

Key Skills

- the ability to work well with others
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- sensitivity and understanding
- knowledge of medicine and dentistry
- customer service skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Salary

£23,000 - £31,000

Working hours

37 – 40 a week
you could work evenings/
weekends/on a rota

Dental Nurse

Apprenticeship

You could apply to do a Dental Nurse Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

This takes up to 2 years to complete. You'll need to be working in a dental surgery to do the apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and Maths for an advanced apprenticeship

Work

You could start as a trainee at a dental practice. You could then study for a dental nurse qualification on the job. This is a common route to take to become a dental nurse.

College

You could do a course at college that would give you the skills and knowledge to become a dental nurse.

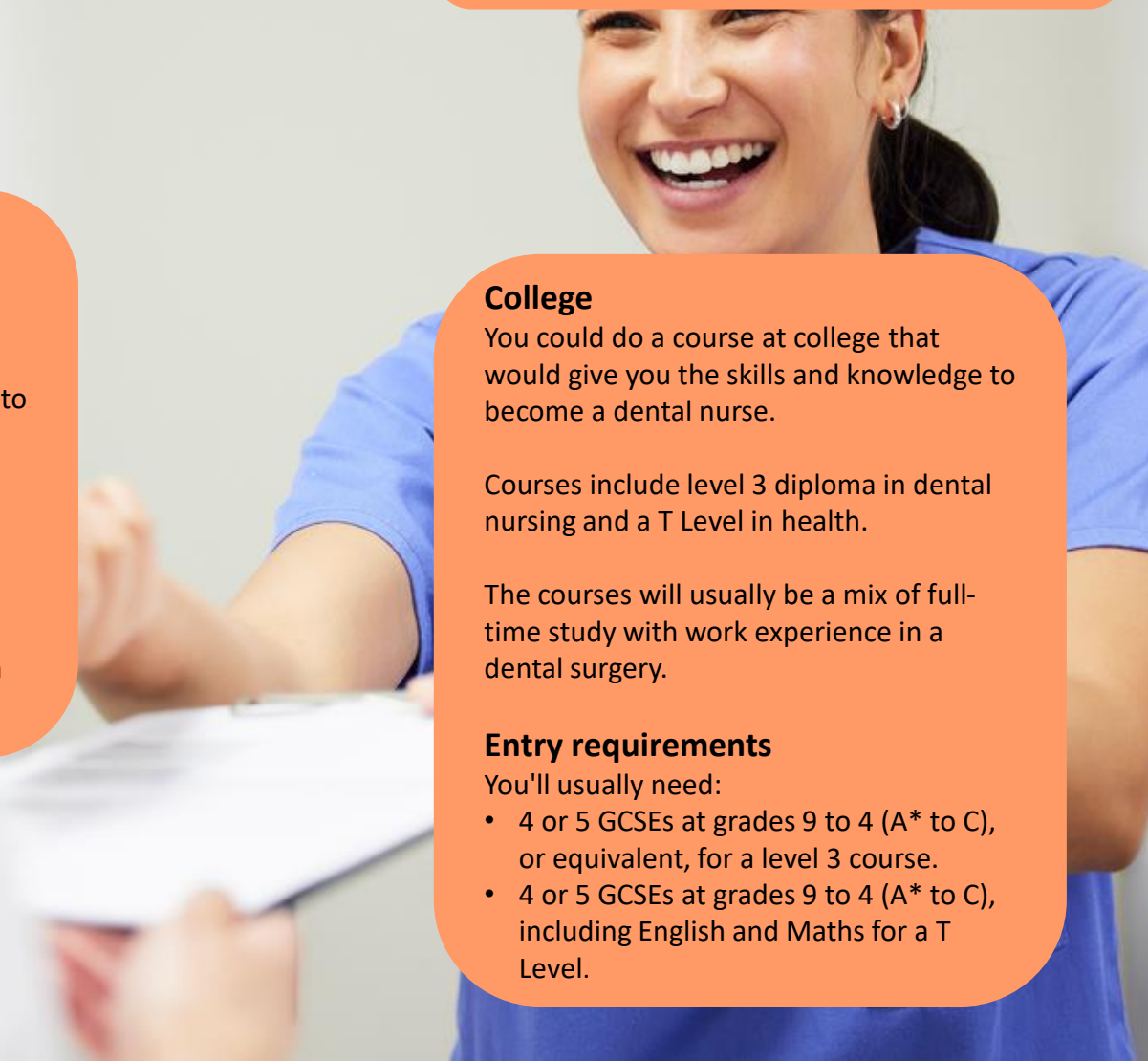
Courses include level 3 diploma in dental nursing and a T Level in health.

