



**Lawrence Sharkey**

**23 years old**

**A fifth year dental student, originally from the town of Airdrie, studying at Glasgow Dental School who is passionate about both dentistry and musical theatre!**

I usually get up at around 7:30am on a weekday and live five minutes from campus. Each morning, I eat porridge at home before I dash to university.

**What does your weekly university timetable look like e.g. half lectures/half practical work/placements/private study?**

Biweekly rotation of 1 week 9am-5pm dental outreach centres, 1 week in Glasgow Dental Hospital Speciality Departments

**What appealed to you about a career in dentistry?**

Career stability, integration of business, and working in health-care.

**Did you know you wanted to be a dentist from a young age?**

No, I had previously looked upwards towards space! But as time progressed, my head began to move slowly downwards, until it rested at a comfortable 45degrees below the horizontal.

**What are your favourite areas of study and why?**

Patient management and dental ceramics. I enjoyed working around ceramics with Dr. Jamie Newlands at the Berkeley Clinic, Glasgow, during part-time work as a dental assistant, and observing Dr. Mike Gow conducting anxiety management using

techniques such as hypnosis.

I also find dental implantology (specifically in use as overdenture abutments) to be an exciting and continually growing area of dentistry.

**Are you enjoying every part of your course? What do you find more challenging, if anything?**

You will always prefer the areas of dentistry you are good at. The trick is to also find enjoyment in areas where you can see your technical skills grow, e.g. root-canal treatments where measurements are very precise, and the margin for error is reduced, increasing difficulty and requiring strong technical ability and patience.

**Do you express an interest in business? Do you think there is enough in the dental curriculum about the business side of running a dental practice?**

We have just recently had our graduate attributes week in Glasgow where we discussed what lies beyond the course. Such areas included: post-graduate training, specialist interest, and business. One of our most recent assignments was to construct a business plan for the acquisition of a simulated practice.

**What area of dentistry would you like to go into initially - e.g. general practice?**

My next step after university is to complete my DVT year in Scotland (DFT equivalent), working in General Practice.

**What are your longer-term ambitions?**

To explore areas of special interest in dentistry and further afield, with the support

of being a practice owner.

**Tell us more about the extra curricular activities you've taken part in over the past 2 years?**

In 2015, I founded an amateur musical theatre company - Glasgow Live Productions - and produced/directed my first show 'Company', by Stephen Sondheim.

I am also just off the back of directing the Glasgow Dental School Pantomime 'Frozen: A Disnae Hurt Anymore Production' with an audience of 450 people, raising around £3,300 for charity.

**What are you interested in aside from dentistry?**

Musical theatre has been an interest of mine for 11 years now. I usually take on 2-3 productions per year, but have recently taken a break to focus on my transition from university to working life.

Performing/creative work in general is an area of my life I will continue to explore.

**Once home in the evenings what do you do to relax?**

I like to keep a healthy work-life balance by going to the gym, maintaining a healthy social life, cooking, and keeping in close contact with family.

**Do you have any other exciting plans coming up in the near future not already mentioned?**

My last adventure was directing my uncle's band 'the Unknown' on their video shoot!

Next stop is exams and interviews with a bit of holiday travel and skiing planned later in the year. ■