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Level 3 Diploma in the  
Principles and Practice  
of Dental Nursing

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Qualification facts

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# About this qualification

This qualification focuses on direct chair-side work and support during a range of dental treatments. It encompasses the underpinning ethics, professionalism, teamwork and communication required to work as a Dental Nurse.

The qualification covers the current General Dental Council (GDC) learning outcomes and Skills for Health National Occupational Standards and on completion it will enable learners to register with the GDC\*. It can also be undertaken as part of the Apprenticeship Standard for a Dental Nurse (England) and Advanced Apprenticeship in Health (Dental Nursing) framework (Wales).

This qualification has been awarded UCAS points from May 2020 onwards. Please visit the UCAS website for more information about tariff points.

\*This GDC has confirmed approval of this qualification and details can be found on their website [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org).

## Entry requirements

Learners must be at least 16 years old. We do not set any other entry requirements but Centres may have their own guidelines.

## Experience in the workplace

Learners will need to be working or on practical placement to be able to show competence in knowledge, understanding and skills. It is recommended that learners spend a minimum of 16 hours per week in a Real Work Environment.

If learners are already working as a Dental Nurse this qualification could be undertaken to consolidate and extend their knowledge, understanding and skills. It will also confer their competence in their role as a Dental Nurse.

If learners are on practical placement, this qualification will provide them with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills which will support them to gain employment as a Dental Nurse.

For learners undertaking the Dental Nursing apprenticeship, providers should refer to the apprenticeship standard (England) document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-dental-nurse>

Or apprenticeship framework (Wales) document: [www.afosscalliance.org](http://www.afosscalliance.org) for clarification of requirements

## Qualification structure

Learners must achieve 49 credits from the 17 mandatory units.

All knowledge and skills learning outcomes and assessment criteria must be met for each unit. In addition, learners must achieve a pass, merit or distinction in the two external assessment tests (part 1 and part 2) covering the underpinning knowledge across units DN 12-16.

There is no compensation between units, or between observations and unit tasks within a unit.

Guided Learning (GL) (hours): 366

Total Qualification Time (TQT): 490

### Mandatory units

| Unit no. | Unit ref   | Title                                                                                                            | Unit type            | Level | Credit |
|----------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|
| DN 1     | F/505/8337 | Contribute to health and safety in the dental environment                                                        | Knowledge/<br>Skills | 3     | 2      |
| DN 2     | J/505/8338 | Work within regulatory requirements in relation to the role of a dental nurse                                    | Skills               | 3     | 1      |
| DN 3     | L/505/8339 | Reflect on and develop own practice as a dental nurse                                                            | Skills               | 3     | 2      |
| DN 4     | J/505/8341 | Prepare and maintain environments, instruments and equipment for clinical dental procedures                      | Knowledge/<br>Skills | 3     | 3      |
| DN 5     | F/505/8340 | Promote oral health for individuals                                                                              | Knowledge/<br>Skills | 3     | 3      |
| DN 6     | L/505/8342 | Provide support during the assessment of individuals' oral health                                                | Skills               | 3     | 2      |
| DN 7     | R/505/8343 | Contribute to the production of dental images                                                                    | Skills               | 3     | 2      |
| DN 8     | Y/505/8344 | Provide support during the prevention and control of periodontal disease, caries and the restoration of cavities | Knowledge/<br>Skills | 3     | 3      |
| DN 9     | D/505/8345 | Provide support during the provision of fixed and removable prosthesis                                           | Skills               | 3     | 5      |
| DN 10    | H/505/8346 | Provide support during non-surgical endodontic treatment                                                         | Skills               | 3     | 2      |
| DN 11    | K/505/8347 | Provide support during the extraction of teeth and minor oral surgery procedures                                 | Skills               | 3     | 3      |
| DN 12    | M/505/8348 | Principles of infection control in the dental environment                                                        | Knowledge            | 3     | 4      |
| DN 13    | K/505/8350 | Dental anatomy and assessment of oral health                                                                     | Knowledge            | 3     | 4      |
| DN 14    | M/505/8351 | Principles and techniques of dental radiography                                                                  | Knowledge            | 3     | 4      |
| DN 15    | T/505/8352 | Principles of managing oral disease and dental procedures                                                        | Knowledge            | 3     | 6      |
| DN 16    | A/505/8353 | Understand ethics and professionalism in dental nursing                                                          | Knowledge            | 3     | 2      |
| UFAE     | D/504/6101 | First aid essentials                                                                                             | Knowledge/<br>Skills | 2     | 1      |

## Assessment

Units DN 1 - DN 11 and unit UF AE are internally assessed, and units DN 12 - DN 16 are both internally and externally assessed.

A recommended range of assessment methods has been identified for the units in this qualification. This gives the opportunity for different learning styles and individual needs of learners to be taken into account:

- \*Direct observation (by a qualified Assessor who is a GDC registrant and meets our assessment principles)
- Expert witness evidence
- Professional discussion
- \*Reflective accounts (Learner log or reflective diary)
- Written and pictorial information
- Optional task set by us for knowledge learning outcomes/underpinning knowledge for skills learning outcomes
- Oral questions and answers.

\*Mandatory assessment method

## Progression

On completion of this qualification learners may progress to qualifications in the following areas:

- dental sedation
- dental radiography
- dental technology
- oral health education
- special care dental nursing
- orthodontic nursing
- dental practice management.

Learners may also progress into employment as a Dental Nurse or to other career pathways (with additional entry qualifications), including:

- dental hygienist
- dental therapist
- orthodontic therapist
- laboratory technician
- dentist
- senior nurse
- practice manager
- lecturer
- teacher and assessor of student dental nurses.

## For more information

Full details of this qualification can be found on our website [www.qualhub.co.uk](http://www.qualhub.co.uk)

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We continually invest in high quality qualifications for the health, care, early years and education sectors. Written and developed by experts, they have helped millions of learners across the world to raise professional standards, earning us a reputation for excellence and leadership across the sector. Our continued dedication to those who care for children, young people and adults means that our qualifications will continue to meet the needs of the modern workforce.

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