

# Job of The Week

## Dentist

### Key Skills

- knowledge of medicine and dentistry
- physical skills like movement, coordination and dexterity
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- the ability to read English
- thinking and reasoning skills
- customer service skills

### Salary

£34,728 - £96,154

### Working hours

35 – 40 a week  
as a contractor / self-employed  
managing your own hours

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

# Dentist

## Post 16

Most dentistry courses require a minimum of 3 A-levels with A\*AA grades in specific subjects and also accept other complementary subjects that fit well for the course. Preferred A-levels for dentistry courses

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Maths
- Physics

## More Information

You will need to register with the General Dental Council

## University

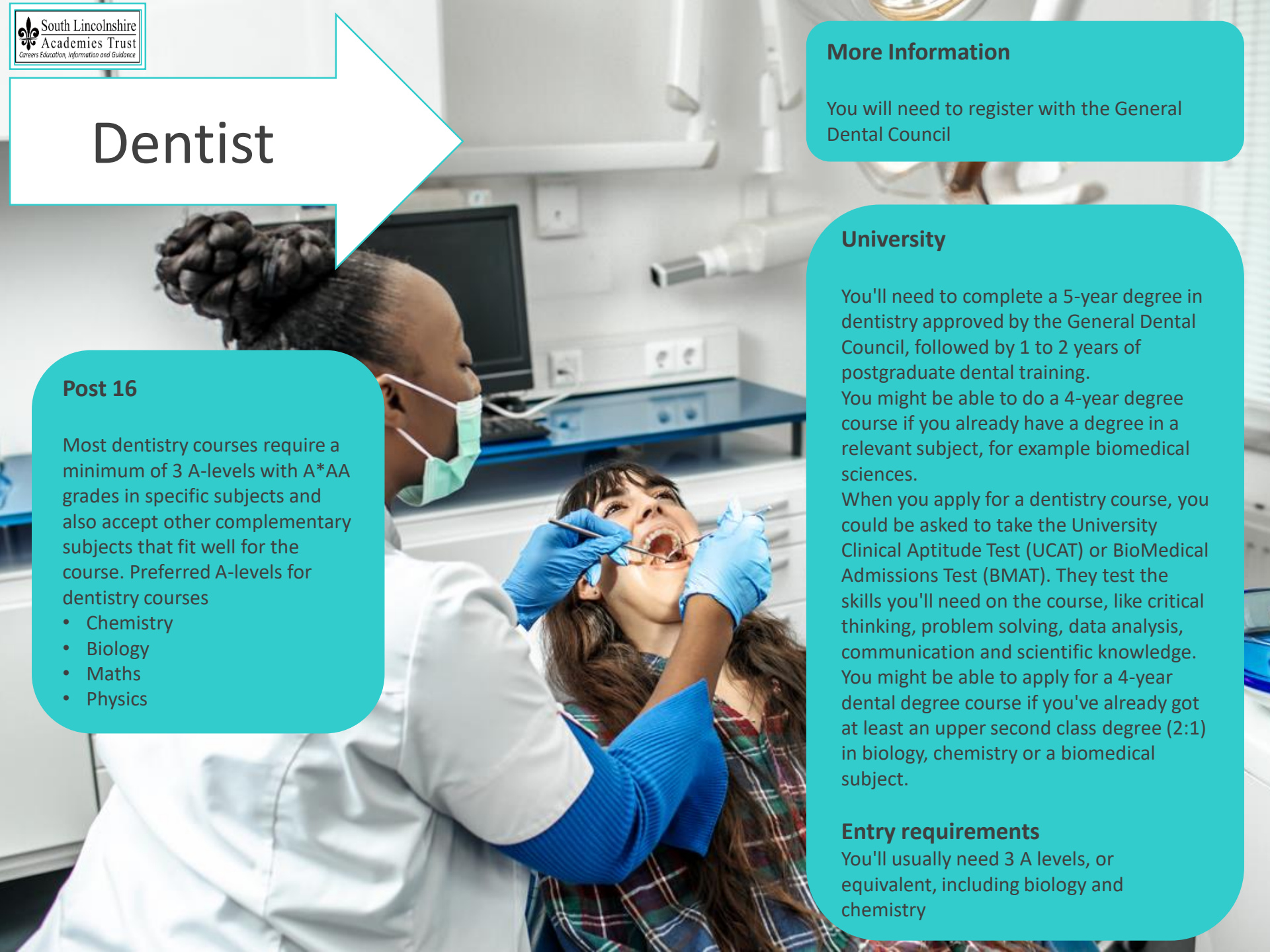
You'll need to complete a 5-year degree in dentistry approved by the General Dental Council, followed by 1 to 2 years of postgraduate dental training.

You might be able to do a 4-year degree course if you already have a degree in a relevant subject, for example biomedical sciences.

