

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

for appointment as

Dental House Surgeon (Fixed Term)

CLINICAL SERVICES FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

The University of Otago was established in 1869 and is New Zealand's oldest university. It has an international reputation for excellence in education and research. The University currently has over 20,000 students, spread over a wide range of disciplines.

Based in Dunedin, the University also has specialist campuses in Christchurch, Wellington and Invercargill, as well as a centre in Auckland. The University has four academic divisions – Humanities, Sciences, Health Sciences and Commerce (also known as the School of Business), and is one of New Zealand's most research-intensive universities. There are a variety of links with the city and its business community, and the relatively compact campus contributes to easy relationships between departments.

The Division of Health Sciences comprises the Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Health Professional Programmes and the Faculty of Medicine (Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington).

The University teaching year generally ranges from late January to the end of November. The teaching period is generally broken into two 13-week semesters. A Summer School is held for six weeks during January and February.

Further information about the University is available on the University of Otago website: www.otago.ac.nz including the University's mission statement and strategic direction.

THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

The Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 1907 and is the only national school for dentistry in New Zealand. The Faculty comprises the Sir John Walsh Research Institute and three departments (Oral Rehabilitation, Oral Sciences and Oral Diagnostic and Surgical Sciences).

The Faculty of Dentistry is ranked 41st best in the world according to the 2022 QS World University Subject Rankings and maintains a 5-Star rating, earned in 2016. The University of Otago website has a link dedicated to the Faculty of Dentistry: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/dentistry/> here, you can see the strategic direction of the Faculty, find information about undergraduate and postgraduate courses of study, and explore links to research being undertaken at the Faculty of Dentistry.

The University of Otago commissioned a new Clinical Services Building in 2019, a dental facility in Auckland in 2020, and the refurbishment of the Walsh building was completed in early 2021. This completed an extensive dental school redevelopment, that commenced in 2015, creating the most modern dental school in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Faculty of Dentistry is situated close to the Dunedin Public Hospital and the other Faculty's in Health Sciences. It is about five minutes' walk from the main University campus, so most departments within the University are readily accessible.

Excellent library facilities, computer training and support are available. In addition to teaching clinics, laboratories, lecture theatres and seminar rooms, there is provision for research in shared laboratories.

DENTAL HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

The Faculty of Dentistry operates a Dental Hospital in the Clinical Services Building in Dunedin and also the Auckland Dental Facility located in Manurewa, Auckland. The Dental Facility in Auckland provides the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) fifth/final year training experience for a proportion of the student year cohort.

The Faculty also operates a fully registered diagnostic pathology laboratory, Oral Pathology Centre, which receives approximately 3000 specimens per year from the Faculty of Dentistry clinics, from dentists and dental specialists throughout New Zealand and from general pathologists.

The Dental Hospital in Dunedin, supports the training of all our oral health programmes (Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH), Bachelor of Dental Technology (BDenTech), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and postgraduate specialist training. It also delivers oral health services on behalf of Health NZ Te Whatu Ora. In particular the delivery of Emergency Dental Services care and Hospital Dental Services. This service is offered for the full year (52 weeks) with the exception of some statutory holidays.

The Forthcoming Vacancies

The full-time, fixed term Dental House Surgeon vacancies offer a broad range of experience in all branches of dentistry with supervision and mentoring from experienced clinicians and academics. The successful applicants will provide care for patients in the Faculty of Dentistry and in Dunedin Hospital (Health NZ Te Whatu Ora). Appointees will be expected to work as part of a team, with an emphasis on Hospital Dentistry.

They will also have the opportunity to experience other disciplines of dentistry, as a contribution to routine Faculty interdisciplinary patient care. They will also contribute to the undergraduate teaching programmes.

Duties of position

Dental House Surgeons primarily provide clinical services and support to our maxillofacial and oral surgery teams. This includes provision of an after-hours and holiday service for emergency care with revision and follow up of these patients plus other hospital level care patients.

