

# 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](http://www.economicmodelling.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Manchester-LEP))

## Local Training Providers

**BURY COLLEGE** ([www.burycollege.ac.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted))

The Manchester College ([www.tmc.ac.uk](http://www.tmc.ac.uk)) Tel: 0333 322 2444

Trafford College ([www.trafford.ac.uk](http://www.trafford.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 886 7000

Stockport College ([www.stockport.ac.uk](http://www.stockport.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 296 5000

Salford City College ([www.salford-col.ac.uk](http://www.salford-col.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 631 5000

Tameside College ([www.tameside.ac.uk](http://www.tameside.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 908 6600

Bury College ([www.burycollege.ac.uk](http://www.burycollege.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 280 8280

Oldham College ([www.oldham.ac.uk](http://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](http://www.nebdn.org)

British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN)

[www.badn.org.uk](http://www.badn.org.uk)

General Dental Council

Tel: 0845 2224141 [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)

Health Careers

Tel: 0345 6060655

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk) [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

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