

Career of the Day

Job title: Dentist



Job title: Dentist	Dentists diagnose and treat teeth and mouth problems, and work to prevent dental disease and promote oral health.
Entry requirements:	<p>You'll need to complete a 5-year degree in dentistry approved by the General Dental Council, followed by 1 to 2 years of postgraduate dental training.</p> <p>When you apply for a dentistry course, you could be asked to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test or BioMedical Admissions Test. They test the skills you'll need on the course, like critical thinking, problem solving, data analysis, communication and scientific knowledge.</p> <p>You may be able to apply for a 4-year dental degree course if you've already got at least an upper second class degree in biology, chemistry or a biomedical subject.</p> <p>There's a lot of competition for places at dental schools.</p> <p>Entry requirements You'll usually need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 6 / 7 GCSEs at grades 7 - 9 • 3 A levels, usually at grades AAA to ABB, including chemistry and biology
Skills required:	<p>You'll need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of medicine and dentistry • customer service skills • physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace • thinking and reasoning skills • to be thorough and pay attention to detail • excellent verbal communication skills • the ability to work well with your hands • the ability to read English • to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
What you'll do:	<p>Your services might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dental treatments like fillings, extractions and fitting dentures and bridges • teeth whitening • taking X-rays and giving local anaesthetics • referring patients to a dental hygienist or dental therapist
What you'll earn:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starter: £32,000 • Experienced: £85,000 <p><i>These figures are a guide.</i></p>
Working hours, patterns and environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could work at a dental practice, at a health centre or in an NHS or private hospital. • You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing. • Monday to Friday 35 to 40 hours a week • As a contractor or self employed
Career path and progression:	<p>As a dentist in general practice you could go on to become a partner in the practice or set up your own practice.</p> <p>If you're working in the hospital dental service, you'll be able to follow the same career structure and training pathway as a hospital doctor. You could also specialise, for example in implant or paediatric dentistry.</p> <p>As a consultant, you'll often find work opportunities in the private sector.</p> <p>With experience, you could lead a team, or manage a unit or department.</p> <p>You could also progress to teaching and training students, trainee dentists and other healthcare professionals.</p>