

A young woman with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing blue dental scrubs, smiling in a dental clinic. In the background, a dental chair and a large overhead light are visible.

Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing

Blended Learning Programme

Dental Nurse Level 3 Apprenticeship

The UK's leading Dental Nurse Apprenticeship provides trainees with a comprehensive pathway to becoming a GDC registered Dental Nurse and vital member of the dental team, providing essential chairside support to dental professionals.

This Apprenticeship equips learners with the essential skills to set up a safe practice, maintain high standards of cleanliness, infection control, and patient care. Apprentices will be trained to prepare instruments, assist in dental procedures, manage records, and ensure patient safety and comfort throughout their visit.

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Apprenticeship Overview

This Apprenticeship is a government funded course, with 18 months of on-programme learning and 1 month for the end-point assessment period. It includes:

City & Guilds Level 3 Dental Nurse Practitioner
Level 3 Diploma.

Functional Skills English and Maths Level 2
qualifications (unless exempt).

Knowledge, skills and behaviours from the Dental
Nurse (GDC 2023) Apprenticeship Standards.

Integrated **End Point Assessment** consisting of
validation of the certificates submitted on your behalf,
and your submission to the GDC. No additional exams
are required after the Gateway period.

This Apprenticeship is delivered nationwide through a combination
of eLearning modules and interactive workshops. Apprentices are
assessed through portfolio building and completing exams.

Apprenticeship Start Dates

January
April
July
October



Learning Outcomes

By completing this course, learners
will study and understand

Introduction to Dental Nurse practice

Health and safety in dental settings

Infection control and prevention

First aid and medical emergency response

Communication and patient care

Dental and regional anatomy

Radiography and imaging techniques

Periodontal Disease and Caries management

Endodontic procedures support

Extractions and minor oral surgery

Prosthetic treatment support

Oral and physical health education

Quality improvement in Dental Practice

Professional development and appraisal

Professional competency and career progression



Course Structure

There are 15 modules in total. Each month Apprentices will complete the following activities; eLearning modules, interactive workshops and progression and consolidation activities.

The Blended Learning Programme

One to one online sessions

Tutor Assessors provide individualised online sessions, ensuring that each Apprentice receives the attention and encouragement they need to thrive in their learning journey. They will assess learning, provide feedback and conduct reviews of progress.

Interactive e-learning

Online eLearning modules provide the flexibility needed to accommodate busy schedules and diverse learning styles. The eLearning modules teach Apprentices the underpinning knowledge that they need for each module and include digital resources, video content, scenarios, case studies and quizzes.

Interactive group workshops

Apprentices collaborate on scenario-based learning activities and projects, learning together in break-out rooms.

Assessor contact

Learners can take advantage of fantastic support from their Tutor Assessor as much as they need (daily if required).

The learner's Workplace Assessor will make visits to the dental practice during the course to carry out observations.



Protected Apprenticeship Time

Government funded learners must be allocated six hours of their working week by their employer for Protected Apprenticeship Time, also known as 'off-the-job training'.

Protected Apprenticeship Time for Apprentice Dental Nurses includes all forms of team inclusive CPD. It generally includes workshops and Assessor support.

Please note, Protected Apprenticeship Time must only take place during paid hours, not overtime.

Exam information

The following exams may be taken under invigilated conditions at the learner's workplace:

Maths Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

English Reading Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

English Writing Functional Skills exam (unless exempt)

Two exams completed as part of the qualification

Functional Skills tutoring will commence approximately one month prior to the Apprenticeship starting.


Course Benefits

Learner benefits

- The Level 3 Dental Nurse Apprenticeship provides candidates with a nationally recognised, professional qualification and a career path in dentistry.
- Qualified Dental Nurses can progress onto post-GDC registration courses such as the Level 4 Oral Health Practitioner Apprenticeship, Dental Radiography and Orthodontic Nursing Qualifications.
- This course creates an opportunity to progress into Teaching, Assessing, Dental Hygiene, Dental Therapy and Dental Practice Management careers.

Employer benefits

- This Apprenticeship is a great way for employers to hire fresh and committed talent into their practice.
- Through on-the-job learning experiences, Apprentices learn how to operate within your unique practice setup, making them fantastic team members who come to know your practice inside out.
- For practices looking to take on an Apprentice who do not have a trainee already in place, Tempdent offer a complimentary recruitment service to match pre-screened candidates to your specific needs.
- Benefit from your Apprentice's on-the-job training as our experienced Tutors guide them through the UK's no.1 training course for Dental Nurses. With a 99.8% pass rate, you can trust they're in safe hands.

