

DENTISTRY

This is a detailed profile of the dentistry field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



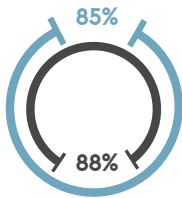
DENTISTRY

Dentistry is a clinically focused career, requiring an aptitude for hands-on work and strengths in science and mathematics. It is a competitive field, offering a high-status profession at the end of your study, with considerable scope for specialisation as you gain experience.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE POSTGRADUATE

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS



449
UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL

2,245
UNDERGRADUATE

1,562
POSTGRADUATE



MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$81,200
UNDERGRADUATE

\$104,400
POSTGRADUATE

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2018, 2017 and 2016. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post-graduation.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Dental Hygiene



Dental Therapy



Oral Health Therapy



Dental Nursing



Dentistry



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

DENTISTRY

<p>EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE</p> <table> <tr> <td>CURTIN</td> <td>84.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GRIFFITH</td> <td>79.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CQUni</td> <td>78.6%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 70.4%</p>	CURTIN	84.6%	GRIFFITH	79.3%	CQUni	78.6%	<p>GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT</p> <table> <tr> <td>JCU</td> <td>97.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CQUni</td> <td>92.3%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.4%</p>	JCU	97.6%	CQUni	92.3%	<p>LEARNER ENGAGEMENT</p> <table> <tr> <td>CURTIN</td> <td>72.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GRIFFITH</td> <td>70.2%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 65.2%</p>	CURTIN	72.3%	GRIFFITH	70.2%	<p>LEARNING RESOURCES</p> <table> <tr> <td>CQUni</td> <td>85.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEWCASTLE</td> <td>81.8%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 74.1%</p>	CQUni	85.7%	NEWCASTLE	81.8%
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<p>MEDIAN STARTING SALARY</p> <table> <tr> <td>JCU</td> <td>\$100,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$81,200</p>	JCU	\$100,000	<p>SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</p> <table> <tr> <td>SYDNEY</td> <td>93.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEWCASTLE</td> <td>92.1%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.7%</p>	SYDNEY	93.0%	NEWCASTLE	92.1%	<p>STUDENT SUPPORT</p> <table> <tr> <td>NEWCASTLE</td> <td>84.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CQUni</td> <td>81.3%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 70.0%</p>	NEWCASTLE	84.8%	CQUni	81.3%	<p>TEACHING QUALITY</p> <table> <tr> <td>NEWCASTLE</td> <td>85.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CURTIN</td> <td>82.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GRIFFITH</td> <td>82.6%</td> </tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 73.2%</p>	NEWCASTLE	85.6%	CURTIN	82.8%	GRIFFITH	82.6%		
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WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN? The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

DENTISTRY

Dentistry is a small, well-known and high-status profession. In general practice, dentists perform tasks associated with diagnosing, treating and preventing disease and abnormalities of the teeth, gums and mouth. An undergraduate degree gets you this far, being the main requirement for registration in all states and territories. Dentists can also specialise in a number of areas, earning titles ranging from the familiar (such as orthodontist and oral surgeon) to the unusual (periodontist and prosthodontist) and the glamorous (forensic odontologist). Becoming a specialist involves several years of experience and usually postgraduate study.

Dentistry is a clinically focused career, requiring an aptitude for hands-on work and strengths in science and mathematics. It's also important to have people skills and a genuine desire to help patients achieve optimal dental health. Most dentists work in private practice, although there are opportunities for employment in government services and the Defence Force. In recent years there has been growing recognition and more education options for allied oral health professionals such as dental hygienists and dental therapists, leading to changes in the roles of dentists themselves, particularly those in general practice. If you are interested in this field you might also consider medicine, health services and support, rehabilitation or nursing.

COURSES AND SPECIALISATIONS

Course options include graduate entry programs and pre-dentistry degrees, which, once completed, are followed by a postgraduate course before registration. This adoption of the US model, where undergraduates enter a general pre-professional degree and then transfer to a postgraduate qualification in their professional area, has the potential to

become more common in the future. As is often the case with professional fields of study, there is little variation in the content and structure of the degrees in this field, as they must all satisfy similar criteria to be accredited by registration authorities. In dentistry, the trend is usually to begin the course with some foundation science, progressing to applied dental science in the middle years, followed by a final year (or two) spent mostly in clinical placements.

For more information, visit:

- Australian Dental Association
www.ada.org.au
- Dental Board of Australia
www.dentalboard.gov.au

WHERE TO STUDY

The dentistry field remains small but has expanded in recent years, with the introduction of new dentistry schools across the country. Institutions offering dentistry courses have their own clinical facilities for practical learning, including fully operational clinics (which are open to the public in some cases). When researching courses, be sure to check out the quality of facilities on offer.

In addition, all students in their last semester or year should be in placements out in the community.

It is worth noting that all courses are hard to get into and are also quite long (around five years). Admission to all courses generally requires a high ATAR and good performance in the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT), as well as a range of prerequisite subjects and usually an interview.

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IN EDUCATION AND JOB TRENDS**



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