

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists can work in all sectors of dentistry, their role is twofold.

They have both clinical and health promotional responsibilities. Clinically they help to treat and prevent periodontal (gum) disease by scaling and polishing teeth, applying prophylactic and antimicrobial materials, they take dental radiographs and undertake monitoring and screening procedures.

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists can also treat the dentition with simple restorations, placement of preformed crowns and pulp treatments on deciduous teeth (baby or milk teeth).

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists are also permitted to apply topical fluorides and fissure sealants in order to reduce dental caries (tooth decay).

Their health promotional role includes motivating and encouraging individuals and groups in oral health practises, including oral hygiene and dietary advice.

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists need to work with a flexible team approach; to have good communication skills and to demonstrate a high level of manual dexterity in order to undertake complex oral treatments.

Following qualification, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists can work in many settings - NHS/Independent general practice, specialist periodontal or orthodontic practice, hospital (staff hygienists, tutors/lecturer, and specialist departments eg. special needs), education, research, health promotion and community as well as working aboard.

Once qualified, continuing professional development (CPD) is important in order to keep skills and knowledge up to date. At BSDHT eCPD events a 'Certificate of Attendance' is issued to indicate that the course meets the criteria of the GDC lifelong learning scheme.

Qualifications & Educational Programmes

There are several ways to qualify as a Dental Hygienist / Dental Therapist:

- **Diploma in Dental Hygiene** - 2 year full time course
- **Diploma in Dental Hygiene & Therapy** – 27 month full time course
- **BSc in Oral Health Science** – 3 year full time course
- **BSc (Hons) (Edinburgh)** – 4 year course.

The entry requirements for these courses vary and you are advised to contact the school of your choice for a prospectus.

To have worked in a dental environment and obtained a dental nurse qualification, would be advantageous.

All training is based on the curricula determined by the General Dental Council. A further General Dental Council document confirms your scope of practice.

Educational Centres

There are 21 training schools in the UK that offer training to become a Dental Hygienist / Dental Therapist - a full list is given below. Most training courses lead to a joint qualification.

For further details of the courses available, please write to the individual schools, enclosing a large SAE to request a prospectus. The prospectus will provide details about the course structure, qualifications at the end of the training, length of the training course, entry requirements, when the course starts and how to apply.

University of Birmingham	https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/med/dental-hygiene-therapy.aspx 0121 236 8611 / 0121 237 2802
University of Bristol	http://www.bristol.ac.uk/dental/dcp/ 0117 342 4136
Cardiff University	http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl/degreeprogrammes/undergraduate/dentaltherapybsc/index.html Email: pcdtrainingcentre@cardiff.ac.uk 029 2074 4251
University of Dundee	https://www.dundee.ac.uk/undergraduate/oral-health-sciences 01382 384697
University of Edinburgh	http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/medicine-vet-medicine/undergraduate/oral-health/bsc-oral-health 0131 536 4937
University of Essex	https://www.essex.ac.uk/courses/ug00320/2/bsc-oral-health-science 01702 328469 Email: emnorris@essex.ac.uk
Glasgow Caledonian University	https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/details/index.php/P02679/Oral_Health_Science?utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=courselisting
University of the Highlands & Inverness	http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/bsc-oral-health-science 01463 255842
University of Leeds	https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/i125/dental-hygiene-and-dental-therapy-bsc 0113 3432336 Email: enquiriesadmissions@leeds.ac.uk
University of Liverpool	<i>The Diploma in Dental Hygiene / Dental Therapy is no longer being offered at University of Liverpool.</i>
King's College Hospital London	http://dtec.kch.nhs.uk/course/diploma-in-dental-hygiene-and-therapy/ Email: kings.dht@nhs.net 020 3299 5214

Queen Mary University of London	https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/courses/2020/oral-health/ e.c.philogene@qmul.ac.uk 020 7882 8157
University College London Hospitals	http://www.uclh.nhs.uk/OurServices/ServiceA-Z/EDH/EDUEDH/BURK/Pages/Home.aspx Email: uclh.edhec@nhs.net 020 3456 1205
University of Manchester	https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/00626/bsc-oral-health-science/ 0161 306 0231
Greater Manchester School for DCPs	<i>The School will no longer be running any Dental Hygiene/Dental Therapy Diploma programmes.</i>
Newcastle University	www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a207/courseoverview 0191 282 4679
Plymouth University Peninsula Schools Medicine & Dentistry	http://www5.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/bsc-dental-therapy-hygiene Email: meddent-admissions@plymouth.ac.uk 01752 437333
University of Central Lancashire (Preston)	https://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_dental_hygiene_and_dental_therapy.php This course is based in the School of Dentistry Telephone us for further information +44(0)1772 892400 or email us at: cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk Book a visit
University of Portsmouth	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-dental-hygiene https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-dental-hygiene-and-dental-therapy 023 9284 5566
University of Sheffield	https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool/modules/higher-education-diploma-dental-hygiene-and-dental-therapy 0114 215 9384 Email: dhdtadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk
Teesside University	https://www.tees.ac.uk/undergraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/BSc_(Hons)_Dental_Hygiene_and_Dental_Therapy.cfm Email: shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk 01642 384110 UCAS code: B750 BSc/DHDT Typical offer: 240 tariff points

UCAS is the central organisation that processes applications for full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges. Some training schools now use the UCAS route for applications to their courses.

For further information please follow this link: www.ucas.ac.uk or telephone: 01242 227788.

Dental Therapy programmes for qualified dental hygienists

Bristol	Further information can be obtained from www.bris.ac.uk/dental or by telephoning: 0117 342 4136
Greater Manchester	Further details can be obtained via this link: www.mandcp.co.uk
London	MSc in Advanced Minimum Intervention Dentistry at Kings College London . When requesting information, please inform KCL that you found the information on the BSDHT website . <i>(Note - this course is for Dental Therapists only and cannot be undertaken by Dental Hygienists).</i>
Essex	Further details contact emnorris@essex.ac.uk /Tel: 01702 328469 https://www1.essex.ac.uk/hhs/subjects/oh.aspx

Adaptation programme for overseas trained dental hygienists

The Dental Hygienist Adaptation Module is suitable if you are a dental hygienist with an existing qualification from another country who has undertaken the GDC Dental Care Professional assessment of your existing qualification. It will help achieve the GDC required learning outcomes for registration as a Hygienist in the UK. If you are a UK Hygienist returning to practice, the Dental Hygienist Adaptation Module is an ideal refresher course that can offer you required CPD hours for re-registration with the GDC.

For further information, please contact The School of Health and Human Sciences, The University of Essex, Southend Campus, Elmer Approach, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1LW.

T: 01702 328375 / E: emnorris@essex.ac.uk W: www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/subjects/oh.aspx