

Dental therapist

A dental therapist does some of the more straightforward work undertaken by a dentist.



Working life

More dental surgeries have dental therapists working for them to do routine dental work. As a therapist, you'll have independence without the full responsibility of running a practice. You can also provide treatment in other parts of the community, such as schools and care homes.

Health education would be an important part of your role such as offering advice to patients on looking after their oral health. You'll also carry out a range of procedures including:

- scaling and polishing
- applying materials to teeth such as fluoride and fissure sealants
- taking dental x-rays
- taking impressions of teeth
- undertaking routine dental fixes of baby and permanent teeth
- putting in crowns
- extracting teeth

Annette Matthews

Dental therapist and hygienist

My days vary, depending which practices I am working in. I have busy days which include back-to-back restorative dentistry and there are days when I focus on prevention and dental hygiene.

[Read Annette's story](#) ^[1]

Health education would be an important part of your role such as offering advice to patients on looking after their oral health. You'll also carry out a range of procedures including:

- scaling and polishing
- applying materials to teeth such as fluoride and fissure sealants
- taking dental x-rays
- taking impressions of teeth
- undertaking routine dental fixes of baby and permanent teeth
- putting in crowns
- extracting teeth

Dental therapists can also develop additional skills including:

- carrying out tooth whitening
- removing sutures after a dentist has checked the wound

You'll treat a range of patients with different treatment needs including those who:

Dental therapists may treat patients who have high treatment needs.

- are dentally anxious
- have learning or physical disabilities
- have high levels of untreated decay
- are unable to access regular dental care in the general dental service

Entry requirements

To practise as a dental therapist, you must obtain a diploma or degree in dental therapy and be registered with the [General Dental Council](#) [2].

You'll need five GCSE subjects at grade 4-7 or A to C, plus two A-levels or a recognised qualification in dental nursing. You may also be required to have some experience of dental nursing before taking the course.

Must have skills

You will patience and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. You'll need empathy and be caring approach along with proficient, highly technical clinical skills. You'll need to be confident to work on your own and be able to put even the youngest of patients at ease. Good time management and organisational skills are essential, along with attention to health and safety procedures. At all times, a dental therapist needs to be mindful of the need for patient confidentiality.

Training and development

The diploma in dental therapy course takes about 27 months, depending on the dental hospital at which you study. Some dental schools offer part time courses for dental hygienists wishing to qualify as dental therapists.

Subjects studied include:

- preventive dentistry
- dental health education
- dental pathology
- simple restorative procedures for both deciduous and permanent teeth
- the extraction of deciduous teeth (previously known as baby teeth)
- radiography and pharmacology

If you are studying dental therapy at level 5 or 6 you could be eligible to receive at least £5,000 a year towards your studies while at university. Your personal circumstances may mean you could receive more. And the good news? You'll never have to pay it back. [Find out more.](#) ^[3]

Career development

You'll be expected to keep up to date with the latest techniques and developments, including best practice. Your professional development will be identified through performance reviews and will be part of your mandatory requirements for General Dental Council register.

With experience, you can progress to become a practice manager or move into research. You could move into teaching roles or become an orthodontic therapist.

Pay and benefits

Dental therapists may be self-employed or employed directly by a dental practice so your working hours and pay will vary but some evening or weekend work may be required.

If you work for the the NHS in a hospital or community clinic, your starting salary might be at bands 5 or 6 of the [Agenda for Change](#) ^[4] pay scale. You'll typically work 37.5 hours a week.

