Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing at Newcastle Dental Hospital

COURSE INFORMATION
Newcastle Dental Hospital
Newcastle Dental hospital is one of the leading teaching hospitals in the UK, with pioneering research projects, and train dental specialists, dental students, dental nurses, dental hygienists/therapists and dental technicians. The hospital treats patients referred from a wide range of services, and provides expert dental care and advice.

Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing

Course Structure

This award has been developed to reflect the changes and additions in Dentistry to keep it up-to-date with current practices.

The Dental Hospital provides training for:-
   a) Candidate's already employed as a Student Dental Nurse within a Dental Practice,
   b) Candidate's recruited to train and work within the Dental Hospital as a student Dental Nurse.

This qualification allows greater flexibility for individuals to achieve the qualification using the skills and experience gained whilst working and training within a dental practice/clinic/hospital environment. The course combines weekly occupational-based training within a dental workplace, with one full day ‘off-the-job training session’ per week at the School of Dental Nursing, Newcastle Dental Hospital, for delivery of the underpinning knowledge, examination preparation and portfolio building.

The level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing focuses on direct chairside work and support during a wide range of dental treatments; the individual will need to have considerable knowledge and skills in relation to dental equipment, instruments, materials, equal opportunities and communication, backed up with sound underpinning knowledge of a range of dental treatment procedures, health emergencies, oral diseases and prevention, control of infection, radiology and health and safety at work.

To gain the full qualification, students must collect and collate evidence of competence (Portfolio of Evidence) throughout the entire course as specified within each unit. To achieve the Level 3 Diploma candidates must achieve 11 mandatory units, and must achieve a ‘pass’ in 4 written on-line dental examinations. All units are assessed through coursework assignments, practical observations within the workplace, written questions, oral questions. The course duration is 18-24 months. Suitable candidates must be able to work as a key member of the oral healthcare team.
The Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing award is made up from 15 different units. (11 portfolio units and 4 dental examined units) Each unit is designed to test the skills and knowledge needed to become a Qualified Dental Nurse. This Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing Qualification is awarded when the following has been achieved:

i the candidate has provided sufficient **portfolio evidence** of competence gained within a dental environment for all 11 portfolio units in the form of observations of performance in the workplace by an appointed qualified assessor, written evidence, simulations, oral questions, witness testimonies etc.

ii the candidate has been successful in passing 4 on-line dental **Examinations**, as set by City & Guilds

Candidates unable to complete all of the units will be awarded a formal record of achievement, which lists the units, which they have achieved, however this is not a qualification.

**To complete the Portfolio, candidates will study, be assessed in, and must fully achieve all of the following Units:**

**301 Reducing risks to health & safety in the dental setting**

This unit is about health and safety in a dental nurse’s day to day work. This includes identifying and dealing with risks and hazards in the workplace.

**302 The role and responsibilities of a dental nurse**

This unit introduces learners to the role and responsibilities of a dental nurse and the essential attributes and behaviours required to work in a professional manner. Opportunity has been provided to enable learners to reflect on their own professional practice and identify opportunities for improvement.

**268 First aid essentials**

The aim of this unit is for learners to demonstrate the practical administration of safe, prompt, effective first aid in emergency situations with an understanding of the role of the first aider including equipment, record keeping and basic hygiene.
**304  Prepare and maintain environments and instruments and equipment for clinical dental procedures**

This unit focuses on the methods of infection control within the general dental environment and the application of health and safety measures for clinical dental procedures, the sterilisation of dental instruments and equipment including the safe disposal of waste.

**306  Provide chairside support for the assessment of patients’ oral health**

This unit focuses on preparing the dental environment and supporting the operator during an oral health assessment. Learners will need to demonstrate an understanding of current legislation relating to confidentiality and the maintenance of records to facilitate recording and processing oral health assessments.

**307  Contribute to the production of dental images**

This unit has been developed to enable the learner to prove their competence in providing support and resources for taking dental images, processing images and maintaining quality in accordance with relevant legislation and workplace policies.

**308  Provide chairside support for the prevention and control of periodontal disease and caries and the restoration of cavities.**

This unit is focused on preparing the dental environment and assisting the operator during a variety of preventative and restorative dental procedures. It is paramount that patient care is provided throughout all procedures.

**309  Provide chairside support during the provision of fixed and removable prosthesis**

The aim of this unit is for the learner to provide support to the patient and the operator during the provision of fixed and removable prostheses and orthodontic appliances. Learners will need to apply their knowledge and understanding of clinical dental procedures to prepare the clinical dental environment.
310  Provide chairside support during non-endodontic treatment

The unit aims to reflect the learner’s practical skills and understanding of how to prepare the clinical dental environment for non-surgical endodontic treatment. Learners will need to have an understanding of the possible complications associated with providing non-surgical endodontic treatment and the actions to take if these occur.

311  Provide chairside support for the extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery

The unit focuses on the requirement to prepare the patient and the dental environment for extractions and minor oral surgery and to provide support to the operator throughout all stages of treatment. The importance of providing patient care before, during and after treatment is a unit theme.

312  Provide information & support to patients on the protection of their oral health

This unit focuses on providing patients with oral health information and advice which is tailored to respond to the patient’s need.

