



Ōtākou
Whakaihu Waka
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

Faculty of Dentistry

Te Kaupeka Pūniho

New Zealand's National Centre for Dentistry

Application for Admission to the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Advanced Standing for Domestic Candidates

Applications open on 1 July and close on 30 September in the
year preceding
intended entry to the course and should be submitted by email
to: dentistry@otago.ac.nz
Subject line - BDS Advanced Standing Domestic Application

Applicants wishing to apply for this programme must
do so by 30 September; late applications will not be considered.

GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION WITH ADVANCED STANDING

Candidates in this pathway will only be admitted if space is available in the appropriate year. Applicants who have qualified with a degree in Dentistry from a country other than New Zealand or Australia may apply, but are strongly urged to contact the Dental Council (New Zealand) to inquire about alternative means of gaining registration to practice dentistry in New Zealand.

- (a) This pathway is for domestic candidates (*New Zealand citizens (or a citizen of the Cook Islands, Tokelau, or Niue), or New Zealand residents (holding a valid residence-class visa), or Australian citizens or permanent residents*) who have a degree in Dentistry awarded by a university outside of New Zealand and Australia or a Medicine degree awarded from a New Zealand or Australian University.
- (b) Applications will be considered by the Dental Admissions Advanced Standing Subcommittee, which will shortlist candidates for interview.
- (c) Applicants will be considered based on the similarity of their undergraduate programme to that at the University of Otago, their grades, any postgraduate qualifications, the recency of their clinical practice in dentistry, and their experience in dentistry overseas and in New Zealand.
- (d) Interviews will normally take place in November, before the year for which admission is sought.
- (e) All candidates will be ranked, and the list will be considered by the Dental Admissions Committee.
- (f) Candidates not selected for an interview will be advised as soon as possible that their applications have been unsuccessful.
- (g) When the number of third-year places available for advanced-standing applicants is known (**if any**), candidates who were interviewed will be advised of the outcome of their applications as early as possible in February. **Please note that this notification may occur as late as the end of February.**

Please also note:

- We may not be able to admit any candidates with Advanced Standing in any one year due to the enrolment limit for domestic students in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme ([regulation 1\(a\)](#)). Because of this, candidates with a degree in dentistry are strongly advised to contact the Dental Council (New Zealand) to inquire about alternative means of gaining registration to practice dentistry in New Zealand. Further information is available at the [Dental Council of New Zealand website](#).

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

Please also review the checklist at the end of this document to ensure you have enclosed all necessary information with your application.

English Language Requirements

All applicants for whom English is not their first language must provide evidence of their English competence for entry into the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with the Faculty of Dentistry. This should be included with the application form or forwarded to the Faculty of Dentistry Admissions Committee as soon as possible. The tests listed below are the only ones we will accept. Failure to supply the results of one of these tests to the required standard will result in the application not being successful.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate acceptable English language proficiency before admission to the third year of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Advanced Standing. This may be achieved by:

- (i) The International English Language Testing System (IELTS), academic module, with a score of 7.0 or better in each of the individual components (bands):
or
- (ii) The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) with a minimum of 24 in each section.
The University of Otago TOEFL institution code is 9483
(Please note we do not accept MyBest TOEFL scores)

Curriculum Vitae

An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae must accompany all applications. This must include name, qualifications with dates that the qualification(s) were awarded as well as the awarding institution(s), distinctions (such as prizes, scholarships); present and previous positions and dates held, details of clinical experience (including the dates); details of any research activities, publications, or scientific or clinical presentations; memberships of professional organisations.

Academic Transcripts and Certificate of Good Standing

Applicants must send or arrange to have sent to the Faculty of Dentistry Admissions Committee certified transcripts of their University academic record(s), including the grades and/or marks awarded and grade scales. Please note that applicants must have an average GPE equivalent to an Otago B or above to be considered. Also required is a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the applicant's most recent registration authority, attesting to the applicant's registration and good standing.

Citizenship

Applicants must include certified evidence of their New Zealand or Australian citizenship or permanent residence status with their applications.

If a place is offered, evidence of eligibility to study dentistry as a domestic student is required. Applications will not be processed unless satisfactory proof of residence status or citizenship is provided.

Completing the Application Form

Please ensure all questions are answered accurately, and all supporting documents are attached and correctly certified. You must complete all sections. You must sign the appropriate declarations yourself; no one else may sign on your behalf.

Certified Documentation

Where you are asked to provide documentation, including academic achievement, evidence of English requirements and citizenship, please ensure you submit legible scans that are suitably certified as copies of the originals. The certification must be done by a person of some standing in your community, for instance, a Solicitor of the High Court or a Justice of the Peace. Please see [here](#) on our website for an approved list of people who can certify documents that the University accepts.

You should retain the information pages and submit the application form and all requested documentation.

