

Training

Entry requirements: You will require University Entrance for Health Science First Year (HSFY) for dentistry, and Year 13 biology, chemistry, and physics are recommended.

To become a dentist you must first complete the HSFY at University of Otago. This is the foundation year for a number of health professional programmes. During the first year, you will be required to sit an English Language Diagnostic Test. Once you have completed your HSFY, you can apply for admission into the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme.

Students wishing to be admitted to enter the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme must

- have a minimum grade average of 70%, with no paper grade less than 65%
- sit a multi-choice aptitude test called the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) during their HSFY.
- attend an interview

Places are limited but there are special quotas for Maori and Pacific Island students and students of New Zealand rural origin.

It takes a further four years after HSFY to complete the Bachelor of Dentistry.

Personal Qualities

Dentists need to:

- relate well to a wide variety of people
- be skilled at problem-solving
- be able to work well under pressure and remain calm
- have an eye for detail
- have good eyesight
- have excellent hand-eye co-ordination



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

www.kiwihealthjobs.com

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF RURAL HEALTH
PO Box 834, CAMBRIDGE 3450



p: 07 8239274
email: admin@nzirh.org.nz
www.nzirh.org.nz

November 2018

Dentist



Dentistry

Dentistry involves ...

Care of patients' teeth and gums. Patients are usually 13 years and older.

Dentists are involved in

- promotion of healthy teeth and gums
- prevention of tooth and gum disease
- care of teeth and gums
- liaising with other dental professionals
- research
- education

Dentistry is listed as one of the health careers in New Zealand where there is a skill shortage.

Dentists usually work during business hours in private practice, hospitals or community health centres.

Here is a video to watch:

<https://youtu.be/oQn92Pyq5t0>

What do they do?

Dentists may do some or all of the following:

- check patients' teeth visually and with xrays
- treat patients' diseased teeth and gums
- replace missing teeth with dentures, partial plates, bridges or implants
- improve poor looking teeth with crowns, veneers and whitening techniques or straightening them with braces
- educate patients on correct care of their teeth and gums
- refer patients to other dental specialists like orthodontists, oral surgeons, dental technicians, dental hygienists
- own their own business



Where do dentists work?

Most dentists work in private practices. Some work in:

- hospitals
- community health centres
- University of Otago

Pros and cons

- the satisfaction gained from helping people
- working with people
- well-paid work
- in private practice, you are your own boss
- bad oral hygiene
- initial outlay to go into private practice
- having to be careful about posture and take breaks to reduce neck and back problems