A man with curly brown hair and a beard, wearing green medical scrubs and blue gloves, stands with his arms crossed in a hospital setting. He is smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a blurred hospital corridor with glass partitions and circular ceiling lights.

“ Studying with Tempdent has been amazing. The resources are so useful, the webinars are brilliant and the staff are so supportive.

I've had a wonderful experience!”

Entry Requirements

- Applicants should have Maths & English GCSE grade A-C/4-9 or Key Skills/Functional Skills Level 2. However, if applicants have attained qualifications of a similar level, we will review this on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants with Maths and English GCSE grade A-C/4-9 or Key Skills/Functional Skills Level 2 will be exempt from the Functional Skills components.
- Candidates should be employed as a Dental Nurse for a minimum of 30 hours per week to complete the Apprenticeship in the minimum times. In some circumstances the learner can work shorter hours, but the length of the qualification would need to be extended accordingly.
- Candidates must have regular access to a computer or laptop with internet, microphone and speaker connectivity as they will be required to attend live workshops, access online material, and prepare coursework.

Enrolment Process

Enrolments are completed through an online meeting scheduled at a time convenient for you. This meeting will be led by our Onboarding Team, with the Mentor/Practice Manager and the prospective Apprentice in attendance. During the meeting, all necessary paperwork will be completed, we will answer any additional questions and discuss the next steps.

Once you have completed the enrolment process, Apprentices will receive an acceptance letter for the next intake and gain access to our 'safe beginner' induction programme to prepare for the Apprenticeship. At this stage, we also run drop-in sessions where you can meet and ask questions, and be introduced to the online learning platform, Bud.

If you require any support please contact our Onboarding Team at academysupport@tempdent.co.uk or 020 8371 6700.

Fees and funding

This apprenticeship programme is supported by government funding, making it a cost-effective way to grow talent within your business.

Levy-paying employers

If your organisation has an annual payroll over £3 million:

The full £8,000 course fee will be funded directly from your apprenticeship levy pot via your digital account.

If your levy funds are fully used, you can access co-investment, with the government covering 95% of the course cost and your business contributing just 5% (£400).

Non-Levy Paying Employers (SMEs)

If your annual payroll is under £3 million:

Apprentices aged 16–21 are fully government funded - no cost to your business.

Apprentices aged 22 and over require a 5% employer contribution (£400), while the government funds the remaining 95% (£7,600).

The role of a Dental Nurse

Typical role overview

A qualified Dental Nurse typically supports the dental team by assisting during treatments, preparing instruments, and maintaining a clean, safe environment. They also reassure patients, particularly those who are anxious, and manage patient records. Additionally, they may handle administrative tasks like scheduling and stock management. Their GDC qualification ensures they uphold high professional standards, ensuring patient safety and confidentiality.

Key responsibilities

Direct patient care: Supporting dentists and other dental professionals during patient care, from routine check-ups to complex treatments. This includes preparing patients for procedures, managing saliva, and ensuring their comfort.

Surgery and instrument preparation: Preparing the surgery for use and maintaining sterile conditions. Getting instruments, materials, and medications ready for procedures.

Comforting and supporting: You will work with a diverse range of patients, many of whom will experience fear and anxiety during their appointments. You will offer comfort and support to maintain a positive patient experience.

Record keeping: Documenting notes during consultations and treatments, and updating patient records.

Safety and compliance: Following health and safety protocols, ensuring infection control standards are met, managing PPE, and keeping necessary supplies stocked.

Communication: Collaborating closely with the dentist and responding promptly to requests.

Making a difference

Dental Nurses play a crucial role in maintaining a well run practice and improving patient experiences. The benefits of their work are extensive, impacting both the practice team and their client base.

Oral health advice

Dental Nurses can advise patients on simple changes they can make to improve their oral health, reducing the risk of common, preventable issues like cavities and oral infections.

Being the link between dental professionals

Dental Nurses don't just work alongside Dentists. They regularly support the wider team including Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists and Orthodontists.

Nurses build a rapport with the patients so often become a familiar face to guide patients through their treatment plan.



Team player

Great Dental Nurses work well as part of a team, making a real difference in the practice. With their wide range of practical and interpersonal skills, they support both the dental professionals they work with and the patients they care for. Dental Nurses are trained to communicate clearly, helping the team work smoothly and making sure patients feel comfortable and understood.



Click here to register
your interest in the
Apprenticeship

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