



STUDENT PROFILE

Name: Arjun Puri

Age: 22

University: Fourth-year dental student at Universidad Europa de Madrid

Area of residence: Madrid

I usually get up at 7 a.m. each day and live in a studio apartment, around a 15-minute walk away from the university campus. Our fourth year of dental education consists of a split between lectures and practical work.

I have always wanted to go into a profession where I could have the opportunity to take care of people and improve their lives. The level of manual dexterity required with dentistry appealed to me, as I was keen for my career choice to have a hands-on approach. With dentistry there is a lifetime of learning, a challenging career and a profession I can envision myself doing. Another reason I took into consideration was choosing a profession where I could balance my professional and family life. After GCSE examinations I explored various professions from different fields, but I have always had a great passion for healthcare. When I carried out my work experience at my local dental practice, I instantly thought to myself that this would be something I can see myself doing. So from that day I was determined to study dentistry and achieve my goals.

One of the areas of study I really enjoy is prosthetic dentistry as the results that can be achieved can have a significant impact on an individual's life. There is an element of artistry involved which is why this subject is appealing to me. Currently I am enjoying all aspects of my course, which makes it a challenge to narrow down a path that I may consider to specialise in.

From a young age I have expressed entrepreneurial qualities by buying and selling collectable items (such as vintage games) by utilising social media. Creating and growing a business is a goal that I would strongly consider in my future. Whilst many say that business education should not be included in the dental curriculum, I strongly believe that in the dental curriculum it would be very beneficial to have a basic understanding of the business aspect of running a dental practice. However, for a deeper understanding on the business aspect on dentistry, I believe that this should be undertaken outside of the dental curriculum.

I have begun to give consideration to the career path I'd like to go down after qualification. I would like to create more awareness and provide more information regarding opportunities for British students studying dentistry abroad. Perhaps build a community where current dentists from the UK (that have completed their education abroad) can provide essential information and guidance for students looking to study dentistry abroad.

I strongly believe it is important to incorporate exercise into my day. I have always enjoyed playing racquet sports, especially badminton. I play badminton, as it is a sport which I have had a passion for since high school and I have continued that at university. I am also learning how to play the guitar, as music is another passion of mine. ■