

FOUNDATION IN
DENTAL NURSING

Course Information Pack 2026/27

Online (Distance Learning)

THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL NURSING

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Foundation in Dental Nursing

Find out if dental nursing is right for you, online and at your own pace, before you commit to a professional qualification.

Course Overview

The Foundation in Dental Nursing is an introductory online course for school leavers, career changers, mature learners and overseas healthcare professionals who are curious about dental nursing in the UK. No previous dental experience or qualifications are needed, and you don't need to work in a dental practice to take it.

You'll learn about the role, responsibilities and daily work of a dental nurse through pre-recorded video lessons, lecture slides and resources, with tutor guidance throughout. When you're ready to qualify, you can progress to the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing (RQF) with us, online or face-to-face in London, and your £290 Foundation fee comes off the Diploma price.

Course Key Information

STUDY MODE	**Online, self-paced**
DURATION	**Typically 3–6 months, at about 4–6 hours a week**
START DATE	**Flexible – start any time of year**
ACADEMIC LEVEL	**Foundation Certificate**

AWARDED BY	The School of Dental Nursing You'll receive a Certificate of Completion. This is not a regulated qualification.
COURSE FEE	£290 Refundable only if you cancel before the course starts. Deducted from your Diploma fee if you continue to the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma with us.
EXAMINATION FEE	None (£0)
WHO IT'S FOR	Aged 16 or over, with a good understanding of written and spoken English. No dental practice job needed.

! **What this course is, and isn't.** The Foundation is an introductory course. It is not equivalent to the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing (RQF), does not qualify you as a dental nurse and does not lead to GDC registration. Think of it as a test drive before you commit.

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Course Benefits

Try before you commit
Discover whether dental nursing suits you

Learn on your terms
Online, at your own pace, on eTrain

Tutor guidance
Experienced tutors support you throughout

No practice job needed
Study before you find a trainee role

Certificate of Completion
From the School of Dental Nursing

A clear next step
Progress to the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma

£290 **Nothing wasted.** If you continue to the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing (RQF) with us, the £290 you paid for the Foundation is deducted from your Diploma fee.

Entry Requirements

You can apply if you:

- are aged 16 or over
- have a good understanding of written and spoken English.

No formal qualifications, clinical experience or dental practice job are needed.

Who is it for?

Beginners, school leavers, mature learners and career changers. It can also help overseas healthcare professionals understand the UK dental working environment.

Can it help me find a trainee role?

Yes. Understanding the role helps with applications and interviews, and our job search and career advice is there to help. It can't guarantee a job, and your employer must still provide induction and supervision.

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What Will You Learn?

You'll start with the dental nurse's role and responsibilities, then learn the basics of health and safety, infection prevention, chairside support and instrument handling: the everyday building blocks of keeping patients safe. You'll explore communication and patient care, preventive dental care and what it's like to work in a UK dental practice, with a plain-English introduction to GDC standards and the career pathways open to you once you qualify.

Course Modules

The course is made up of the nine modules below.

Module	Module title
1	Introduction to Dental Nursing
2	Health and Safety in a Dental Environment
3	Basic Dental Anatomy
4	Supporting Chairside Assistance
5	Infection Control Basics
6	Basic Medical Emergencies and First Aid
7	Communication and Patient Care
8	Introduction to Preventive Dental Care
9	Dental Nursing Career Preparation

Each module ends with a short multiple-choice test, so you can check your understanding before moving on.

How Is The Course Delivered?

You study fully online through our Virtual Learning Environment, eTrain, which gives you access to:

- **Video lessons**
- **Lecture slides**
- **Suggested reading**
- **Key resources**

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How Is The Course Assessed?

To complete the course successfully, you need to:

1. **Pass the end-of-module tests**
   Short multiple-choice quizzes at the end of each module to check your understanding.

2. **Complete written assignments**
   Apply what you've learned in your own words. Your tutor will explain the assignment requirements when you enrol.

✓ **Complete the course and you'll receive a Certificate of Completion from the School of Dental Nursing.**

What This Course Does Not Include

- The NEBDN Portfolio of Evidence (PoE)
- The NEBDN assessments: the Knowledge Test and the Professional Discussion
- Enrolment on the full NEBDN Level 3 Diploma, or eligibility for GDC registration.

Your Pathway to Becoming a Dental Nurse

1. **Foundation in Dental Nursing**
   3–6 months online
2. **Secure a trainee dental nurse role**
   In a UK practice, at least 15 hours a week, before starting the Diploma
3. **NEBDN Level 3 Diploma**
   Portfolio of Evidence, Knowledge Test and Professional Discussion
4. **Apply for GDC registration**
   Work as a qualified dental nurse

You can progress to the Diploma, online or face-to-face in London, as long as you meet its entry requirements. Completing the Foundation does not by itself guarantee a place on the Diploma. Once registered with the GDC, you can go on to specialise in areas such as dental radiography, oral health education or orthodontic nursing.

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HOW TO APPLY

Applications are open all year round. Here's what happens next.

STEP 1

Submit your online application

Scan the code or visit our website.

STEP 2

Send your documents and pay your fee

We confirm your place once we've received your documents and the £290 course fee.

STEP 3

Start learning

You'll get access to eTrain and can begin straight away, at your own pace.

Want to talk it through first?

Book a call with one of our advisers to find out whether the Foundation or the Diploma is the right starting point for you. If you already have a trainee dental nurse role, you may be able to start the NEBDN Level 3 Diploma straight away.

Need help or advice?

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Fees and dates are correct at the time of publication (2026) and may change. Please check our website for the latest information.