

Thinking Ahead?

Dental Nurse

Produced by
Manchester Adult Education Service
Information Advice & Guidance Team
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Some information extracted from National Careers Service website

Learner Services

Dental Nurse

What do they do?

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- passing instruments to the dentist or hygienist
- removing water and saliva from the patient's mouth during treatment
- preparing materials to make fillings
- making sure that the patient is relaxed and comfortable at all times
- keeping the surgery tidy and sterile
- sterilizing instruments
- helping record information about each patient
- Assist in reception area, and administration booking appointments, taking payments for treatment and greeting and reassuring patients.

You may work at a general dental practice, a hospital, with the community dental service or in a university. You could also work in the armed forces.

Skills required

- the ability to relate well to people, including children and those with special needs
- excellent communication and listening skills
- practical and organisational skills
- a calm, confident and reassuring manner
- be flexible and follow procedures in pressured situations.

How to become a Dental Nurse

To get into this job you can either:

You can either:

- take a full-time college course in dental nursing
- start on a traineeship or an apprenticeship with a dental practice to train on the job

In both cases, you'll need to 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.

You will also need to pass background checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Related Careers

You may be interested in:

- [Dental hygienist](#)
- [Dental therapist](#)
- [Dental technician](#)
- [Dentist](#)
- [Dental Practice Manager](#)

Labour Market Information

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)

Local Training Providers

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

Advanced Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing (Oral Health Care) Level 3
Level 3 CACHE Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing

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

Apprenticeship to Dental Nursing

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.

Diploma in Dental Nursing level 3 (City and Guilds)

Dental Hospital also provides Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing – ½ day (Day release)

Degree and Post Graduate Degree courses

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

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>

Funding for Study

Funding information for Higher Education courses can be found at: www.gov.uk/student-finance

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