Dental Hygiene and Therapy Diploma

Study at a top 20 university targeted by graduate employers

The Graduate Market in 2013

UCAS code 27 months

www.ncl.ac.uk/ug/

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Dental Hygiene and Therapy Diploma
27 months

This professionally accredited Diploma is for students wishing to become a dual qualified dental hygienist therapist.

When you pass this Diploma, you will be qualified to begin working as a dental hygienist therapist without need for any further study, putting you on track to a rewarding career.

As a dental hygienist therapist, you will help patients avoid and manage oral disease by promoting good oral health and providing treatments.

You will work independently on patients, in close liaison with a dental surgeon and under their direction.

Likely employers include general dental practices, community dental services, dental hospitals, the armed forces and industry.

(Subject to full University approval, from 2015, we expect to be offering this course as a three-year undergraduate degree. Please check back for further updates before applying.)

Quality and ranking ★

We are ranked in the top 5 UK universities for dentistry in The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2014. Dentistry at Newcastle achieved a 93% overall student satisfaction score in the 2013 National Student Survey, ranking us 7th in the UK.

Professional accreditation ✔

This Diploma is professionally accredited by the General Dental Council, meaning it meets the standards set by the dental profession.

The Diploma covers the practical and theoretical aspects of dental hygiene and therapy required in a qualification to meet the General Dental Council’s requirements for professions complementary to dentistry.

If you successfully pass our Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy, you will be qualified to begin working as a dental hygienist therapist without the need for any further study.

Being a hygienist therapist

Being a dental hygienist therapist is a rewarding career that helps people take care of their oral health and avoid disease.

Duties include:

- evaluating the dental and medical history of patients and planning their care
- providing preventative oral care
- non-surgical management of periodontal (gum) disease
- managing plaque-related diseases
- extracting deciduous teeth and restoration of teeth
- taking impressions and radiographs
- the application to teeth and gums of certain medicaments such as fluoride and fissure sealants
- teaching of oral hygiene methods
- providing advice on diet and smoking cessation
- scaling and polishing

Find out more in the Careers section.

Facilities and support

You will be based in the School of Dental Sciences, which is in the same building as the Dental Hospital.

Together with the adjacent Medical School and Royal Victoria Infirmary teaching hospital, it forms one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the country.

Facilities

- Hi-tech Clinical Simulation Unit
- Dental Learning Resource Centre
- Take a virtual tour of our dental teaching and learning facilities
- Find out more about our facilities on the School website

Support

- Personal tutor throughout your degree – an academic member of staff who can help with academic and personal issues
- Peer mentor in your first year – a fellow student who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have
- Close interaction with approachable teaching staff

Social activities

- The School is home to almost 500 undergraduate students
- Student-led society Dentsoc organises social events to help you settle in and make friends

How to apply

Subject to full University approval, from 2015, we expect to be offering this course as a three-year undergraduate degree.

Applications will be via UCAS in the usual method.

Please check back for further information in the coming months.

Take a virtual tour at www.ncl.ac.uk/tour
Teaching and assessment

Study at the cutting edge
- The Dental School has research labs conducting cutting-edge research at the highest international standards.
- This cutting-edge knowledge feeds into your undergraduate degree, giving you the latest knowledge in the field.

Teaching methods
- Benefit from teaching from expert staff, including holders of national teaching fellowships and distinguished scientist awards.
- Teaching is by a combination of:
  - lectures and seminars
  - laboratory demonstrations (including closed-circuit TV)
  - practical laboratory work
  - clinical demonstrations

Assessment methods
- Formal assessment during the first two years takes the form of examinations in January and at the end of each year.
- You also undergo continuous assessment in the form of essays and projects, which allows for feedback on your progress.
- Assessment of clinical skills is carried out on a continuous basis, with careful feedback so that you can constantly improve your performance and continue to learn.

Find out more
- Teaching and assessment methods may vary from module to module. More information about each module can be found in the Modules section.
- Visit our Teaching and Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University.

Course Content

You will learn, through a mixture of lectures and practical sessions, the knowledge and skills to become a caring, knowledgeable, competent and skilful dental hygienist therapist.

A large part of your time will be spent on practical work, initially using a phantom head with natural teeth.

After this, you have the chance to work with members of the dental team and other health professionals to treat patients at Newcastle Dental Hospital and other hospitals and clinics in the district.

Some of the topics covered on the course include:
- the scientific basis of dentistry
- behavioural science and communication
- human anatomy and physiology
- the process of disease
- children’s dentistry
- dental radiography
- principles of health promotion and disease prevention
- the organisation and provision of healthcare in the community and in hospital
- the care of oral appliances and devices
- dental practice issues (including ethics, medico-legal considerations, health and safety)
- key clinical skills (instrumentation and restorative techniques)

Attendance

The course lasts for 27 months ending with final examinations in December.

Attendance is expected daily from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. As well as bank holidays and statutory holidays, the Dental School will be closed for nine weeks during the year.

Achievement

We welcome candidates who are ready to meet the challenges of this demanding course. You must be prepared for sustained hard work and effort throughout the year and we will support you to help you achieve your full potential.

Any candidate repeatedly failing to meet the expected standards may be asked to withdraw from the course.

Entry Requirements

All candidates are considered on an individual basis.

If your qualifications are not listed here, please see our additional entry requirements web pages to find out which other qualifications are considered.

Additional entry information beyond specific grades for this programme is provided under ‘Important Information for All Students’ below.

Important Information for All Students

Please note: Applications for this course must be sent directly to the University, and NOT through UCAS.
Previous dental nursing experience and a recognised Dental Nursing qualification is preferred.

We do not accept applications from BDS/BChD graduates or from any applicant holding a higher level qualification than the Diploma in the field of Dentistry.

A high standard of health is required.

Successful applicants will need to pass a medical examination. Protection by inoculation and vaccination will be advised in certain instances.

There is considerable competition for places, and a limited number of candidates are invited to attend for interview and assessment. Selection is based on aptitude, personality and communication skills as well as academic achievement.

Interviews are usually held six months prior to the start of the course. You will be notified by letter of the interview dates.

We reserve the right not to consider late applications and to reject applicants who have been interviewed on two previous occasions.

A Levels
DD including Biology. Five GCSEs (grades A-C) including English Language and Biology or Human Biology. Other equivalent qualifications may be considered.

English Language Requirements
For this degree you will need a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or equivalent.

Find out more about our English language admission requirements and English language support courses offered by INTO Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (UK and EU students)
Student hygienist therapists do not receive a salary but a training bursary may be granted by the Department of Health to applicants resident in England and Wales to cover approved fees for examination, tuition and maintenance.

Each application for a bursary is assessed individually in the light of the student’s personal circumstances.

Application forms for bursaries will be sent direct to each successful student by the Department of Health.

Applicants resident in Scotland should apply for financial aid to the Scottish Education Department.

No financial assistance is available from United Kingdom granting authorities for students outside the United Kingdom.

More information available from NHS website.

Dental Hygiene and Therapy careers
If you successfully pass our Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy, you will be qualified to begin working as a dental hygienist therapist without the need for any further study.

Please note: to practise in the UK, dental hygienist therapists are required to enter their names in the Register for Dental Hygienist Therapists, which is kept by the Registrar of the General Dental Council. There is a registration fee and annual retention fee for this registration.

Careers and employability at Newcastle
Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK. 95.2% of our 2012 UK/EU graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating. More than three quarters (84.9%) of our graduates who entered employment achieved a graduate level position.