

## Alumni profiles - Gareth Brock

Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 1998

Consultant in Restorative Dentistry, Dundee Dental Hospital and School



“Birmingham was particularly welcoming to graduate entry candidates...”

### How has your career has developed since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

After completing my bachelor of dental surgery, I did my vocational training in Lincoln and then came back to Birmingham Dental Hospital to study for a PhD. I was fortunate to win a dental implant-themed scholarship for a short period in the United States, followed by a return to general practice before embarking on a specialist training pathway in restorative dentistry at Liverpool Dental Hospital. Shortly after the completion of specialist training in May 2012, I gained a consultant post at Dundee Dental Hospital and have spent all my time since then trying to decipher the Dundonian accent!

### What is the best thing about the job you are doing now?

I enjoy both the practical elements of my job and the interaction with patients as much as the day I first started clinics, alongside trying to develop and manage an enthusiastic team in a hospital environment.

### Why did you originally apply to do Dentistry at Birmingham?

Birmingham was particularly welcoming to graduate entry candidates, and had a great reputation for both studying and socialising - and lived up to it!

### What did you think were the best points of the Dental Surgery degree and the University?

The e-learning development was incredible during my time at the University. The fact that this has continued to flourish proves that it continues to be a leader. Also, the staff-student interaction was a very positive one both professionally and socially. The University itself remains a very well respected 'red brick' institution that certainly as an outsider now, appears to be forward thinking, continually improving, and listening to both students' and staff opinion.

### What advice would you give to current students studying on the course?

You get out of the course as much as you are willing to put in! The opportunities are there for the taking.

### How did you grow as a person by studying at University? Did it change your life in any way?

BDS at Birmingham has given me greater self-confidence, made me appreciate that I am lucky to work in a very diverse subject area that still has many alternative job opportunities. I was able to present at local, national and international levels and work on international committees thanks to staff colleagues, and plan a career around the aspects of dentistry that are of particular interest to me. I didn't initially plan to be a Consultant when I finished BDS but feel very privileged to be practising in an environment where I enjoy going to work!