• Find your course to become a dental therapist

Region	Type of qualification	Full or part time
- Any - ▼	- Any - ▼	Search <input type="text"/> ▼

Displaying 11 - 15 of 28 matches

Dental Hygiene

London South Bank University

[View course](#) ^[5] Opens in a new window

◦ Qualification

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration of the course

3 Years

Leading to a career in

- Dental hygiene or therapy
- Contact details
 - study@lsbu.ac.uk ^[6]
 - 0207 815 7500
- Region
 - London
- Admissions address
 - 103 Borough Road
 - London
 - SE1 0AA
 - United Kingdom

Dental Hygiene

Teesside University, Middlesbrough

[View course](#) ^[7] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Dental hygiene or therapy
- Contact details
 - shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk ^[8]
- Region
 - North East
- Admissions address
 - Borough Road
 - Middlesbrough
 - TS1 3BX
 - United Kingdom

Oral Health Science

University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)

[View course](#) ^[9] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science - BSc
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Dental hygiene or therapy
- Contact details

info@uhi.ac.uk ^[10]

01463 279190

- Region

Scotland

Admissions address

Castle Grounds

Stornoway

HS2 0XR

Scotland

Dental Therapy and Hygiene

University of Plymouth

[View course](#) ^[11] Opens in a new window

- Qualification

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration of the course

3 Years

Leading to a career in

Dental hygiene or therapy

- Contact details

meddent-admissions@plymouth.ac.uk ^[12]

+44 (0)1752 437333

- Region

South West

Admissions address

Drake Circus

Plymouth

PL4 8AA

United Kingdom

BSc Dental hygiene and therapy

University of Manchester

[View course](#) ^[13] Opens in a new window

- Qualification

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration of the course

3 Years

Leading to a career in

Dental hygiene or therapy

- Contact details

study@manchester.ac.uk ^[14]

+44 (0)161 275 2077

- Region
North West
Admissions address
University Recruitment And Adm
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom
- [Load more Load more results](#) ^[15]

• Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Dental Therapist**

Newmarket, CB8 7BT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Dental Therapist / Hygienist, SW Cleft Service**

Bristol, BS1 2LY

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist / Hygienist, SW Cleft Service job](#)

[\(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Senior Dental Officer / Dental Officer**

Thetford, IP24 1JD

Salary:

£78573.00 to £91903.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Officer / Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Dental Receptionist, Emergency Dental Service**

Pontypridd, CF37 1LB

Salary:

£23970.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Receptionist, Emergency Dental Service job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Matron - Dental Hospital, Dental Outreach & OMFS**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£61927.00 to £68676.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Matron - Dental Hospital, Dental Outreach & OMFS job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Associate Dental Dean for Dental Core Training**

Rotherham, S60 1AE

Salary:

£126270.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Associate Dental Dean for Dental Core Training job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Dental Nurse**

Derby, DE23 6SF

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Dental Officer**

Gloucester, GL1 2DB

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Dental Associate**

Frinton on Sea, CO13 0AR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Associate job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Dental Officer**

Bedford, MK40 4HR

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [25]

- **Dental Officer**

Bury, BL9 0NJ

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [26]

- **Dental Officer**

Ashton-Under-Lyne, OL6 7SR

Hyde , OL6 7SR

Salary:

£50012.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [27]

- **Dental Officer**

Oldham, OL11NL

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [28]

- **Dental Nurse**

Luton, LU1 1HH

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [29]

- **Dental Nurse**

Bracknell, RG12 2UT

Salary:

£14.82

Type:

Bank

Employer:

NHS Professionals Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Dental Officer**

Winsford, CW7 1AT

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Dental Officer**

Gosport, PO12 3PW

Southsea, PO5 4EZ

Havant, PO9 2AZ

Petersfield, GU32 3LB

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Dental Nurse - Worcester**

Worcester, WR1 1AA

Salary:

£275.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse - Worcester job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[33]

- **Senior Dental Nurse**

Ashton-Under-Lyne, OL6 9RW

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [34]

- **Specialist Dental Nurse**

Thetford, IP25 6RL

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[35]

- **Bank Dental Nurse**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [36]

- **Specialist Dental Nurse**

Thetford, IP25 6RL

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[35]

- **Specialist Dental Nurse**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£26530.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[37]

- **Registered Dental Nurse**

Liverpool, L3 5PS

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[38]

- **Senior Dental Officer**

Aylesbury,, HP20 2SR

Salary:

£78573.00 to £91903.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [39]

