

Bec Penco



The School of Dentistry has transformed my desire for a job into a desire for a career. In my last 4 years at the School, I have met incredibly passionate professionals as well as ambitious students, both of whom inspire me. I have been given a taste for research, which I never imagined would interest me, but which I now value highly. Finally, the School has given me the chance to realise the kind of dentist, and person, I want to be in the future.

The dental degree has taken me out of my comfort zone and challenged me so many times, that it's introduced me to what my limits are and what I'm capable of. I now have more confidence in myself, know that I've already failed if I don't try, and that there's no end to the amount of knowledge to be gained.

My first patient I saw as a first year student treated me with such respect, gratitude and kindness, that I was blown away. Having worked in customer service and hospitality during my first undergraduate degree, both of which involved a lot of interaction with the public, I was used to delivering advice and services to people. In a healthcare setting however, I was surprised at how patients were so receptive to my advice, so grateful for the services I delivered, and so respectful to me as a person. A huge difference!

To my student colleagues I'd say: Be proud of what you have achieved and the strength you've shown, and let's show the dental community what we're made of!