

**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCE

**UNDERGRADUATE  
PROSPECTUS**





## INTRODUCTION

**The School of Dental Science**, Trinity College Dublin prides itself in providing education and specialist training programmes, to the highest international standards, for all members of the dental team. It offers a wide range of undergraduate programmes from Diploma to Honours Degree level, all of which are delivered in conjunction with the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH).

The School and Hospital combine to form a Centre of Excellence in education, research, scholarship and patient care. Our mission is to enhance the learning experience of our students and the delivery of care to patients in an integrated and evidence-based approach. We combine world-class teaching, research and clinical facilities with an open environment in which students, clinicians and researchers benefit from working side-by-side, in the context of Ireland's oldest and leading university, Trinity College Dublin.

We are proud of what we do, of the community we serve where patient care is central in the education of students in all aspects of dentistry. I am pleased to introduce you to the undergraduate programmes at the School of Dental Science in Trinity College Dublin, in conjunction with the Dublin Dental University Hospital.

*Professor Derek Sullivan,  
Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning*

## WHY STUDY AT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN?

The School of Dental Science is an integral part of the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH), which is located on the main campus of Trinity College, in the heart of Dublin city centre. The hospital was established in 1879 as a charitable institution to provide treatment for the poor of Dublin and to train dental students. It moved to its current location in 1889 with an award-winning refurbishment and extension being completed in 1998. The refurbishment successfully married a bright modern building with the original Victorian buildings. The Hospital now boasts state of the art outpatient clinics, including award-winning resources in information and communication technology and a specialist library hosting the largest collections of dental literature in Ireland. Additional facilities include lecture rooms, seminar rooms, computer rooms, a staff-student common room and research laboratories.

Trinity College offers a multitude of services and facilities, making it an attractive place to study. Trinity has the largest library in Ireland, with 5 million printed volumes reflecting over 400 years of academic development. It hosts a state of the art sports centre which includes a swimming pool, climbing wall, fitness theatre and sports halls. Tourists visit the campus to view the world famous Book of Kells and enjoy the cobbled courtyards and landscaped grounds. Many student sporting events take place on campus, as well as social events such as the famous Trinity Ball. The campus is vibrant, with something for everyone.





## BACHELOR OF DENTAL SCIENCE (B.DENT.SC)

**Duration:** Five years, full time

**Course Director:** Prof Derek Sullivan, [derek.sullivan@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:derek.sullivan@dental.tcd.ie)

**Dental Studies Manager:** Ms Audrey Nolan, [audrey.nolan@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:audrey.nolan@dental.tcd.ie)



Prof Derek Sullivan

### What is the course like?

The Bachelor of Dental Science is a five-year undergraduate programme. Dental graduates must be capable of independently providing a wide range of oral healthcare for adults and children including those with special needs. Completion of the bachelor's degree leads to registration with the Dental Council of Ireland. After qualifying there is no mandatory intern year, unlike medicine.

The blended learning curriculum of the Dental Science programme is founded on problem-based learning, which is complemented by considerable emphasis on clinical competence in primary oral health care based on appropriate, prioritised and scientifically acceptable treatment methods and an introduction to clinics in the first year. The course is very practical throughout with lots of hands-on experience treating patients. Students commence treating their own patients (under supervision) in the second year and by the fifth year are expected to have completed a wide range of treatments to ensure professional competence in general dental practice.



### What does a dentist do?

Dentists provide oral and dental health care for patients and communities. The dentist is head of the Dental Team which consists of dentists, (who may be specialists or general dentists) dental hygienists, dental nurses, clinical dental technicians and dental technicians. There has been an exponential advance in dental science with greater emphasis on preventing disease as well as the development of new, minimally invasive methods and materials for restoring teeth. Another major development is the use of dental implants which have revolutionised the replacement of missing teeth.

### What are the career prospects?

A wide range of career options is open to the newly qualified dentist. New graduates usually find themselves deciding whether to work in general dental practice providing state-funded or private dental care or in the salaried public dental service. Many graduates choose to become a specialist in one area within dentistry. Dentistry gives scope to work and travel worldwide. Citizens of the EU who graduate from an EU dental school may practice anywhere in the EU and there is currently demand for dentists all over Europe. Some countries such as the US and Canada require that an examination is passed before a dentist qualified from Ireland

may practice. There is a mutual recognition agreement between Ireland and Canada whereby dental graduates from Irish dental schools can practice dentistry in Canada without completing an additional two years in a dental institution in Canada.