To pass the written examination candidates will study, and undertake mock examinations and a formal on-line examination in 4 units:-

- Unit 305  Principles of infection control in the dental environment
- Unit 313  Assessment of oral health and treatment planning
- Unit 314  Dental Radiography
- Unit 315  Management of oral health diseases and dental procedures

The 15 units, which make up the Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing, are based upon National Occupational Standards, which describe ‘performance’ within the Dental workplace (what a Dental Nurse is expected to do in the workplace). They state the quality of service expected in Dental Nursing. Units are achieved when a candidate has provided sufficient evidence of competence and has been assessed as competent in applying the skills and knowledge as specified in that particular unit.
Candidates will be assessed using a range of methods. Examples of these are as follows:

1. Observation of candidates natural performance in the workplace by an allocated assessor
2. Written evidence produced by the candidate
3. Witness Testimonies from work based qualified staff, witnessing the candidate's performance carrying out real work activities.
4. Simulations e.g. Basic Life Support
5. Work products
6. Written Examinations

Facilities

Hospital Resources

As a student Dental Nurse of Newcastle Dental Hospital, all students will have immediate access to a wide range of training facilities, resources and services:

- Latest Dental Materials, Instruments and Equipment
- Anatomical Models e.g. skulls, maxillae and mandible
- Oral Health Care Intra Oral Aids
- Well Equipped Training Rooms with Power point
- Qualified Specialist Lecturers
- Treatment clinics in Restorative dentistry, Orthodontics, Paediatric dentistry, Oro and Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine, Sedation, Periodontology
- Dental Emergency Clinic
- Radiology department
- Qualified Oral Health Care NVQ Assessors, and Internal verifiers
- Three Libraries with Resource Areas

The Walton Library offers full NHS membership to all dental nursing students. The Library is located on the 5th floor of the Medical School and is open seven days a week and until late at night. Students can borrow books and AV materials, use the study rooms, photocopying and AV facilities. Access to electronic journals and databases is via the NHS suite of PCs in the Library. Full details on the Library including opening hours and contact can be found at the web pages here: www.ncl.ac.uk/library

- Professional Confidential Counseling Service
- Refectory and shop in Dental hospital
- Shop in Victoria Wing Cafeteria, Coffee Shop and Newsagent in Leazes Wing
- Snack bars in outpatients
- HSBC cash machine (free of charge)
What are employment prospects with this qualification?

- General Dental Practice, Private and NHS
- Dental Corporate Bodies
- Dental Hospitals
- Community Dental Service
- General Hospitals with Dental Departments
- Armed Services
- Industry
- Personal Dental Services

What progression routes are available?

Successful Qualified candidates wishing to advance their careers may wish to undertake further study or post qualifications such as:

- Dental Sedation Nursing
- Dental Anaesthetic Nursing
- Radiology
- Special Care Dental Nursing
- Orthodontic Dental Nursing
- Certificate in Oral Health Education
- Professional Development Certificate in the Promotion of Oral Health
- NVQ Assessor and Internal Verifier Awards, A1 and V1
- Teaching Certificates
- Dental Hygiene / Dental Therapy (GCSE’s/A Levels are also required for entry, check entry requirements with individual Dental Hospitals)
- Dental Technology
- Dental Practice Management

Other progression routes include:

- Care Awards e.g. Customer Care
- Operating Departmental Practice
- Management
- Training and development

Dental Nurses wishing to progress to undertake the degree in Dentistry would have to complete an access course if they did not possess the required grades at Advanced Level.

When does the course start?

The course usually commences September / October, however please contact the School of Dental Nursing for confirmation
Candidates must be committed, motivated, well organised and able to work as a key member of the Oral Healthcare Team. Applicants must be:

- Willing to undergo an enhanced CRB check
- Caring
- Conscientious
- Discreet
- Respectful
- Personable
- Be able to carry out duties meticulously

**Applicants for the External Based Course**

GCSE’s grade C or above in English and Mathematics (or functional skills level 2 in English and Maths). Course places are subject to satisfactory entry assessments and interview.

Candidates must currently be employed within a Dental environment as a Student Dental Nurse. Candidate’s place of work must be able to provide the candidate with the potential and the opportunities to gain evidence for this qualification across all of the 15 specified units. The candidate’s workplace must also have a wide range of instruments available for each of the specified units. Entry is subject to achievement of the minimum entry requirements, satisfactory course interview, a written assessment and a computer based Initial Assessment to assess the level at which the candidate is currently working at. Regular planned access to the candidate’s workplace is an essential requirement to enable an allocated Assessor to carry out natural observations of the candidate’s practical performance within their workplace.

**Applicants for the Internal Based Course**

GCSE’s grade C or above in English and Mathematics (or functional skills level 2 in English and Maths). Course places are subject to satisfactory entry assessments and interview.

Offers for a place are subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975 and as such it will be necessary for a submission for Disclosure to be made to the Criminal Records Bureau to check for any previous criminal convictions.

**Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing**

The Advanced Level Apprenticeship is open to all age groups over 16 who are not in full time education and are living in England. Apprenticeship candidates will be employed within a dental environment as a Student Dental Nurse, earning a wage and working alongside experienced staff to gain specific dental nursing skills. The apprenticeship course follows the Apprentice Framework which contributes towards developing a skilled flexible and effective worker whilst maintaining high quality and safe care for patients. Learners are supported in their learning and will receive a minimum guaranteed amount of on, and off the job training, and will acquire transferable skills to support further progression.
The Apprenticeship framework provides a competence based training route to qualifying as a Dental Nurse, supporting patient care and delivery of dental care.

**Apprenticeship Framework**

Includes:-

- Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing
- Level 3 Award in Employment and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills
- Proficiency in English and Mathematics

**Key Apprenticeship Benefits**

Earn a salary  
Paid holidays  
Receive training  
Gain qualifications  
Learn job-specific skills

**How much does the course cost?**

Please contact the School of Dental Nursing for further information

**How do I apply for the course?**

Contact the School of Dental Nursing for the next intake dates, and application procedures

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