed via the A-Level equivalency table on the International Foundation webpages. Progression requirements will also be confirmed and shared when students join the programme.

Will I need to sit the UCAT exam before starting my King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway course?

Yes. As the King's College London Dentistry BDS requires UCAT you will need to take the test before you start your course.

You can find out more about the [UCAT](#) exam through their website, where you can see details about exam locations, times, and prices, as well as extensive [preparation guides](#) and sample test papers.

It is strongly recommended you make full use of the UCAT Candidate Preparation Toolkit, the various tutorials, practice tests and the UCAT Official Guide, all available from the '[Preparing for the test](#)' page. UCAT has test centres in almost 90 countries around the world so overseas applicants will not be disadvantaged. Please refer to the UCAT website for details on registration: www.ucat.ac.uk.

What score do I need to achieve in the UCAT?

It varies from university to university and from year to year. At King's, the applicants who have the greatest chance of being invited to interview will generally have scores in the top 30% when compared against all applicants who have applied to King's. Please note that this is different to the overall UCAT percentile, as King's applicants on average are stronger than the overall field. The precise average score which this relates to changes from year to year as the quality and competition changes.

What help will I get from King's Foundations?

Your Personal Tutor on the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway and members of the Student Experience team will help you to complete your UCAS application form and personal statement. Please note the application deadline for the Dentistry (BDS) programme is 15 October.

However, you will need to apply as an independent candidate through UCAS as the date for applying to Dentistry is much earlier than for other courses. This means that you will need to get a reference from your high school tutor (**ask them to prepare this in advance**).

The King's Foundations will not be able to provide you with predicted grades at the time you submit your application, because there is not enough information about your academic performance by this point. However, predicted grades and a reference will be provided on request in January.

Can I apply to Dentistry at other UK universities?

Please note that up to four of your five UCAS choices can be for Dentistry. It is your responsibility to research any additional requirements that other programmes may have and ensure that you fulfil them **before** enrolling on the King's International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences course or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway. Typically, Dentistry programmes in the UK require applicants to:

- Have completed relevant work experience or voluntary work; AND

- Achieve high scores in external exams such as the [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#).

If you start the King’s International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway without having researched and prepared for these applications, or without providing evidence of having fulfilled the conditions above, we will **not** support your application to Dentistry.

How should I use the fifth non-Dentistry choice on my UCAS form?

King’s International Foundation students who apply to King’s Dentistry BDS can also apply to King’s School of Bioscience Education for one of its [‘Common Year One’](#) courses.

You can choose one of a number of courses including:

• Biochemistry BSc/MSci	• Neuroscience BSc
• Biomedical Science BSc	• Pharmacology BSc
• Molecular Genetics BSc/MSci	• Physiology BSc
• Pharmacology & Molecular Genetics	

The flexibility of the pathway allows you to move between specialisms at the end of the first year. A Common Year One undergraduate degree also opens up the option to work towards the [Dentistry Graduate/Professional Entry Programme BDS](#) after the completion of your undergraduate degree.

You would be guaranteed to receive an offer from King’s for one of these programmes conditional on completion of the King’s International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway.

How likely am I to get into Dentistry?

Dentistry programmes in the UK are incredibly competitive therefore it is important for you to be realistic about your chances. Even if you fulfil all the entry criteria described above and complete the King’s International Foundation – Health, Life & Biosciences pathway or STEM & Natural Sciences pathway with the highest grades, the competition is fierce.

For 2024-2025, King’s received 1622 applications for the five-year Dental programme (Bachelor of Dental Surgery - BDS). The university made around 209 offers (universities make more offers than they have places to account for applicants who either do not accept or do not meet the requirements), with only a small percentage allocated to international students in line with UK government quotas. For instance, for 2024 entry, the BDS programme received 150 international applications, and only 27 offers were made.

For this reason, it is important for you to consider one of the King’s [‘Common Year One’ \(CYO\) programmes](#) as a back-up option.

Chart: Applying to Dentistry BDS at King's College London

