

Dental nurse

A dental nurse supports the dentist in all aspects of patients' dental care.

Working life

You may help with reception work and could help any member of the dental team - dentists, clinical dental technicians/technologists, hygienists and therapists – treat patients of all ages.

Some patients will be there for a check-up while others will have more complicated treatment. You'll need to reassure people and put them at ease, while supporting the team in all aspects of patient care.

In a dental practice, you'll welcome patients and provide direct support with the treatment itself:



- taking responsibility for the decontamination of instruments
- maintaining dental operating equipment
- ensuring that all relevant materials and supplies are in place
- looking after patient records – including making notes when the dentist is examining a patient
- working closely with the dentist ^[1], responding quickly to requests and generally keeping the surgery ready for use

You'll also be responsible for ensuring high standards of cleanliness and control of infection.

Entry requirements

You can usually work as a trainee dental nurse without academic qualifications but to progress to being a qualified dental nurse, you'll need to study for a course in dental nursing,

either part or full time, that is approved by the General Dental Council [2]. Exact course requirements will vary from provider to provider, but a minimum 2 GCSEs (4/C grade or above) in English language and maths or a science subject are usually required for part-time courses.

Full-time degree level courses may require A-levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications. A level 3 apprenticeship in dental nursing is an additional way to gain the required qualifications in dental nursing.

Must have skills

Tact and discretion are important qualities for a dental nurse - you will be handling confidential patient information and caring for people who may be anxious. You must be happy to work as part of a team and willing to learn and understand the science behind dentistry. You'll be dealing with a broad range of people, each with their own characteristics and concerns so you'll need to be tactful and friendly and able to offer advice and educate others. You will often need to follow instructions from the dentist.

You'll need to reassure people and put them at ease.

You also need to be able to demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution [3].

Career development

With extra training you could take x-rays and clinical photographs, take impressions, make models of teeth and apply fluoride varnish to prevent tooth decay. With experience you could train to be a dental hygienist [4], dental therapist [5] or orthodontic therapists. You can also acquire additional skills such as impression-taking and providing fluoride varnish as part of dental public health programmes.

Pay and benefits

Most dental nurses in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work some evenings. Your starting salary will usually be between band 3 and band 4 of the Agenda for Change pay rates [6] but some senior dental nurses will start at band 5 or higher.

Terms and conditions may vary for those dental nurses not directly employed by the NHS.

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Live vacancies

- [View Vacancy \[7\]](#)

Qualified/Trainee Dental Nurse

Great Yarmouth, NR30 2JN

- **Salary:**
Depending on experience
- **Type:**
Permanent
- **Employer:**
Central Advertising - Other
- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [7]

Qualified/Trainee Dental Nurse

Brentwood, CM14 4RZ

- **Salary:**
Depending on experience
- **Type:**
Permanent
- **Employer:**
Central Advertising - Other
- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [8]

Trainee Dental Nurse

Hereford, HR1 2HU

-

Salary:

£18546.00 to £19918.00 a year pa

■

Type:

Permanent

■

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) [9]

Qualified/Trainee Dental Nurse

Daventry, NN11 4BG

■

Salary:

Depending on experience CPD Support

■

Type:

Permanent

■

Employer:

Central Advertising - Other

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) [7]

Qualified/Trainee Dental Nurse

Great Yarmouth, NR30 2JN

■

Salary:

Depending on experience

■

Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Central Advertising - Other



[View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy](#) [7]

Qualified/Trainee Dental Nurse

Brentwood, CM14 4RZ



Salary:

Depending on experience



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Central Advertising - Other



[View Vacancy](#)



**Find your
course to
become a
dental nurse**

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 11 matches

CertHE Dental Nurse Practice

Teesside University, Middlesbrough Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[10]

Region

North East

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full-time

Duration

1 year

Contact details

shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [11]

01642 384110

More information regarding the course webpage

http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=592&fos=9&fossup=25

[12]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough

Tees Valley

TS1 3BA

Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)

http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=592&fos=9&fossup=25

[12]

NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing

National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

[13]

Region

All UK

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

In service

Duration

Various

Contact details

info@nebdn.org ^[14]

01772 429917

More information regarding the course webpage

<https://www.nebdn.org/qualifications/diploma-in-dental-nursing/> ^[13]

Admissions address

110 London Street

Fleetwood

Lancashire

FY7 6EU

Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)

<https://www.nebdn.org/qualifications/diploma-in-dental-nursing/> ^[13]

The NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing is delivered by a large number of training centres across the UK. For further information about the qualification and to get the details of the training centres registered with NEBDN to deliver them, please visit the NEBDN website above.

FdSc Dental Nursing

University of Northampton Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

^[15]

Region

East Midlands

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full-time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

study@northampton.ac.uk ^[16]

0300 303 2772

More information regarding the course webpage

<http://www.northampton.ac.uk/study/courses/dental-nursing-fdsc/> ^[15]

Admissions address

Park Campus

Kelmarsh Building

Boughton Green Road

Northampton

NN2 7AL

Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)

<http://www.northampton.ac.uk/study/courses/dental-nursing-fdsc/> ^[15]

CertHE Dental Nursing

Cardiff University Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

^[17]

Region

Wales

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Part-time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

dentalugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk ^[18]

029 2074 2468

More information regarding the course webpage

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/dental-nursing-certif...>

^[17]

Admissions address

Cardiff

Wales

CF10 3AT

Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/dental-nursing-certif...>

^[17]

CertHE Dental Nursing

University of Portsmouth Opens in a new window

View course Opens in a new window

^[19]

Region

South East

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full-time

Duration

1 year

Contact details

admissions@port.ac.uk [20]

023 9284 5566

More information regarding the course webpage

<https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/certhe-dental-nursing> [19]

Admissions address

Science Faculty Office

St. Michael's Building

White Swan Road

Portsmouth

PO1 2DT

Course webpage (All course links open in new window)

More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)

<https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/certhe-dental-nursing> [19]

- Load more Load more results [21]

Other roles that may interest you

- Dental support worker [22]
- Receptionist [23]
- Dental therapist [24]
- Dental hygienist [25]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-nurse>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dentist>

[2] <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Pages/default.aspx>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-constitution>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-hygienist>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/dental-therapist>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>

[7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916821159>

[8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916898462>

[9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916821500>

[10] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=592&fos=9&fossup=25

[11] <mailto:shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk>

[12] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=592&fos=9&fossup=25

[13] <https://www.nebdn.org/qualifications/diploma-in-dental-nursing/>

[14] <mailto:info@nebdn.org>

[15] <http://www.northampton.ac.uk/study/courses/dental-nursing-fdsc/>

[16] <mailto:study@northampton.ac.uk>

[17] <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/dental-nursing-certificate>

[18] <mailto:dentalugadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk>

[19] <https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/certhe-dental-nursing>

[20] <mailto:admissions@port.ac.uk>

[21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/73?page=1>

[22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/dental-support-worker>

[23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/administration/receptionist>

[24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-therapist>

[25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-hygienist>