

Preparing for your interview at the School of Dental Sciences, Newcastle University

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Congratulations on being invited to an interview at Newcastle! We believe in an open and transparent selection process and as part of this, we want to provide you with information about our interviews to help you prepare so that you are able to perform at your best. This quick guide will provide some simple and practical advice.

What we look for and what to expect

Interviews will consist of a 20 minute conversation with 2 academic members of staff who work at Newcastle Dental School. This year all interviews will take place online by Zoom. You will need to clearly show official ID at the beginning of the interview and we will expect you to keep your camera on throughout the whole interview. If you have problems with your Wi-fi at home you might want to ask if your school or college can support you by letting you use their facilities. If you are unable to undertake your interview over the internet with a webcam from either home or your school/college, please contact us via email as soon as possible to discuss this. Please ensure (as far as you can), that the surroundings are quiet and that you are clearly visible with adequate lighting.

Whilst we hope to remain on time for your interview, please remember that I.T. issues may arise and don't worry if there is a slight delay in starting your interview – we will know you are waiting! If anything goes wrong on the day or you find you cannot attend your interview, don't worry, please contact the Dental School Office (+44 (0) 191 208 8347) as soon as you can and we will do what we can to help.

We try to keep the feel of the interviews informal. We really want to get to know about you so we will often base our questions on your personal statement. It is a good idea to prepare by reflecting on what you have done and how your experiences might prepare you for situations that you might come across as a dental student and working with patients. This should include reflecting on what you have learned from experiences that did not go exactly as you hoped as well as times when you were more successful.



Interview Criteria

During the interviews staff will be rating your performance in the following six domains:

- **Preparation and motivation for dental school**
- **Effective learning skills**
- **Team working**
- **Personal qualities / resilience**
- **Interpersonal and communication skills**
- **Empathy, sensitivity and integrity / professionalism**



We may ask you about your opinion about an issue that is currently topical in dentistry. You will not need in-depth knowledge about technical issues but an awareness of what dentistry involves along with an ability to develop and articulate an opinion on a wide range of topics will be important.

We find that the best interview performances are from candidates who can fluently describe, analyse and reflect on a range of their own life experiences, behaviours, observations and opinions. We encourage you to be prepared, but we are definitely not looking for rehearsed and scripted responses – there will be many good answers to the questions you will be asked. It is really important to be yourself at our interviews and say what you think rather than what you think we want to hear.

At the end of the interview you will be given the chance to briefly ask any questions that you may have about studying dentistry at Newcastle. This is not part of the interview and you will not be rated on any questions that you ask.

Scoring of interview responses

After the interview is finished selectors will independently rate your performance from 1 to 5 on each of the interview criteria. Once all candidates have been interviewed, scores will be added up and places offered to the top ranking candidates.