Please inform us if you change your address or telephone number, and

PLEASE ENSURE YOU INCLUDE A RELIABLE EMAIL CONTACT ADDRESS

All applications should be submitted to: dentistry@otago.ac.nz.

Please place in the subject line of your application email 'BDS Advanced Standing Domestic Application.'

Please get in touch with dentistry@otago.ac.nz if you have an enquiry about your application.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (OTAGO) WITH ADVANCED STANDING

Personal Details

Family Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

First Name(s)

Male / Female / Gender Diverse / Other (circle/highlight your answer)

eVision Otago ID Number (if applicable) _____

Address

Phone (work) _____ (home) _____ (mobile) _____

Email _____

Ethnicity _____

Citizenship _____

Country of Birth _____

If not born in New Zealand or Australia, please give date of arrival: _____

(tick your answer)

Are you a New Zealand or Australian citizen?	YES	<input type="radio"/>	NO	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have NZ or AUS permanent resident status?	YES	<input type="radio"/>	NO	<input type="radio"/>

Qualifications

First Degree or Diploma:

College or University:

Dates of Attendance:

Date of Graduation:

Postgraduate Degrees or Diplomas: _____

College or University: _____

Dates of Attendance: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

3. Have you been accepted by the Dental Council (New Zealand) to sit their registration examinations?

YES / NO (circle your answer)

If yes, what examinations have you taken, and what were your results?

4. Evidence of competency in English (if English is your second language).

Describe what method (e.g., IELTS or TOEFL) you are using to satisfy the English language requirements (see page 3). Certified evidence of English competency must accompany your application.

5. Describe what steps you have taken to become familiar with the practice of dentistry in New Zealand.

6. Please provide the names, email addresses, and postal addresses of two people you have asked, if required, to supply confidential references to support your application. People you have worked with in a professional capacity are preferred.

Name 1:

Address:

Email:

Name 2:

Address:

Email:

First Aid Certificate

All candidates who accept a place as an advanced standing student must have a certified copy of an appropriate New Zealand first aid certificate before the start of the programme. This qualification must be gained through an NZQA-registered training provider authorised to assess NZQA first aid standards.

The certificate should include at least NZQA Standards 6401 and 6402, but students are recommended to obtain a qualification that includes the higher NZQA Standard 6400.

The following are a selection of recommended training courses:

- OUSA (Comprehensive First Aid)
- St John (First Aid Level Two)
- New Zealand Red Cross (Comprehensive First Aid Course)
- MediTrain (Comprehensive First Aid Course)

Children's Act 2014

The Children's Act 2014 aims to provide better protection for vulnerable children. One way it does this is by introducing “safety checking.”

If you work with vulnerable children as part of a specified organisation that provides regulated services, the Act requires you to be “safety checked” at least once every three years.

The safety check involves:

- Identify verification
- New Zealand Police vetting
- Reference checking
- An interview
- A risk assessment

Applicants who enter the programme will receive further information regarding the timing of these checks.

[University of Otago Child Protection Policy](#)

[Oranga Tamariki](#) (Ministry for Children)

[Children's Act Requirements](#) (Oranga Tamariki website)

Culturally sensitive issues

All students must participate in laboratory, practical, and clinical activities, including those that may be unusual in some cultures. In Dentistry, some aspects of the teaching will require individuals to practice certain techniques on each other that may involve partially undressing or body contact with other students. Training occurs under close supervision, and all students must participate as it is essential for their acquisition of clinical skills.

Immunity status

All applicants who are offered and accept a place in the third year of Dentistry will be required to provide evidence of their serology status.

Because of the nature of their practice, health professionals must take steps to ensure they neither acquire infections from their patients nor transmit infections to them.

Immunity testing arrangements will be communicated during the formal admissions process, before the start of the programme. The applicant is responsible for covering all costs of completing immunisation screening and vaccinations.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING HEALTH SCIENCES PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS REGARDING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Students are required to read, understand and comply with this [policy](#).

HEALTH SCIENCES PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME DECLARATION FORMS

Students must read, understand and comply with these [requirements](#).

CHECKLIST

HAVE YOU ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION AND INCLUDED ALL DOCUMENTATION?

<input type="radio"/>	Curriculum Vitae
<input type="radio"/>	Certified copy of academic transcripts
<input type="radio"/>	Certified copy of Certificate of Good Standing from your current governing Dental Authority (or can be sent directly from your governing authority to dentistry@otago.ac.nz if needed)
<input type="radio"/>	Certified copy of passport
<input type="radio"/>	Certified copy of English language proficiency test
<input type="radio"/>	Name of your referees and provided email addresses
<input type="radio"/>	Signed Declaration Form emailed to confidential.se@otago.ac.nz (With both Part 1: Health and Conduct Self-Declaration Form and Part 2: Declaration of Immunisations and Infectious Disease Status completed)

Please ensure all required documentation is certified correctly before submitting.