Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship 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, who 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 Advanced Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing**

The Dental Nurse role complements the role of other dental professionals. One of the primary roles is to provide chair side support to dental professionals and to deliver a high level of patient care. Dental Nurses may work in a variety of clinical environments and the Apprenticeship reflects all aspects of clinical responsibilities and duties of a dental nurse’s role and will support the apprentice to attain the relevant qualification to apply to the General Dental Council (GDC) for professional registration as a Dental Nurse. Dental Nurses are registered professionals and work within the Standards and Scope of Practice defined by the GDC Scope of Practice document.

**Course Structure**

The Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing is a 18-24 month government funded course, accredited by awarding body City & Guilds. The Apprenticeship is comprised of 3 main components:

- Diploma in Dental Nursing Level 3
- Functional Skills in English & Maths level 2 qualifications (unless exempt). Exemptions include Maths and English GCSEs grade A-C, or 9-5
- End Point Assessment – consisting of a work based (synoptic) project and interview

The Diploma in Dental Nursing has been developed to reflect the changes in Dentistry to keep it up-to-date with current practices, which has been approved by the General Dental Council as meeting the requirements for entry to the professional register.

Newcastle 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 an Advanced Apprentice 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, portfolio building, examination preparation.
and preparation for an End Point Assessment. All Apprentices will have 20% off the job training, and must be employed for a minimum of 30 hours.

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, which is delivered during the training programme.

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 a pass in 4 multi-choice on-line dental examinations, and must complete 11 mandatory portfolio units, which are assessed through coursework assignments, practical observations within the workplace, written questions, oral questions and witness testimonies. Apprentice Dental Nurses will also need to achieve a pass in the End Point Assessment which consists of a synoptic work based project, and interview (synoptic) with an external independent assessor. The Apprentice will need to have achieved a GDC License to Practice qualification in Dental Nursing before being entered for the End Point Assessment. The course duration is 18-24 months. Candidates must be able to work as a key member of the oral healthcare team.

Course Syllabus

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

iii  End Point Assessment – consisting of a work based project and interview (synoptic) with an external independent assessor.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>Principles of infection control in the dental environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>Assessment of oral health and treatment planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>314</td>
<td>Dental Radiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>315</td>
<td>Management of oral health diseases and dental procedures</td>
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**End-Point Assessment**

Apprentices must achieve a GDC approved License to Practice qualification in Dental Nursing before being entered for the end point assessment (EPA). The End Point Assessment consists of 2 components, a work based project and an interview. There will be a choice of subjects which City & Guilds will supply. By completing the End Point Assessment the Apprentice will be able to further add value to the practice or setting as a result of their work. In addition, the apprenticeship itself is graded pass and distinction, which would also give the apprentice an opportunity to differentiate themselves from others if they achieve a distinction.

The project will be weighted 75% and the interview 25%. To achieve a distinction, apprentices must achieve a distinction in both methods. The final judgement to be awarded for each component and overall grade will be made by the independent assessor.

**Assessments**

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
7. End Point work based Project and Interview
Hospital Resources

All Apprentice Dental Nurse of Newcastle Dental Hospital, 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
- 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 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 and cafes 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
- Assessor and Internal Quality Assurance qualifications (level 3 & 4 TAQA)
- Teaching Certificates
- Dental Hygiene / Dental Therapy (GCSE’s/A Levels are also required for entry, check entry requirements with individual Universities)
- 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.

What qualifications do I need to apply?

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 DBS check
- Caring
- Conscientious
- Discreet
- Respectful
- Personable
- Be able to carry out duties meticulously
Routes to entry for Dental Nurse Training

Applicants for the External Based Course

GCSE’s grade C/5 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 for the specified units. Entry is subject to achievement of the minimum entry requirements, satisfactory course interview, a written assessment and an Initial Assessment in English and Maths 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/5 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 the Dental Hospital or a dental environment as an Apprentice Dental Nurse, earning a wage and working alongside experienced staff to gain specific dental nursing skills. The apprenticeship course follows the Apprenticeship 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 Trailblazer in Dental Health
- 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 or find out further information?**

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

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<th>Contact</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tr>
<td>School of Dental Nursing</td>
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