



JOB of the Week



Job name: Dentist

Job description: As a dentist you'll prevent and treat problems affecting the mouth and teeth, deal with injuries and correct dental issues. The most common role in dentistry is as a general dental practitioner (GDP). As a GDP, you'll work as a self-employed contractor providing dental care to the general public in high street practices. It is also possible to work part time in hospitals. You might provide services under the NHS, privately or both. You'll typically lead a team of dental nurses, hygienists, therapists and technicians, and treat a range of patients, from children to the elderly.

Tasks you will undertake in the job:

As a dentist, you'll need to:

- educate patients on oral healthcare
- examine teeth, diagnosing dental conditions using tools such as x-rays
- assess treatment options and agree treatment plans with patients
- carry out agreed clinical treatments such as restoring teeth affected by decay and treating gum disease
- maintain patients' dental records
- recruit, train and manage staff
- oversee budgets and maintain stocks of equipment
- market services to potential clients.

Some practices employ practice managers so that dentists can concentrate on clinical work.

Qualifications you will need for this job:

You must have an approved degree in dentistry to practise as a dentist and courses take at least five years to complete. You'll typically need high grades at A-level/Highers, with chemistry and biology being required subjects. Some dental schools offer a one-year pre-dental course for those who don't have the required A-levels or equivalent. If you've already completed a degree, achieved at least a 2:1 and the course had a large element of biology or chemistry, you may be able to do an accelerated four-year dental course. You'll need to register with the GDC in order to practise as a qualified dentist. All dental schools in the UK are regulated by the General Dental Council (GDC) and a list of available courses can be found at [GDC Dentistry Programmes and Qualifications](#). Competition for dental schools is fierce and many require you to sit the [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#) or [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#).

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Dentists would normally work:

Dental practice - you'll either be employed as an assistant or will work as a self-employed associate, providing NHS and/or private dental services. Dental practices vary in size from single practitioner, part-time surgeries to multiple-site partnerships with several associates.

NHS hospital trust - as a salaried dentist specialising in a certain area such as paediatric dentistry, orthodontics or restorative dentistry.

Community dental service - working in a variety of clinical settings as a salaried dentist within the NHS, including health authority surgeries, mobile clinics and residential homes.

Role in the armed forces - at locations in the UK and overseas with the Royal Air Force, Royal Army and Royal Navy.

Type of work (full time / part time):



Salary: Once you have qualified, if you want to work in the NHS, you need to complete a Foundation year (salary £32 050). See below for more salary detail



Working hours: 36 average working hours in the week (37.5 working hours in the average working week). As a GDP you'll be self-employed and can arrange your own working hours, which may include weekend or evening sessions to suit patients. Career breaks and part-time work opportunities are possible.

Workforce in the UK: 17% male / 83% female workforce

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/dentist>

As a newly qualified dentist, if you want to work in the NHS you'll have to complete one year of foundation training. During this time you'll earn a salary of £32,050.

Most dentists are self-employed contractors in general practice, mixing NHS with private work. Profits of dental practices varies greatly but in general you can earn around £50,000 to £110,000. Wholly private dentists can earn £140,000+.

If you enter dental core training, instead of working in general practice, you will earn a salary of £37,935 to £48,075. There are also additional payments for night, weekend and on-call work.

If you work as a salaried dentist employed by the NHS, mainly in community dental services, you'll earn around £40,629 to £86,900

In NHS trust hospitals, consultants in dental specialties earn a basic salary of £79,860 to £107,668 depending on the amount of years spent in the consultant grade.

Other salaried posts exist in the armed forces and in corporate practices.

This job in the future:

The workforce is projected to grow by 10.4% over the period to 2027, creating 5,900 jobs.

In the same period, 54.5% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 31,100 job opportunities.

www.icould.com

www.successatschool.org

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors

www.ucas.com/careers-advice

www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)

www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb00fqvMPCykcZA>

