

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 6 - 10 of 28 matches

Dental Hygiene

Cardiff University

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

- Qualification
 - Diploma of Higher Education - DipHE
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 2 Years
- Leading to a career in

- Dental hygiene or therapy
- Contact details
 - admissions@cardiff.ac.uk ^[6]
 - 029 2087 9999
- Region
 - Wales
- Admissions address
 - 30-36 Newport Road
 - Cardiff
 - CF24 0DE
 - United Kingdom

Dental Hygiene and Therapy

University of Birmingham

[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
- Region
 - West Midlands
- Admissions address
 - Academic and Student Division
 - Birmingham
 - B15 2TT
 - United Kingdom

Dental Therapy

London South Bank University

[View course](#) ^[8] 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 ^[9]
 - 0207 815 7500

- Region
 - London
- Admissions address
 - 103 Borough Road
 - London
 - SE1 0AA
 - United Kingdom

Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

University of Leeds

View course ^[10] 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
 - denadmissions@leeds.ac.uk ^[11]
 - 0113 343 9922
- Region
 - Yorkshire and The Humber
- Admissions address
 - Woodhouse Lane
 - Leeds
 - LS2 9JT
 - United Kingdom

Dental Therapy

University of Liverpool

View course ^[12] 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
 - ugrecruitment@liverpool.ac.uk ^[13]
 - 0151 794 5927
- Region

North West
Admissions address
The Foundation Building
Brownlow Hill
Liverpool
L69 7ZX
United Kingdom

- [Load more Load more results](#) ^[14]

• Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Dental Therapist**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Dental Therapist**

Barnstaple, EX327BH

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Therapist**

Newmarket, CB8 7BT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Primary Care Careers

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Band 7 Dental Therapist**

Boston, PE22 0QX

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

^[18]

- **Band 7 Dental Therapist**

Newmarket, CB8 9YG

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

^[19]

- **Dental Therapist *Internal Applicants Only***

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Therapist *Internal Applicants Only* job \(opens](#)

[in a new window](#)) ^[20]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Dental Officer**

Leicester, LE3 0LP

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [24]

- **Dental Nurse**

Barnstaple, EX32 7BH

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dental Officer**

Leicester, LE5 3GH

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

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

- **Dental Nurse**

London, WC1N 1BN

Salary:

£31081.00 to £33665.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Whittington Hospital NHS Trust

[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 Officer**

Barnstaple, EX32 7BH

Salary:

£50512.00 to £75767.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Dental Nurse**

Bracknell, RG12 2UT

Salary:

£14.82

Type:

Bank

Employer:

NHS Professionals Limited

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) [37]

- **Dental Nurse**

Plymouth, PL1 4JZ

Salary:

£27855.00 to £31199.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise CIC

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

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

[39]

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

[40]

- **Receptionist OMFS Dental**

London, W3 8QE

Salary:

£29176.00 to £30225.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Receptionist OMFS Dental job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [41]

- **Dental Receptionist/Administrator**

Guildford, GU2 4AX

Salary:

£23875.00 to £23875.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

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

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

[44]

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

[45]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) [46]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[50]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[51]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[52]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[53]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[54]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[55]

- **Band 5 Dental Hygienist**

Portsmouth, PO1 3HH

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ministry of Defence (Defence Medical Services)

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

^[56]

- **Band 5 Dental Hygienist**

Oxford, OX10 6EN

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ministry of Defence (Defence Medical Services)

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

^[57]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[58]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[59]

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

- **Clinical Director – Dental Services**

Liverpool, L8 0SG

Salary:

£94007.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Director – Dental Services job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[61]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[62]

- **Specialist Dental Nurse (Orthodontics)**

Birmingham, B4 6NH

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialist Dental Nurse (Cardiac)**

Birmingham, B4 6NH

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[65]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[66]

- **Band 5 Civilian Dental Hygienist**

Nuneaton, CV11 6QN

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**

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

- **Civilian Dental Hygienist Band 5**

Chatham, ME4 4UG

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ministry of Defence (Defence Medical Services)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Civilian Dental Hygienist Band 5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[69]

- **Dental Officer/ Salaried Dentist Band A**

Baglan, SA12 7BJ

Salary:

£50789.00 to £76184.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Officer/ Salaried Dentist Band A job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[70]

○ **Senior Dental Officer - Maternity Leave Cover**

Chichester, PO19 6SE

Salary:

£78573.00 to £91903.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Dental Officer - Maternity Leave Cover job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[71]

○ **Band 5 Civilian Dental Practice Manager**

Camberley, GU15 4PQ

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 Practice Manager job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[72]

○ **Dental Receptionist and Decontamination Support Worker**

Bedford, MK40 2NT

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Community Dental Services CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dental Receptionist and Decontamination Support Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[73]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Dental hygienist](#) ^[74]
- [Dental support worker](#) ^[75]
- [Dental nurse](#) ^[76]

- Dental technician/dental technologist [77]

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