## BACHELOR IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY (B.DENT.TECH)

**Duration:** Three years, full time

**Course Director:** Ms Catherine Gorman, [catherine.gorman@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:catherine.gorman@dental.tcd.ie)

**Course Administrator:** Ms Natalie McGettigan, [natalie.mcgettigan@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:natalie.mcgettigan@dental.tcd.ie)



### What is the course like?

The Bachelor in Dental Technology is a 3-year course which is taught mainly in the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH). The main aim of this course is to educate and train students to become part of the dental team for the planning, designing and fabrication of intra-oral appliances, such as bridges, dentures and implant related restorations.

Dental technology is divided into four main areas, fixed prosthodontics, complete dentures, removable dentures and orthodontics. In first

and second year a dental technology student will spend much of their time in the DDUH teaching laboratory. The course is very much hands-on right from the start. In third year, students are assigned to the production laboratory for experience in providing a service to patients. They work closely with the clinician, at the chairside as well as in the laboratory. There are opportunities for students to be placed in external laboratories and there is the possibility of Erasmus exchange in third year. In this, their final year, students also complete a dissertation and case presentations.



### What does a dental technician do?

Dental technicians work in a laboratory which is usually remote from the clinic. Dental technicians work to the prescription of a dentist; they perform the laboratory aspects of dentistry fabricating crowns and bridges, dentures, maxillofacial and orthodontic appliances (retainers, space maintainers, implants) for delivery to the patient. Dental technicians require good manual dexterity skills working with various different materials in the fabrication process. Dental technology is rapidly changing with more emphasis on the use of CAD (Computer Aided Design) / CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) in the laboratory. Restoration with dental implants has also increasingly become part of the daily routine of a dental technician.

### What are the career prospects?

Dental technicians may work in a laboratory or be self-employed. Dental Technology gives scope to work and travel abroad.





## DIPLOMA IN DENTAL HYGIENE

**Duration:** Two years, full time

**Course Director:** Ms Yvonne Howell, [Yvonne.howell@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:Yvonne.howell@dental.tcd.ie)

**Course Administrator:** Ms Natalie McGettigan, [natalie.mcgettigan@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:natalie.mcgettigan@dental.tcd.ie)



### What is the course like?

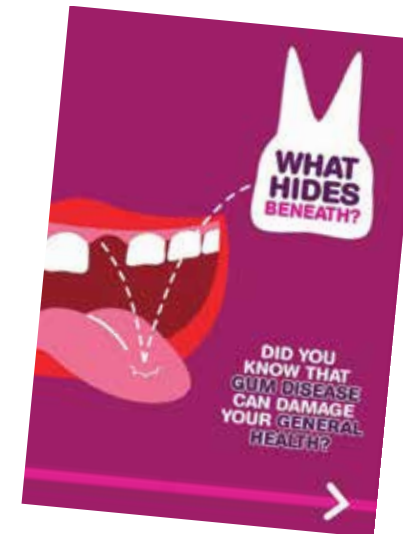
The Diploma in Dental Hygiene is a two-year programme. First year students have a full day attending lectures, seminars and clinical skills training. Most of these are in the Dublin Dental University Hospital, but some are on the Trinity College campus. Some lectures are integrated with other, related courses. Lectures are scheduled throughout the day, including some evening lectures. First year students have three clinics per week.

Second year students have six clinics per week, some of which are external. Time is spent visiting community settings and preparing for oral health presentations in these settings. This is a very intensive programme but it is very rewarding when your patients respond to your treatment and advice.

### What does a dental hygienist do?

The dental hygienist works closely with other dental team members and healthcare professionals. Patients must first be examined by a dentist who will then indicate the treatment to be carried out by the dental hygienist.

A dental hygienist focuses on preventive oral care for both children and adults, including those with special needs. Dental Hygienists treat patients in healthcare settings to prevent or control periodontal (gum) disease and dental decay. They also engage in oral health promotional activities with individuals, targeted groups and other health care teams, providing advice and counselling in relation to diet and lifestyle habits such as smoking.



