

Thinking Ahead?

Dental Nursing

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Information and Guidance Team
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Learner Services

What does a dental nurse do?

Dental nurses support dentists to care for people's teeth. The dental nurse will also take notes from dentists' dictation for personal records and update filing systems. After patients have been treated they will tidy the surgery and sterilise all dental instruments. They may also do some reception work.

Where do they work?

Dental nurses work at dental practices, dental hospitals and sometimes in the community.

What skills and personal qualities do they need?

Dental nurses need to be calm, confident and reassuring and have the ability to relate well to adults and children from a wide range of backgrounds. They need to be flexible and follow procedures in pressured situations.

How do I get into dental nursing?

You can become a dental nurse by starting as a trainee with a dental practice and training on the job, or by taking a full-time college course in dental nursing. In both cases, you must study for a qualification approved by the General Dental Council (GDC) and register with the GDC. Approved courses include:

- Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing
- National Diploma in Dental Nursing awarded by the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing (full-time)
- Foundation Degree in Dental Nursing (full-time)

To train on the job, most employers will prefer you to have a good general standard of education, such as GCSEs (A-C) including English, maths and/or science. Full-time courses may require evidence of A-level or AS-level study.

Your personal qualities and suitability for the work are also important. On this route, you would work towards a diploma in Dental Nursing.

To train full-time, you would apply to one of the small number of organisations offering this option. Entry requirements vary and if you already have some experience in dental nursing, this will be taken into account. Check with course providers for more details. You can find a list of course providers and awarding bodies on the General Dental Council: website www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals/Dental-nurse-qualifications. Course available in the Manchester area are listed below

Where can I study?

BURY COLLEGE (www.burycollege.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 280 8280

Advanced Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing (Oral Health Care) Level 3

The apprenticeship is equivalent to the NEBDN certification and gives you the opportunity to gain experience and a nationally recognised qualification that meets the requirements of the General Dental Council. Please note, to work as a dental nurse you will need to register with the General Dental Council (GDC) on completion of the apprenticeship qualification.

- Duration of training: 24 months
- Study mode: Full time

Level 3 CACHE Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing

This course gives you the opportunity to study to be a Dental Nurse. You will spend two days in college and three days a week on a placement where you will provide support during a range of dental treatment.

- Duration: **1 year**
- Study mode: **Full time**

OLDHAM COLLEGE (www.oldhamcollege.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 785 4000

Apprenticeship to Dental Nursing

To enrol on a level 3 course:

- A minimum of 4 x GCSEs at grades C or level 4 including English and maths
- Or a Merit at BTEC level 2 or NVQ level 2 including C in English and maths (or an equivalent qualification)
- Certain vocational courses may require a competency based assessment.

MANCHESTER DENTAL HOSPITAL

The Central Manchester School for Dental Care Professionals, 3rd Floor, University Dental Hospital of Manchester, Higher Cambridge Street, Manchester, M15 6FH.
Tel: 0161 272 5670 Email: gillian.benn@cmft.nhs.uk

Dental Nurse Cadet Apprentices Programme (Level 3 Diploma)

This Apprenticeship is open to all age ranges and is suitable for anyone who has an interest in Dental Health (no upper age limit). There are 2 intakes per calendar year February and September.

Entry requirements – Minimum 3 GCSE A*-C or equivalent in 2 of the following 3 subjects English Language, Maths or Science. Third GCSE/Level 2 can be in any subject.

Candidates will be employed by the National Skills Academy Health on a fixed term Apprenticeship contract and you will receive a weekly Apprenticeship allowance.

- Study Mode: Full time (Practical work and Study)
- Duration : 1 year

Diploma in Dental Nursing level 3 (City and Guilds)

Dental Hospital also provides Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing – ½ day (Day release)
Entry requirements: No formal qualifications, but a good level of English is required. An assessment will be carried out to check level of English. A learner will also be expected to be working 3 full days

CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCAL COLLEGES

To complete GCSE's/Level 2 in Maths, English, Science or another subject such as Health and Social Care contact Manchester Adult Education Service or any of the colleges listed below.

The Manchester Adult Education Service (www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted)
The Manchester College (www.tmc.ac.uk) Tel: 0333 322 2444
Trafford College (www.trafford.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 886 7000
Stockport College (www.stockport.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 296 5000
Salford City College (www.salford-col.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 631 5000
Tameside College (www.tameside.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 908 6600
Bury College (www.burycollege.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 280 8280
Oldham College (www.oldham.ac.uk) Tel: 0800 269 480

What are the job prospects for Dental Nurses?

Dental Nurses are always in demand, meaning there are lots of jobs. Good dental nurses can expect excellent job security. (www.economicmodelling.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Manchester-LEP)

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN)
Tel: 01772 429917
www.nebdn.org

British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN)
www.badn.org.uk

General Dental Council
Tel: 0845 2224141
www.gdc-uk.org

Health Careers
Tel: 0345 6060655
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk
www.jobs.nhs.uk

National Careers Service: **0800 100 900**
Website: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

National Apprenticeship Service 08000-150-400
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeship-vacancies>

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