

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 16 - 20 of 28 matches

Dental Therapy

University of Lancashire

[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
 - cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk ^[6]
 - 01772 892400
- Region
 - North West
- Admissions address
 - Admissions Office
 - Corporation Street
 - Preston
 - PR1 2HE
 - United Kingdom

Dental Hygiene and Therapy

University of Bristol

[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
 - choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk ^[8]
 - 0117 394 1649
- Region
 - South West
- Admissions address
 - Senate House
 - Tyndall Avenue
 - Bristol
 - BS8 1TH
 - United Kingdom

Dental Therapy and Hygiene

King's College London, University of London

[View course](#) ^[9] 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
 - +44 (0) 207 848 7000
- Region
 - London
- Admissions address
 - Strand
 - London
 - WC2R 2LS
 - United Kingdom

Dental Therapy and Hygiene with Integrated Foundation Year

University of Plymouth

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Duration of the course
 - 4 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Dental hygiene or therapy
- Region
 - South West
- Admissions address
 - John Bull Building
 - Plymouth
 - PL6 8BU
 - United Kingdom

Oral Health Science

University of Essex

[View course](#) ^[10] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - BSc
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 1 year
- Leading to a career in
 - Dental hygiene or therapy
- Contact details
 - admit@essex.ac.uk ^[11]
 - 01206 873666
- Region
 - East of England

Admissions address
Southend Campus
Elmer Approach
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS1 1LW

- [Load more Load more results](#) ^[12]

• Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Dental Therapist**

Thatcham, RG18 3AS

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Dental Therapist**

Newmarket, CB8 7BT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Band 7 Dental Therapist**

Nottingham, NG2 2JG

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 7 Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[15]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) [16]

- **Community Dental Fellow (Therapist) ** with fully funded PG Cert ****

Boston, PE21 8RU

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Dental Fellow \(Therapist\) ** with fully funded PG Cert ** job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [17]

- **Clinical Dental Director, Buckinghamshire Priority Dental Service**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5NG

Salary:

£94007.00 to £108038.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Dental Director, Buckinghamshire Priority Dental Service job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [18]

- **Dental Nurse**

Bromley, Bexley, Greenwich, BR33QL

Salary:

£31081.00 to £33665.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bromley Healthcare CIC

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

- **Dental Technician**

Bristol, BS2 1LY

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Dental Officer**

Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 3DQ

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

- **Dental Administrator**

Leigh, WN7 1HR

Salary:

£24071.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Officer**

Wellingborough, NN8 1LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Nurse**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Dental Nurse**

Bradford, BD18 3LD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Nurse**

Bristol, BS1 2LY

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

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

- **Dental Associate**

Frinton on Sea, CO13 0AR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

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

- **Dental Practitioner**

Beverley, HU17 7BZ

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

City Health Care Partnership CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Practitioner 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 Nurse**

Bradford, BD18 3LD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Nurse**

Bath, BA1 3NG

Salary:

£26530.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Dental Nurse**

Norwich, NR2 3TU

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[35]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) [36]

- **Community Dental Nurse**

Bridlington, YO16 4QP

Salary:

£24071.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

City Health Care Partnership CIC

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

[37]

- **Dental Nurse B5**

Manchester, M16 0LW

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Nurse B5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [38]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[39]

- **Senior Dental Nurse**

Manchester, M21 9NJ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Registered Dental Nurse**

317 04 Newcastle Community Dental, NE4 6BT

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

[41]

- **Dental Referral Administrator**

Blackpool, FY4 4EW

Salary:

£12.45

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

FCMS

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

[window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Dental Referral Administrator**

Blackpool, FY4 4EW

Salary:

£12.45

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

FCMS

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Referral Administrator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[44]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[45]

- **Community Dental Nurse**

London, SW9 8RR

Salary:

£30279.00 to £33116.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

[46]

- **Trainee Dental Nurse**

Hull, HU1 3JF

Salary:

£23615.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

City Health Care Partnership CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [47]

- **Dental Workforce Dean**

Taunton, Bristol or Plymouth, TA12PX

Salary:

£130074.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

NHS England

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

[48]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[49]

- **Senior Dental Officer**

Warrington, WA1 1UG

Salary:

£78573.00 to £91903.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[50]

- **Dental Call Handler**

Blackpool, FY4 4EW

Salary:

£12.45

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

FCMS

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Call Handler job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[51]

- **Dental Support Worker**

Hull, HU1 3JF

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

City Health Care Partnership CIC

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

^[52]

- **Dental Team Administrator**

Watford, WD17 3EW

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

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

- **Trainee Dental Technician (XR02)**

Leeds, LS2 9LU

Salary:

£23615.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Dental Technician \(XR02\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[54]

- **Dental Nurse – Mobile Services**

Suffolk, IP2 8AL

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

- **Bank Dental Nurse (Kendal)**

Kendal, LA9 7RG

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Dental Nurse \(Kendal\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[56]

- **Band 4 Dental Nurse**

Halifax, HX1 5NB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Locala Health and Wellbeing

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

- **Dental Nurse - Maxillofacial Department**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Receptionist/Support Worker**

Hull, HU9 2LJ

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

City Health Care Partnership CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Receptionist/Support Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[59]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[60]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[61]

- **Bank Dental Nurse (Barrow)**

Barrow, LA14 1XH

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Entry Level Dental Nurse**

Bradford District, BD7 3EG

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Entry Level Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[63]

- **Dental Patient Administration Manager**

Aylesbury, HP20 2SR

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Patient Administration Manager job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[64]

- **Band 5 Dental Nurse Assessor**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 5 Dental Nurse Assessor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[65]

- **Band 5 Senior 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 Senior Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[66]

- **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist**

Aylesbury, HP22 5PG

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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[67]

- **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist**

Chippenham, SN15 4PZ

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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[68]

- **Band 5 Senior 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 Senior Dental Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[69]

○ **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist**

Warminster, BA12 0DJ

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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[70]

○ **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist (CDH)**

RMB Chivenor, EX31 1AZ

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Ministry of Defence (Defence Medical Services)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist \(CDH\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[71]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Dental hygienist](#) ^[72]
- [Dental support worker](#) ^[73]
- [Dental nurse](#) ^[74]
- [Dental technician/dental technologist](#) ^[75]

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Links

[\[1\] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-therapist/real-life-story-annette-matthews](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-therapist/real-life-story-annette-matthews) [\[2\] http://www.gdc-uk.org/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.gdc-uk.org/Pages/default.aspx) [\[3\] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-)

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