

## **Advice for overseas qualified dental professionals**



**The General Dental Council is the national regulatory body for dental professionals in the UK. Before you consider working in the UK as a dental professional, you need to understand our role.**



We are here to protect patients and maintain standards in the profession. One of the ways we do this is to register appropriately qualified or experienced dental professionals who want to work in the UK. This registration entitles you to practise dentistry in the UK, although we do not help people find work.

Advice on employment matters in the UK can be obtained from the **National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education**.

We have certain expectations of registered dental professionals. This leaflet explains what this means for you.



# Registration

You need to apply for registration with us if you want to work as a dentist or one of the following dental care professionals in the UK:

- Clinical dental technician
- Dental nurse
- Dental hygienist
- Dental technician
- Dental therapist
- Orthodontic therapist

It is very important you understand that practising dentistry or using one of the titles listed above without being registered, is against the law.

The application process is different depending on your qualification or experience so please check our **route to registration** questionnaire before contacting us.



This only takes a few minutes to complete and will ask you a number of questions including:

- Your profession
- Whether you have been registered with us before
- Where you qualified

Once you have taken this questionnaire, you will be given more information about how to apply and what documents or information we need from you to process your application.

You may find your qualifications need to be individually assessed or you may have to pass the **overseas registration exam** before you can register.

You will have to pay a fee to register for the first time. After that, you will be asked to pay an **annual retention fee** on time each year in order to stay on the register.

We require dental professionals on our registers to make sure they have adequate and appropriate arrangements in place so that patients can claim any compensation they may be entitled to. Please read our **information about indemnity** so you understand your responsibilities.

We also expect you to have an adequate level of English so you can communicate confidently and clearly with patients and colleagues. You may be required to have passed an IELTS test, visit **www.ielts.org** for more information.

## Find out about the standards we expect you to follow

Once you are registered and working in the UK, we will expect you to follow our Standards for Dental Professionals and other guidance we produce. Copies of this **guidance** can be downloaded from our website.

You also need to understand what happens **if these standards are not met** by either yourself or someone you work with.



## Continuing professional development

When you are registered, you must keep your skills and knowledge up to date. We expect you to complete continuing professional development.

This is any activity which contributes to the professional development of dentists and dental care professionals, with the ultimate aim of benefiting their patients through up to date treatment and care. It can be anything from private study time to attending training courses.

If you are a dentist, you need to complete 250 hours within a five year period.

If you are a dental care professional, you need to complete 150 hours within a five year period.

We will explain to you when your five year period starts once you are registered.

Copies of our guidance on **continuing professional development** can be downloaded from our website.

## Useful links

The General Dental Council

**[www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)**

GDC advice and Standards for dental professionals

**[www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals](http://www.gdc-uk.org/Dentalprofessionals)**

National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education

**[www.rseng.ac.uk/fds](http://www.rseng.ac.uk/fds)**

International English Language Testing System

**[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)**

We want to make sure all of our services are accessible to everyone. If you would like a copy of this leaflet in a different format (for example, in large print or audio) or in a language other than English, please contact us.

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