



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH**

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

***Bachelor of Dental Surgery***

***U3915FTC***

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>Bachelor of Dental Surgery</i>
Final Award	<i>BDS</i>
Exit Awards	<p><i>Certificate of Higher Education in Oral Science - 120 credits at level 4.</i></p> <p><i>Diploma of Higher Education in Dental Health and Disease - 240 credits (maximum 120 level 4)</i></p> <p><i>Ordinary Degree in Oral Health Studies - 300 credits (maximum 120 level 4, 120 level 5)</i></p> <p><i>BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy - 360 credits (maximum 120 level 4, 120 level 5)</i></p>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U3915FTC, UCAS B758</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>5 years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>from September 2026 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science and Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Dental, Health and Care Professions</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-dental-health-and-care-professions">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-dental-health-and-care-professions</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="#">Dental Surgery   University of Portsmouth</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>General Dental Council</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>Level 4, 5, 6 &amp; 7</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

*The BDS in Dental Surgery (U3915) is a five-year clinical programme that enables graduates to register as a Dental practitioner and entry into Dental Foundation Training (UK applicants only). The education of dental professionals in the UK is subject to legislation overseen by the General Dental Council (GDC) which sets out requirements for entry onto the professional register. Therefore, the programme is structured to fulfil the requirements of the GDC set out in the current versions of: Safe Practitioner Framework; Standards for Education; Standards for the Dental team; Student Fitness for Practice. In addition, the programme is also compliant with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; Subject Benchmark statement for Dentistry.*

*The overall aim is to provide students with an opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to practise as a dentist, fully meeting the requirements of the General Dental Council by:*

- *Providing a challenging and stimulating study environment.*
- *Providing a framework allowing students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study.*
- *Equipping students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.*
- *Providing students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities.*
- *Producing an individual who can demonstrate that they have met the outcomes required for registration as a dentist with the GDC.*

*The Bachelor of Dental Surgery Programme aims to:*

- *Provide students with the opportunity to develop a breadth of understanding of essential underpinning knowledge, concepts, principles and theories related to the role and practices of a GDC registered dentist.*
- *Provide opportunities for dental team integration and effective team working.*
- *Develop students' critical, analytical, practical, research and communication skills.*
- *Prepare students for employment, postgraduate study and career development.*
- *Develop in students the skills necessary for life-long independent learning, and the acquisition of knowledge to engender an awareness of the needs for these skills.*
- *Develop students to attain the highest standards in terms of knowledge, skills, (including clinical and technical skills), and professional attributes and behaviours, in particular putting the interests of patients first at all times.*
- *Develop an openness to or awareness of others, an appreciation of social and cultural diversity, a respect for human rights, and a sense of public or civic responsibility.*

*The skills required of registrants are covered in the following domains:*

***Clinical Knowledge and Skills;*** *Clinical knowledge and its application to patient Management; Clinical/Technical Skills*

***Interpersonal Skills;*** *Effective communication; Teamwork and wellbeing of others*

***Professionalism;*** *Ethics and integrity; Leadership; Social accountability*

***Self-management;*** *Insight; Reflection, continued and self-directed learning; Adaptability, well-being, and personal growth; Organisation and time management*

### **Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies**

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

<b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
A1	The critical understanding of key scientific concepts and theories relating to clinical dentistry and the effect of disease on the health of individuals and populations including the principles of public health intervention, behaviour management and communication theories.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, work-based learning and placement, community outreach.	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development Poster Presentation Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project Clinical Safety Evaluation 2-4
A2	The clinical and technical knowledge of specialised areas and evaluation of scientific evidence necessary to inform individual clinical dental practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-3 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-3 Extended Skills Safety Evaluation 1-3 Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Longitudinal Patient Care Portfolio Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Longitudinal Patient Care Portfolio
A3	Critical understanding of the safe practice and provision of values-based patient centred dental care within a range of organisational healthcare environments, considering GDC standards, legal and ethical responsibilities and relevant legislation.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Safety Evaluation 1 Clinical Safety Evaluation: Radiology Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
A4	The principles of learning, reflection, design and evaluation of contemporary evidence-base to inform and enhance patient centred dentistry, continuous	Lectures, seminars, tutorials,	Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence

	<p>personal and professional development and the importance of the NHS constitution and values-based patient centred dental care.</p>	<p>practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.</p>	<p>Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence  Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence  Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence  Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Research Project Abstract</p>
--	---	--	---

<b>B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
B1	Accurately interpret treatment/dental care plans to inform effective clinical judgement and decision making in relation to the practice of a dentist.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
B2	Gather, retrieve and synthesise information from the evaluation of research in support of evidence-based patient centred dental practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development Poster Presentation Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Research Project Abstract Clinical Progression Panel 5: Research Project 2: Quality Improvement
B3	Apply an evidence-based questioning approach to learning, practice, clinical judgement, and decision making and utilise critical thinking, reflection and problem-solving skills.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence
B4	Conceptualise current issues and developments in dentistry.	Lectures, seminars,	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development Poster Presentation Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project

		tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.	Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Research Project Abstract Clinical Progression Panel 5: Research Project 2: Quality Improvement
--	--	---	--

<b>C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:</b>			
<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
C1	Demonstrate competence in the clinical and technical delivery of patient centred care, working effectively as part of the wider dental team and evidencing leadership skills. Work within the scope of a dentist in a safe environment, within the legal and ethical frameworks which inform practice as set out in the GDC Fitness to Practise guidance and the UoP Fitness to study / Fitness to Practise guidance.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
C2	Communicate effectively with patients, their families and associates, members of the dental team and other health professionals involved in their care via a range of media.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
C3	Apply an evidence-based approach to learning and clinical practice.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development Poster Presentation Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Research Project Abstract Clinical Progression Panel 5: Research Project 2: Quality Improvement

C4	Contribute to independent dental research under appropriate supervision.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops.	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development Poster Presentation Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Dental Public Health Project Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Research Project Abstract Clinical Progression Panel 5: Research Project 2: Quality Improvement
----	--	--	---

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
D1	Demonstrate skills relevant to Higher Education and employment.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development Portfolio of Developmental Evidence Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
D2	Act with integrity and uphold high personal and professional values, working autonomously and independently as a flexible and adaptable team member. Setting priorities / goals and managing time effectively.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU
D3	Utilise leadership skills to manage time effectively, prioritise and work within reasonable time limits whilst respecting other team members' contributions to the care and treatment of patients.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and	Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU

		community outreach.	
D4	Acquire, analyse, process and communicate information in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.	Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Foundation 1-5 Academic Progression Examination: Clinical Application 1-5 Clinical Progression Panel 1: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 2: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 3: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 4: Development LU Clinical Progression Panel 5: Development LU

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations / Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations \(Collaborative Courses\)](#) (Delete as appropriate) will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found [here](#).

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Dentistry](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **General Dental Council**
- [Safe Practitioner; A Framework of Behaviours and Outcomes for Dental Professional Education - Dentist \(2023\)](#)
- [GDC Standards for Education \(2025\)](#)
- [GDC Standards for the Dental Team \(2013\)](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- [National Occupational Standards](#)
- [HEOPS Dental Students – Standards of medical fitness to train \(2013\)](#)

### **Changes to your course/modules**

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

### **Copyright**

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

<b>Document Details</b>	
<b>CSD Template date</b>	<i>March 2026</i>
<b>Author</b>	<i>Sarah Barber</i>
<b>Date of production and version number</b>	<i>[18/03/2026] [V1]</i>
<b>Date of update and version number</b>	<i>[Date] [Version number]</i>
<b>Minimum student registration numbers</b>	<i>10</i>