When you apply for a dentistry course, you could be asked to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) or BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT). They test the skills you'll need on the course, like critical thinking, problem solving, data analysis, communication and scientific knowledge. You might be able to apply for a 4-year dental degree course if you've already got at least an upper second class degree (2:1) in biology, chemistry or a biomedical subject.

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need 3 A levels, or equivalent, including biology and chemistry



## Career path and progression

As a dentist in general practice you could go on to become a partner in the practice or set up your own practice.

In hospital dental services, you can follow the same career structure and training pathway as a hospital doctor. For example, you could also specialise in implant or paediatric dentistry.

You could serve as a dentist in the armed forces.

As a consultant, you'll often find work opportunities in the private sector. With experience, you could lead a team, or manage a unit or department. You could also progress to teaching and training student dentists and other healthcare professionals.

## Day to Day tasks:

- whiten teeth
- lead a dental team to diagnose and treat dental problems
- see patients for routine check ups
- perform treatments like fillings, extractions and fitting dentures and bridges
- take X-rays and give local anaesthetics
- refer patients to a dental hygienist or dental therapist

## Working conditions

You could work at a dental practice, at a health centre or in an NHS or private hospital.

You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.

# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

## Dental practitioners

Weekly Pay <b>£1,040</b>	Annual Pay <b>£54,080</b>
Hours/Week <b>23h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£45</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>3.8%</b>	Replacement <b>51.3%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 3.8% over the period to 2027, creating 2,300 jobs. In the same period, 51.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 31,100 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Health  
Membership organisations

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

## Dental nurses

Weekly Pay <b>£400</b>	Annual Pay <b>£20,800</b>
Hours/Week <b>32h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£13</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>5.4%</b>	Replacement <b>53.8%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 5.4% over the period to 2027, creating 3,700 jobs. In the same period, 53.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,500 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Health

[More info](#)

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## Medical and dental technicians

Weekly Pay <b>£600</b>	Annual Pay <b>£31,200</b>
Hours/Week <b>37h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£16</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>4%</b>	Replacement <b>48%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 4% over the period to 2027, creating 2,300 jobs. In the same period, 48% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 28,000 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Health

[More info](#)

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# Labour Market Information

## Medical and dental technicians

Medical and dental technicians operate, calibrate and maintain cardiographic and encephalographic testing equipment, assist in the conduct of post mortems, give simple dental treatments, fit artificial limbs and hearing aids, and undertake a wide range of related medical and dental tasks.

Common tasks in this job:

- operates equipment to diagnose and record or treat hearing, heart, brain, lung and kidney ailments;
- undertakes scaling and polishing of teeth, applies medicaments, carries out post-operative hygiene work and advises on preventative dentistry;
- makes dentures, crowns, bridges, orthodontic and other dental appliances according to individual patient requirements;
- measures patients for, and fits them with, surgical appliances, hearing aids and artificial limbs;

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## Dental nurses

Dental nurses prepare patients for, and assist with, dental examinations, prepare and sterilise instruments and maintain case records.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares patient for examination;
- prepares and sterilises instruments and follows guidelines to maintain sterile conditions within the surgery;
- hands required equipment and medication to dentist during examination;
- assists with minor treatment, such as preparing materials for fillings;

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## Dental practitioners

Dental practitioners diagnose dental and oral diseases, injuries and disorders, prescribe and administer treatment, recommend preventative action and, where necessary, refer the patient to a specialist.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines patient's teeth, gums and jaw, using dental and x-ray equipment, diagnoses dental conditions;
- assesses and recommends treatment options to patients;
- administers local anaesthetics;
- carries out clinical treatments, restores teeth affected by decay etc., treats gum disease and other disorders;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

## Useful Websites

[Dentistry \(ucas.com\)](https://ucas.com)

[Dental-school-entry-requirements-2022.pdf \(dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk\)](https://dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk)

[Career advice - becoming a dentist \(bda.org\)](https://bda.org)

[Registration \(gdc-uk.org\)](https://gdc-uk.org)

[Dentist | Health Careers](#)

[Dentist \(mod.uk\)](https://mod.uk)

[RAF Recruitment | Dental Officer | Royal Air Force \(mod.uk\)](#)

A day in the life as a dentist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaoXtVlms4Y&pp=ygUeYSBkYXkgaW4gdGhllGxpZmUgb2YgYSBkZW50aXNO>

A day in the life of a Bristol dental student



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_M4CCx4J3U&pp=ygUeY3R1ZHpibmVudG8gYmUgYSBkZW50aXNO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_M4CCx4J3U&pp=ygUeY3R1ZHpibmVudG8gYmUgYSBkZW50aXNO)

The Dentists Keeping The Military On The Frontline



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGoATM3mt9l&pp=ygUVZGVudGZldCBpbIB0aGUgZm9yY2Vz>

Day in the Life - Maternity Department



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LB6UiabOYk&pp=ygUebXkgcGF0aCBkZW50aXNO>