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To whom it may concern.

### **Intercalating Students in 2025/26**

The student who is applying for support using the PR1 form for the 2025/26 academic year will be intercalating out of the 5-year BDS Dentistry course and into either the final year of a BSc or BA course.

Intercalation is common for dental students as it allows them to spend a year in subjects including Anatomical Science, Biochemistry, Bioethics, Cellular and Molecular Medicine (various options), Global Health, Medical Humanities, Physiological Sciences and Health Sciences. This is normally between Years 2 and 3 of the BDS Dentistry programme. There is also an option to take an MRes in Health Sciences Research. Students are supported and encouraged by the university to intercalate as the intercalating year will benefit the student's studies when they return to the 5-year course and is advantageous when applying for jobs especially in academia.

Students who intercalate are eligible for the full financial support package they would have been entitled to receive had they decided not to intercalate and progress directly into the following year of the BDS Dentistry

Intercalating students are eligible for the maintenance loan for living costs and the tuition fee loan.

Students can also be assessed to receive supplementary grants such as Childcare Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance and Adult Dependents' Grant where eligible.

When they return to the Dentistry course in 2026/27, they will not be affected by the previous study rule or by the fact that they have achieved an honours degree and will be eligible to receive the full support available to them had they not intercalated.

Students who intercalate will find the BDS Dentistry has been extended by one year to allow for intercalation. This means that in years five and six of study they will be eligible for support from the Department of Health by means of the NHS Bursary. Based on current figures, in these years of study students are also eligible for a reduced rate maintenance loan.

I hope this letter will help support University of Bristol students who decide to intercalate and clarifies the funding that is available to them.

Information on intercalation is available on the University of Bristol website at:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/fmd/courses/undergraduate/intercalate/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/fmd/courses/undergraduate/intercalate/)

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