### What are the career prospects?

1. Dental hygienists will work in either general dental practices or within the public health service.
2. Dental Hygienists use a variety of methods to promote oral health including giving presentations to groups within the community, creating informational leaflets, demonstrating good tooth-brushing technique, flossing and leading awareness campaigns such as smoking cessation.
3. The opportunity may exist to teach or become involved in research.
4. One can work abroad but that may require you passing local examinations in the country of choice. Citizens of the EU who graduate from an EU dental school may practice anywhere in the EU but, occasionally there is some paper work to be completed.

## DIPLOMA IN DENTAL NURSING

**Duration:** Two years, full time

**Course Director:** Ms Helen Farrelly, [helen.farrelly@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:helen.farrelly@dental.tcd.ie)

**Course Administrator:** Ms Pascaline Fresneau, [pascaline.fresneau@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:pascaline.fresneau@dental.tcd.ie)



### What is the course like?

On successful completion of the Diploma in Dental Nursing, graduates will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and competence to work within a dental team, contributing to a patient-centered approach to the delivery of dental care.

Dental Nursing students will attend the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) from Monday to Friday. Attendance is usually from 8.30am to 5pm, but there will be opportunities to enjoy college life at various times during the week. The first year will involve a combination of lectures and clinical practice, which will provide students with a variety of learning opportunities.

The second year will offer opportunities to work with various dental clinicians in a wide variety of disciplines and (dental) specialities. Clinical experiences will be gained within the DDUH environment, external institutions and private practices.

### Why choose Trinity for Dental Nursing?

The Dental Nursing programmes in Trinity College and the Dublin Dental University Hospital offer maximum clinical experience across a variety of specialist areas. DDUH provides specialist tertiary care, with well-established links with the Orthodontic Unit and the Haemophiliac Unit in St James's Hospital. Dental Nursing students in Trinity have a unique opportunity to work as part of the dental team in a busy hospital environment.

### What does a dental nurse do?

The dental nurse plays an important role in the organisation and management of the dental practice, assists the dentist in all aspects of patient treatment and plays a vital role in patient care. The main duties include infection prevention and control, chair-side assistance, preparation and maintenance of the dental surgery, and patient care.

Skills required of students considering Dental Nursing include communication and organisation skills, the ability to use initiative and a willingness to work closely with the dental team in providing support and assistance during the provision of dental care.

### What are the career prospects?

As a graduate of Dental Nursing, you will be able to find work in a variety of healthcare settings including dental hospitals and health-service executive dental clinics, as well as in general and specialist dental practices. Depending on the work setting, advancement in the field may include: senior dental nurse, clinic nurse manager, practice manager, marketing representative, dental nurse tutor, course coordinator, lecturer. You will have the opportunity to enter onto the Dental Council Voluntary Register of Dental Nurses, Ireland and to practice worldwide, although some countries require the completion of additional examinations for registration.



## NATIONAL DENTAL NURSE TRAINING PROGRAMME (NDNTP)

**Duration:** 16 months - evening programme.

**Course Director:** Ms Karen Dinneen, [karen.dinneen@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:karen.dinneen@dental.tcd.ie)

**Course Administrator:** Ms Pascaline Fresneau, [pascaline.fresneau@dental.tcd.ie](mailto:pascaline.fresneau@dental.tcd.ie)



The NDNTP is a joint initiative between Trinity College, the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) and Cork University Dental School & Hospital.

The National Dental Nurse Training Programme (NDNTP) is designed to prepare the student dental nurse with the skills and practical competence required to work in a dental surgery. During the sixteen-month part-time programme students attend the DDUH on Wednesday evenings, various Fridays and Saturdays and for a one-week full-time practical session. Lectures are delivered via videoconferencing, by the specialist dental staff of the dental hospitals. The learning environment is blended, allowing students to utilise technology to facilitate learning in an online format as well as traditional face-to-face sessions. Students must be employed throughout the duration of the programme as this allows the completion of the student portfolio of practical experience.

A Distance Learning option is also available for students based in geographically remote areas of Ireland who cannot travel to the centres. This option allows students to attend lectures online by logging in live to the weekly lectures.

Upon completion of the programme candidates display a competence in dental nursing. Successful candidates of the NDNTP will be awarded a Diploma in Dental Nursing by Trinity College Dublin or the University College Cork, depending on where the student is registered.

More information is available at:

**[www.dentalhospital.ie](http://www.dentalhospital.ie)**

This award satisfies the requirements of the Dental Council for admission on to the voluntary register for Dental Nurses in Ireland.

