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Dental Hygienist

More information can be found at

[Dental Hygienist \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/dental-hygienist)



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



Qualifications Required

HNC/HND, NVQ 4 or 5 to Degree, NVQ Level 6

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs, including English, maths and science graded A* - C or 9 - 4.

You'll usually also need 2 A levels, including at least one science subject. Some schools specify biology.

Some schools accept a nationally-recognised dental nursing or dental technician qualification in place of one or both A levels.

Other equivalent qualifications, such as a BTEC level 3 qualification and the International Baccalaureate Diploma, might be acceptable.



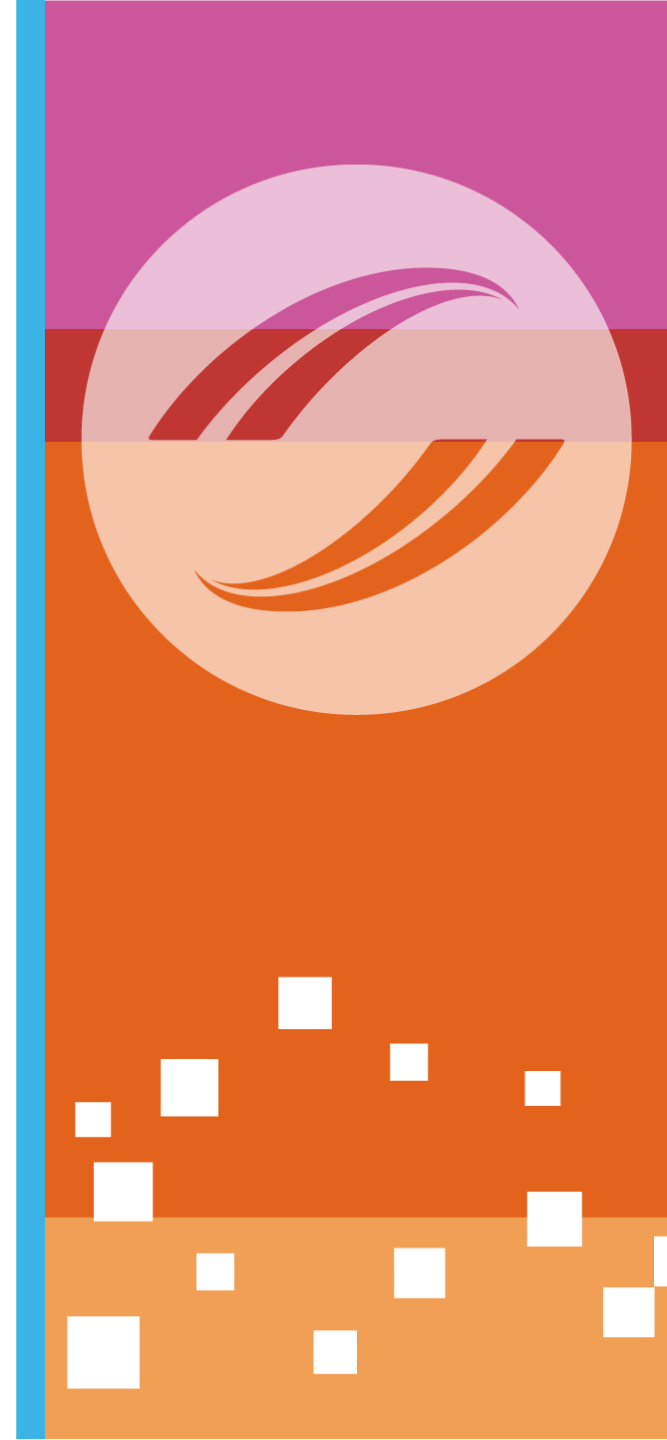
Skills and Qualities

To become a Dental Hygienist, you'll need:

- to enjoy working with people
- to be friendly, patient, sensitive and tactful, to put patients at their ease
- communication skills to give clear information and advice on oral hygiene
- confidence, a steady hand, good eyesight and colour vision for the practical work

Do I need Welsh Language skills?

Welsh Language skills are often asked for. Being able to read, write and speak Welsh may be an advantage when you're looking for work in Wales.



Entry Routes

To become a Dental Hygienist, you need to complete a diploma, degree or foundation degree course that allows you to register with the General Dental Council (GDC).

