University of Otago

Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Founded in 1907, the Faculty of Dentistry is the only Faculty and School of Dentistry in New Zealand. It forms an integral part of the Division of Health Sciences within the University of Otago in Dunedin. It offers programmes in all branches of Dentistry, Dental Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Clinical Dental Technology.

All students will first enroll into the Otago Health Sciences First Year before official admissions into the Bachelor of Dental Surgery. The Otago Health Sciences First Year is a prescribed 126 point course to be completed in the first year of a student's university study. The course also provides an excellent foundation for advanced study in the biological, biomedical and other sciences. The Bachelor of Dental Surgery is very competitive and there is no guarantee that students will receive admissions into the second year classes in Dentistry after completion of the Otago Health Sciences First Year.

What can you Study
If you gain admission to Dentistry, the Otago Health Sciences First Year counts as the first year of your five-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS).

For the next two years you will learn about the structure and function of the face and jaws, the diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases, including cancer and infections, and how to carry out clinical procedures. In the final two years you’ll carry out more complex root fillings, extract teeth, perform basic gum surgery, and straighten crooked teeth using orthodontic appliances, and make crowns and bridges.

The School of Dentistry is a teaching dental hospital so during your training years you will treat patients, as you would in general practice, but you will be under supervision. You will also have the opportunity to work closely alongside students who are studying other dental disciplines.

Note that a dentist’s education doesn’t end when you’re awarded a BDS. Once you have registered with the Dental Council of New Zealand you can practice, and for the rest of your career you can keep learning at various courses and conferences held locally, nationally and internationally.

Admissions Criteria
Undergraduate Entry:

- Successful completion of high school (and SAT or ACT for American applicants)
  - The minimum rank for entry into the first year Health Science is 70% 2.8/4.0 (and for Americans an SAT score of 1650 or ACT score of 26)
  - Minimum IB score of 26
Graduate Entry:
- The minimum rank for entry into the first year Health Science is 70% 2.8/4.0

All Applicants:
- Successful completion of the Otago Health Sciences First Year
- Submit university application, official transcripts, SAT or ACT scores (if applicable), notarized passport copy

Total Number of Students Enrolled Each Intake: 54

Total Number of International Students Accepted Each Intake: up to 5

Application Timeline:
- Applications for February 2017 are open.
- The application deadline for the 2017 intake is October 31, 2016 (Dunedin, New Zealand time)
- Outcomes will not be available until December 2016

Campus Location: Dunedin, New Zealand

Program Duration: 5 years (including the Otago Health Sciences First Year)

Next Intake: February 2017

Estimated Annual Tuition: Health Sciences First Year: $29,280 NZD and Years 2-5 (per year) $85,000 NZD

US Financial Aid Available: No