- **Dental Triage Nurse**

Huddersfield, HD2 1GQ

Leeds, LS7 2BQ

Salary:

£15.22

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Local Care Direct

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Triage Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Orthodontic Dental Nurse**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthodontic Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[41]

- **Registered Dental Nurse**

Liverpool, L3 5PS

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[42]

- **Dental Clinical Adviser**

Eastbourne, BN21 3UT

Salary:

£92760.00 to £98670.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NHS Business Services Authority

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Clinical Adviser job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[43]

- **Senior Dental Officer**

Cowes, PO31 7ER

Salary:

£78573.00 to £91903.00

Type:

Permanent
Employer:
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **Senior Dental Technician**

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary:
£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[45]

- **Registered Dental Nurse**

Liverpool, L3 5PS

Salary:
£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[46]

- **Qualified Dental Nurse**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:
£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Qualified Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[47]

- **Registered Dental Nurse**

Liverpool, L3 5PS

Salary:
£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[48]

- **Dental Administrative Assistant**

Brecon, LD3 7NS

Salary:

£23970.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Powys Teaching Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Administrative Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [49]

- **COMMUNITY DENTAL OFFICER**

London, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for COMMUNITY DENTAL OFFICER job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [50]

- **Dental Nurse - Telford**

Telford, TF1 1AA

Salary:

£275.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse - Telford job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [51]

- **Specialist Dental Technician**

Bath, BA1 3NG

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Dental Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[52]

- **Dental Nurse Apprentice**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£14762.93

Type:

Apprenticeship

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse Apprentice job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[53]

- **Bank Dental Nurse**

Bedford, MK40 2NT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[54]

- **Trainee Dental Nurse**

London, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£29584.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[55]

- **Trust dental ST1/2**

Wirral, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust dental ST1/2 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[56]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse**

Birmingham, B15 1LZ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[57]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse**

Northfield, B31 1QT

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[58]

- **Dental / Orthodontic Nurse (Bank)**

Bedford, MK429DJ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental / Orthodontic Nurse \(Bank\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[59]

- **Dental Educator (Quality Improvement)**

Cardiff, CF15 7QQ

Salary:

£113607.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Health Education and Improvement Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Educator \(Quality Improvement\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[60]

- **Dental Educator (Quality Improvement)**

Cardiff, CF15 7QQ

Salary:

£46840.00 to £53602.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Health Education and Improvement Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Educator \(Quality Improvement\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[61]

- **Bank Orthodontic Dental Nurse**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Orthodontic Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[62]

- **ODP/Anaesthetic Nurse - Dental**

Bristol, BS1 2LY

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ODP/Anaesthetic Nurse - Dental job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[63]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse**

Walsall, WS1 3PS

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[64]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse**

Birmingham, B11 1LU

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[65]

- **Dental Nurse Technician B4**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£27857.00 to £30570.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse Technician B4 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[66]

- **Dental Nurse - Mobile Services**

Ipswich, IP2 8AL

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse - Mobile Services job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[67]

- **Special Care Dental Nurse**

Plymouth, PL4 7PY
Plymouth, PL4 8NF
Plymouth, PL2 2PQ

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Livewell Southwest

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Special Care Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[68]

- **Apprentice Dental Nurse (XR02)**

Leeds, LS9 7TF

Salary:

£23615.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Apprentice Dental Nurse \(XR02\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[69]

- **Senior Specialist Dental Nurse**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Specialist Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[70]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse - Paediatrics**

Edgbaston, B5 7EG

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Nurse - Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[window](#)) ^[71]

○ **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist**

Larkhill, SP4 8QY

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ministry of Defence (Defence Medical Services)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[72]

○ **Band 5 Specialist Dental Nurse**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 5 Specialist Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[73]

○ **Band 4 Dental Equipment Supervisor**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 Dental Equipment Supervisor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[74]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Dental hygienist](#) ^[75]
 - [Dental support worker](#) ^[76]
 - [Dental nurse](#) ^[77]
 - [Dental technician/dental technologist](#) ^[78]
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