Training

The diploma in dental hygiene takes two years to complete full-time. Most training providers run a combined diploma in dental hygiene and dental therapy, which takes 27 months full-time. This allows you to register with the GDC in both careers. Courses are available at dental teaching hospitals.

The training includes:

- general anatomy
- dental anatomy
- preventive dentistry
- oral health promotion
- the management and care of patients



You can find a list of approved course providers on the website of the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT).



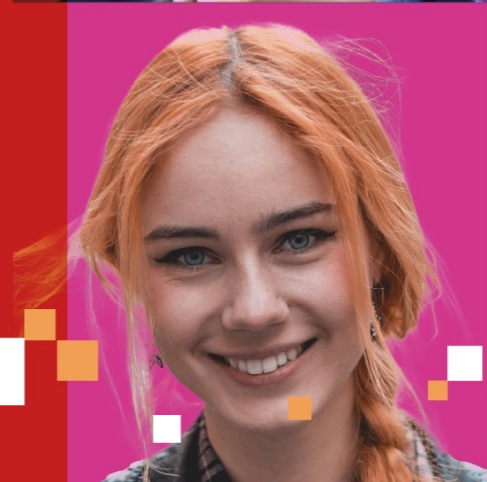
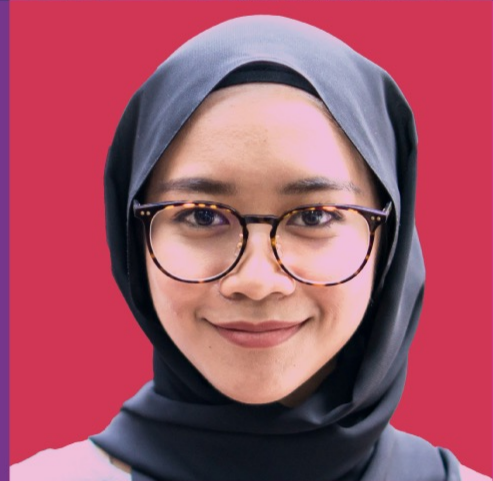
Salary

NHS employees are paid on a rising scale within defined pay bands, according to their skills and responsibilities.

The pay rates given below are approximate.

- Starting: Band 5 pay of £24,907 - £30,615
- With experience: Band 6 pay of £31,365 - £37,890
- Senior Dental Hygienists earn Band 7 pay of £38,890 - £44,503

In the private sector, self-employed Dental Hygienists can earn around £28 - £35 an hour.



For more information please use the QR code



For entry to the Sixth Form, some schools require that students need 5 A*-C at GCSE such as:

Biology

- BB (Higher) Double,
- BBB (Higher) Triple,
- B English Lang,
- B Maths

Chemistry

- BB (Higher) Double,
- BBB (Higher) Triple,
- B English Lang,
- B Maths

Physics

- BB (Higher) Double,
- BBB (Higher) Triple,
- B English Lang,
- B Maths

Medical Science

- CC Double
- CCC Triple
- C English Language
- C Maths



For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

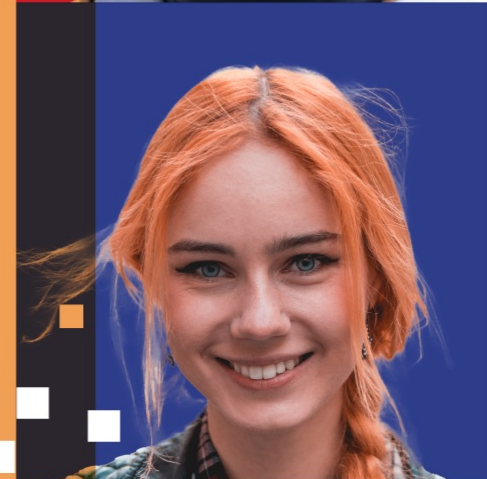
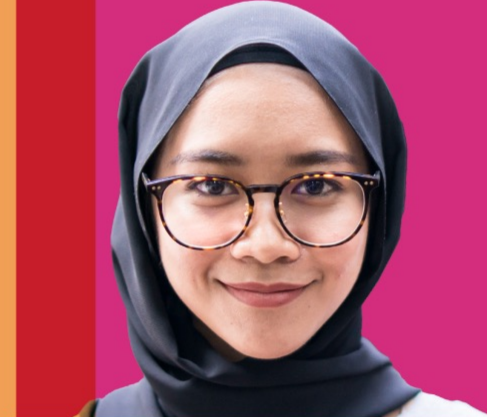
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For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

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