The courses will usually be a mix of full-time study with work experience in a dental surgery.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course.
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English and Maths for a T Level.



Career path and progression

With experience you could:

- move into a team leader, manager or dental practice manager position
- serve in the armed forces as a dental nurse
- become a dental hygienist or dental therapist with further training
- become an orthodontic therapist to help dentists improve the look and position of patients teeth

Day to Day tasks:

- sterilise instruments and pass them to the dentist
- prepare materials to make fillings
- remove water and saliva from the patient's mouth during treatment
- make sure the patient is comfortable
- tidy the surgery and keep records about each patient

Working conditions

You could work at a dental practice, at a health centre or in an NHS or private hospital.

You may need to wear protective clothing and a uniform

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Dental nurses	
Weekly Pay £400	Annual Pay £20,800
Hours/Week 32h	Hourly Pay £13
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.4%	Replacement 52.8%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.4% over the period to 2027, creating 2,400 jobs. In the same period, 52.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,500 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Health	
More info	Clear card

Dental practitioners	
Weekly Pay £1,040	Annual Pay £54,080
Hours/Week 23h	Hourly Pay £45
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 2.4%	Replacement 50.6%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 1,500 jobs. In the same period, 50.6% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 31,100 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Health Membership organisations	
More info	Clear card

Medical and dental technicians	
Weekly Pay £600	Annual Pay £31,200
Hours/Week 37h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 2.6%	Replacement 47.3%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 2.6% over the period to 2027, creating 1,500 jobs. In the same period, 47.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 28,000 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Health	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information

Dental nurses

Dental nurses prepare patients for, and assist with, dental examinations, prepare and sterilise instruments and maintain case records.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares patient for examination;
- prepares and sterilises instruments and follows guidelines to maintain sterile conditions within the surgery;
- hands required equipment and medication to dentist during examination;
- assists with minor treatment, such as preparing materials for fillings;

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Dental practitioners

Dental practitioners diagnose dental and oral diseases, injuries and disorders, prescribe and administer treatment, recommend preventative action and, where necessary, refer the patient to a specialist.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines patient's teeth, gums and jaw, using dental and x-ray equipment, diagnoses dental conditions;
- assesses and recommends treatment options to patients;
- administers local anaesthetics;
- carries out clinical treatments, restores teeth affected by decay etc., treats gum disease and other disorders;

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Medical and dental technicians

Medical and dental technicians operate, calibrate and maintain cardiographic and encephalographic testing equipment, assist in the conduct of post mortems, give simple dental treatments, fit artificial limbs and hearing aids, and undertake a wide range of related medical and dental tasks.

Common tasks in this job:

- operates equipment to diagnose and record or treat hearing, heart, brain, lung and kidney ailments;
- undertakes scaling and polishing of teeth, applies medicaments, carries out post-operative hygiene work and advises on preventative dentistry;
- makes dentures, crowns, bridges, orthodontic and other dental appliances according to individual patient requirements;
- measures patients for, and fits them with, surgical appliances, hearing aids and artificial limbs;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[Dental nurse](#) | [Health Careers](#)

[Dental nurse](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

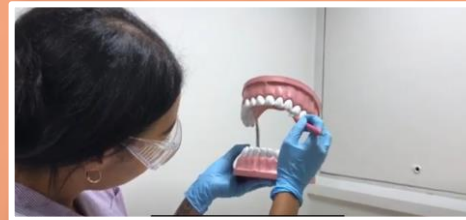
[What is the process of becoming a dental nurse in the UK?](#)

[Dental Nurses](#) | [Career profile](#) | [UCAS](#)

[Courses](#) | [Dental Nurses](#) | [UCAS](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Dental nurse apprenticeship



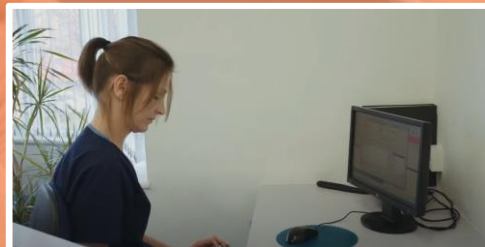
[Dental Nurse Apprenticeships - Caché & Emma](#)

A day in the life



[A day in the life of a Dental Nurse - Tempdent](#)

Being a dental nurse at Bupa



[Being a Dental Nurse at Bupa Dental Care](#)

Uni Vs Apprenticeship



[Meet Thai, an Apprentice Dental Nurse - YouTube](#)

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