### Postgraduate Opportunities for Dental Nurses:

- Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy
- Certificate in Dental Radiography
- Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion - Oral Health
- Certificate in Special Care (dental nursing)
- Certificate in Conscious Sedation (dental nursing)

## ERASMUS PROGRAMMES

The Trinity School of Dental Science offers several Erasmus exchange programmes. Erasmus exchanges take place in the fourth year of the Dental Science and the third year of the Dental Technology courses. Erasmus agreements are currently in place with Norway, Sweden and Leeds. Each year students are actively encouraged to apply for places on these exchanges as students who have participated on the Erasmus programmes in the past have had extremely positive experiences.

### STUART YEATON, Dental Science, class of 2013:

Erasmus is something I had always wanted to do, and the chance to study in one of the most respected medical universities in the world (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden) was too good to pass up. Erasmus was a brilliant opportunity to experience a different approach to dental teaching. On a personal level, living for an extended period in a different culture, and getting to know other Erasmus students from around the world, was a fantastic experience.

### BOGDAN TSUKANOV, Dental Technology, class of 2014:

My Erasmus experience at Hogskolen Oslo og Akershus in Norway was unforgettable. I was integrated into 2nd and 3rd year technician courses where I learned advanced techniques and used state of the art equipment. Everyone in the college was amazing, friendly and helpful and despite my Dublin accent they understood me. In the short time I was there I managed to learn quite a lot and made some great friends and we all still keep in touch!





## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

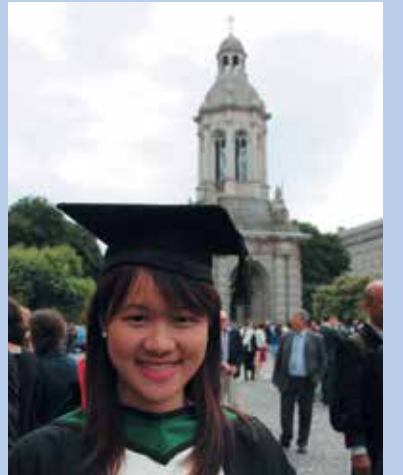
The School of Dental Science admits a high proportion of international students each year. Graduates of the Trinity School of Dental Science are highly-respected and highly sought-after both at home and abroad.

The School fosters a supportive multi-cultural and multi-national environment. Students benefit from small class sizes and low staff:student ratios. While many international students return to their home country upon graduating, many maintain close links with their classmates and with the School and Hospital throughout their careers.



## Why choose the Trinity School of Dental Science?

1. Trinity College is Ranked in the Top Tier of World Universities, QS World University Rankings 2016
2. Our teaching and clinical staff are of the highest calibre with a broad range of world-class specialists within Trinity College, the Dublin Dental University Hospital and our partner hospitals
3. Trinity College boasts a world-class library with over 5 million copies and the Dublin Dental University Hospital houses the largest collections of dental literature in Ireland; both libraries are available to students
4. Trinity College has a dedicated Global Relations Office to advise on study opportunities and the entry requirements of Trinity College Dublin <http://www.tcd.ie/study/>
5. The School of Dental Science promotes blended learning, which is praised by external examiners from across Europe
6. Students engage with patients from an early stage in their programme and amass a wealth of clinical experience before they graduate
7. We offer a wide range of postgraduate opportunities and encourage our students to return to specialise in their chosen area
8. Trinity College is located in Dublin's city centre, offering you a unique opportunity to live and study in one of Europe's great capitals
9. The Global Relations Office maintains the Trinity Global Room, an innovative new space designed to link the College to the world.
10. We have an ever-growing alumni community which helps and supports graduates, making your relationship with Trinity College a relationship for life





## STUDENT LIFE



There is more to the Trinity experience than lectures and study. One of the core elements of student life is the range of activities organised by students for students. Trinity's 112 societies, covering a broad range of interests from Afro-Caribbean to Zoology, constitute the most dynamic and active set of university student societies in Ireland. [www.trinitysocieties.ie/](http://www.trinitysocieties.ie/)

The Students' Union is the hub of student life on campus. Whether you are looking for a place to hold a class party, looking for general advice on how College operates, feeling stressed and need someone to talk to, having problems with timetables, or for almost any other reason you can think of the Students' Union will point you in the right direction. It is the main representative body for all students in Trinity College and its role is to work on behalf of students. [www.tcdsu.org/](http://www.tcdsu.org/)