Specific duties include providing, on average, 8 clinical sessions per week – primarily in the Urgent Care Unit, as well as the outpatient clinics, the operating Faculty theatre and/or agreed other. One additional session will be for meetings and administration and one session for audit, education and/or case review/presentation – both of these sessions are expected to be carried out on-site.

The purpose of this role is to advance clinical practice experience for recent Otago BDS graduates with a focus on oral surgery and maxillofacial care.

See also Appendix 1 below

RELATIONSHIPS

Directly responsible to: Head of Clinical Services.

Functional relationships: Director of Clinical Education, Head of Department, Oral Diagnostic and Surgical Sciences; Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons; Clinical Staff in Special Needs Dentistry and Primary Care Unit. Team work with other Dental House Surgeons and Senior Dental House Surgeons in Dunedin; Academic and professional staff, undergraduate and graduate students, Southern District Health Board.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Recent dental graduate with registration as a dentist in New Zealand in the general dental practice scope of practice with a current Annual Practicing Certificate and Professional Indemnity for Dentists.
- Competence in organisation, communication and teamwork.
- Sensitivity towards differing cultures and personalities.
- A positive, proactive attitude with a willingness to learn and grow
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to manage competing priorities effectively
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary team, contributing to a supportive and positive team environment.
- Resilience and the ability to remain calm and professional in a busy, and at times stressful, clinical environment.
- High level of professionalism, reliability and accountability in all aspects of work.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Applicants must be registered as a dentist with the Dental Council and hold a current Annual Practicing Certificate and Professional Indemnity for Dentists. Further information about registration may be obtained from:

Dental Council (New Zealand)

PO Box 10-448, Wellington 6140

New Zealand

Tel: 64 4 499 4820 email: inquiries@dcnz.org.nz

DATE OF APPOINTMENT

The successful applicants will be expected to commence duties on Tuesday 5th January 2027, or earlier by mutual agreement.

Appendix 1:

CORE COMPETENCIES FOR DENTISTS

GENERAL

- Function as a patient's primary and comprehensive oral health care provider.
- Treat patients efficiently in a dental practice setting.
- Use selected business systems in dental practice including marketing, scheduling, patient flow, record keeping, financial services, and recall systems.
- Work with patients in a manner that is professional, builds rapport and confidence, respects patient's rights and dignity, puts patients interests first, and maximises patient satisfaction with dental care.
- Use and implement accepted sterilisation, disinfection, universal precautions and occupational hazard prevention procedures in dental practice.
- Provide patient care by working effectively with auxiliary dental personnel.
- Provide dental care as a part of a multidisciplinary health care team.
- Participate in community programs to improve access to oral health care and to prevent and reduce the incidence of oral disease.
- Make referrals to, and obtain consultations from, professional colleagues for the treatment of dental, medical, psychological, and social problems presented by patients.
- Apply principles of professional ethics and jurisprudence in the practice of dentistry.
- Read and evaluate scientific literature and use information in making professional decisions.
- Use information technology in dental practice.
- Maintain patient records in a manner which facilitates the retrieval and analysis of the process and outcomes of treatment.
- Analyse the outcomes of patient treatment to improve that treatment.

