

What is a Dentist?

Dentists treat teeth, gums and soft tissues of the mouth to improve both the oral and general health of clients.

Dentists work as a multiskilled member of a dental team. Dentists provide a wide range of oral health services to clients of all ages. Dentists can also work in education and research, management and policy development roles.

What does a Dentist do?

Dentists may:

- Conduct dental examinations and diagnosis, and develop care plans
- Take X-rays of the teeth and jaws
- Clean teeth
- Provide preventive care
- Restore decayed or broken teeth with filling materials
- Extract teeth
- Administer local anaesthetics when required
- Perform oral surgical procedures
- Design, construct and fit dentures, crowns and bridges
- Refer clients to Dental Specialists for complex treatment.

Where can Dentists work in Queensland Health?

Queensland Health Oral Health Services offer differing work environments including hospital, school and community based clinics. Outreach services are also provided to hospitals, correctional centres and aged care facilities.

“I truly believe that the mouth is the doorway to good health. Dentistry is a career with terrific opportunities for travel, life experience and career development, but the most rewarding thing for me is seeing the happy smiles of the patients.” Dr Naushad Rizwan, Dentist

Is this you?

- able to establish rapport with clients
- good communication skills
- good hand-eye coordination
- able to do precise and detailed work
- able to work as part of a team.



Queensland Health encourages contemporary minimally invasive dentistry with a strong focus on prevention. Ongoing learning and professional development are important to our organisation and development programs, in-service training and participation in research projects are actively encouraged.

Can a Dentist specialise?

With experience and further study, Dentists can specialise in a range of specialist areas including endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, paediatrics, periodontics, prosthodontics or special needs dentistry.

How do you become a Dentist?

To become a Dentist you will need to complete a Bachelor level course at university. Completion of Year 12 or equivalent plus the prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge of English, Mathematics B and at least one of the following subjects: biological sciences, chemistry or physics. Students wishing to study Dentistry must also sit the Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) and attend an interview. You can also apply to enter the University of Queensland degree program after completing one or more years of another relevant degree, such as a Bachelor of Science.

Degree courses

Griffith University – Gold Coast Campus

- Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Science, 3 years full-time followed by Graduate Diploma of Dentistry, 2 years full-time

University of Queensland – Brisbane

- Bachelor of Dental Science - 5 years full-time (1 year of basic science, 3 years of applied dental science and 1 year of external clinical practice within a Queensland Health facility)

Registration

In Queensland, Dentists must be registered with the Dental Board of Queensland.

What scholarships are available?

Information regarding university scholarships and financial assistance is available from individual university websites.

Also available is the Queensland Health Rural Scholarships Scheme. Visit www.health.qld.gov.au/orh/scholarships/ah/allied.asp for further information.

Interested in other Oral health careers?

Visit the Queensland Health Work For Us website www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus for more **Careers in health** fact sheets – Oral health series:

- Dental Technician
- Oral Health Therapist
- Prosthetist.

Where can I find out more info?

Griffith University

Phone: (07) 5678 0793

www.griffith.edu.au/health/school-dentistry-oral-health

The University of Queensland

Phone: (07) 3365 8071

Website: www.uq.edu.au/dentistry

The QTAC website has a list of universities and tertiary institutions with links to universities and courses offered. Go to www.qtac.edu.au and select Institutions.

To find out more about the exciting career opportunities Queensland Health can offer you go to www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus

Do great things every day

© State of Queensland, Queensland Health, June 2009

www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus



Queensland Government
Queensland Health