The University Times is the student newspaper of Trinity College Dublin. Founded in 2009, it has won the Irish Student Newspaper of the Year award three years running, in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The newspaper is funded by Trinity College Students' Union but enjoys editorial independence. It comes out every three weeks during term, but the website is updated regularly with news and staff blogs. <http://universitytimes.ie/>

Thousands of students use sport clubs each year to forge friendships which often last a lifetime. Student sport clubs are managed by the Dublin University Central Athletic Club which runs approximately 50 sport clubs ranging from team sports such as GAA, rugby, soccer and squash to individual sports such as athletics, fencing, rifle shooting and triathlon. [www.tcd.ie/sport](http://www.tcd.ie/sport)

The Dublin Dental University Hospital hosts a common room for use by all staff and students. Tea and coffee is provided and a collegial atmosphere is fostered. An outdoor courtyard area can also be enjoyed on sunny days. The common room is sometimes used for hosting events within the DDUH, many of which are open for all students and staff to attend.

### Student Supports

The health and medical team at Trinity College are working hard to make Trinity a healthy place to live, study and work. The College Health Centre aims to take a holistic approach to Student Health and to provide on-campus, primary health care for all full-time students. The Centre focuses on the psychological and occupational aspects of Student Health and Health Education. [www.tcd.ie/collegehealth](http://www.tcd.ie/collegehealth)

S2S (Student to Student) is a student-led initiative designed to ensure that any student in Trinity can get information and support from another student, find a friendly face to have a chat, talk things through or just ask a few questions when you're not sure who to approach. S2S offers Peer Mentors to every incoming undergraduate honours degree student and visiting student in the College. We also have a highly trained team of Peer Supporters available for all undergraduate and postgraduate students. <http://student2student.tcd.ie/>

Find out more about student life:  
[www.tcd.ie/students/](http://www.tcd.ie/students/)



## STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



**Brian Dunne,**  
B.Dent.Sc, 2016

The Dublin Dental Hospital provided me with a fantastic environment to study dentistry. I graduated from Dental Science in June 2016 and the training I received was nothing short of excellent. The staff within the hospital were friendly and often went beyond what was needed in order to help students. An early exposure to the clinical aspects of dentistry from my second year prepared me for employment post-qualification, which is almost unique to the university. Following encouragement from staff at the Dublin Dental Hospital I was afforded the opportunity to take part in the Erasmus scheme, which proved to be one of the highlights of my college experience.



**Gillian Smith,**  
B.Dent.Sc, 2008;  
Postgraduate Diploma Conscious Sedation in Dentistry, 2011.

As both an undergraduate and postgraduate student in the School of Dental Science, Trinity College, Dublin I received an education that was second-to-none along with exceptional support from academic and clinical staff alike. The skills learnt have enabled me to take great pride and find joy and satisfaction in my day-to-day working life. The quality of teaching opened many doors for me and I have developed an interesting and successful career path that owes much to my training in the School of Dental Science. Gillian was awarded the Sensodyne Dentist of the Year in 2012.



**Emma O'Keeffe,**  
Diploma in Dental Nursing, 2013

I loved being a student here, I made so many friends. The dental nurses and clinicians were so nice, and I felt like I got such hands-on experience in the Dental Hospital. Dental Nursing is a fully accredited Dental Council course, with so many job opportunities for me after I qualified. I currently work as a Registered Dental Nurse in the Dublin Dental University Hospital.



**Ivan Alqass,**  
Visiting Erasmus Student, 2014

Academic staff at the University were helpful and approachable, keen to ensure you achieve your goals where they can, and get the most out of your selected modules. The skills learnt have enabled me to take great pride and find joy and satisfaction in my day-to-day working life. From my own experience and from speaking with other members of my class in Dublin, it is clear that the training we received is of the highest quality.





## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

### How to apply:

Admissions information is available from  
[www.tcd.ie/study](http://www.tcd.ie/study)

Detailed information for mature students  
is available from [www.tcd.ie/dental](http://www.tcd.ie/dental)

### Contact Us:

Please visit our website where you  
can find further information about  
our courses

[www.tcd.ie/dental](http://www.tcd.ie/dental)

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