DIAGNOSIS, COMMUNICATION & TREATMENT PLANNING

- Select and use assessment techniques to arrive at a differential, provisional, and definitive diagnosis for patients with simple and complex needs.
- Obtain and interpret the patient's chief complaint, medical, dental, and social history, and review of systems.
- Assess patient's background and expectations for dental care and perform patient care consistent with that expectation.
- Conduct a comprehensive clinical examination.
- Understand when and how to obtain and interpret intraoral radiographs, OPG and CBCT.
- Obtain and interpret clinical and other diagnostic data from dental and other health care professionals.
- Use the services of clinical, medical, and pathology laboratories and make referrals to health professionals for the utilisation of these services.
- Perform a history and physical evaluation and collect data to establish a risk assessment for use in the development of a dental treatment plan.
- Use accepted prevention strategies to help patients maintain and improve their oral health.
- Obtain consent for dental treatment by discussing with patients, parents, and guardians, the following: diagnoses, risks, benefits, and process of various treatment options; patient responsibilities during and after treatment; and estimated fees and payment responsibilities.
- Integrate multiple disciplines into individualised, comprehensive, sequenced treatment plans for patients with uncomplicated and complex needs.
- Develop, explain and carry out dental treatment plans for patients, including patients with special needs, in a manner which considers and integrates the patient's medical, psychological, and social needs.
- Modify the treatment plan, as indicated, based upon therapeutic outcomes, unexpected circumstances, or the patient's individual needs.

EMERGENCY CARE

- Treat patients with intraoral dental emergencies and infections.
- Provide initial treatment and then manage patients with extra-oral and complex orofacial emergencies and infections.
- Anticipate, prevent, diagnose, and provide initial treatment and follow-up management for medical emergencies which may occur during dental treatment.

RESTORATIVE

- Restore single teeth with a wide range of materials and methods.
- Treat patients with missing teeth requiring removable restorations.
- Treat patients with missing teeth requiring uncomplicated and complex fixed restorations.
- Restore endodontically treated teeth.
- Diagnose and manage a patient's occlusion.
- Use digital technology to obtain information and provide restorative solutions with and without the laboratory.
- Communicate case design with laboratory personnel and evaluate the resultant prostheses.

ENDODONTICS

- Diagnose and treat pain of pulpal origin.
- Perform uncomplicated non-surgical anterior endodontic therapy.
- Perform uncomplicated non-surgical posterior endodontic therapy.
- Diagnose and manage uncomplicated endodontic complications.
- Recognise, diagnose, and manage complex occlusal abnormalities.
- Treat minor occlusal abnormalities using space maintenance and other orthodontic appliances.

AESTHETICS

- Understand patients' aesthetic concerns and expectations.
- Diagnose aesthetic problems and communicate solutions.
- Provide aesthetic treatment for single teeth.
- Manage and provide aesthetic treatment for multiple teeth and entire mouths.

PAEDIATRIC

- Treat uncomplicated diseases and abnormalities of the paediatric patient.
- Manage complicated diseases and abnormalities of the paediatric patient.
- Perform paediatric pulpal therapy.
- Restore a functional primary dentition.
- Perform uncomplicated surgical procedures on paediatric patients.
- Use pharmacological and non-pharmacological behaviour management skills with a paediatric patient.

IMPLANTS

- Treat patients with missing teeth using dental implant restorations.
- Manage the surgical component of implant systems.
- Manage implant complications.

PAIN

- Assess and manage facial pain.
- Diagnose and non-surgically treat uncomplicated TM disorders.

SURGICAL

- Perform surgical and non-surgical extraction of teeth.
- Treat patients with complications related to intraoral surgical procedures.
- Diagnose and manage oral manifestations of systemic disease.
- Diagnose and manage common oral pathological abnormalities.
- Manage the removal of impacted teeth.
- Perform initial evaluation, treatment, and management of facial trauma.
- Treat intraoral hard and soft tissue lesions of traumatic origin.
- Manage intraoral soft tissue lesions on non-traumatic origin.

PERIODONTOLOGY

- Diagnose and treat early and moderate periodontal disease using non-surgical and surgical procedures.
- Manage advanced periodontal disease.
- Evaluate the results of periodontal treatment and participate in a periodontal maintenance program.

PHARMACOLOGY

- Understand how patient's medications might affect dental treatment.
- Use pharmacological agents in the treatment of dental patients.
- Provide control of pain and anxiety in the conscious patient through the use of psychological interventions, behaviour management techniques, local anaesthesia, and oral and nitrous oxide conscious sedation techniques.
- Prevent, recognise, and manage complications related to the use and interactions of drugs, local anaesthesia, and conscious sedation.