Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy.

Undergraduate Diploma
Welcome to our University

Thank you for your interest in studying Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy at the University of Sheffield. This brochure gives you an overview of our course, University and the city of Sheffield. It will hopefully answer many of your questions and help you decide where to study. We hope you will choose the University of Sheffield and become one of the growing number of students who remember their years here as happy and rewarding ones.
Our history

The Sheffield School of Dental Hygiene first opened its doors to students in 1985. The course evolved over subsequent years and became a combined dental hygiene and therapy diploma programme in 1996. From 2001 the University of Sheffield has had full responsibility for the training of dental hygienists and therapists.

The Academic Unit of Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy is part of the School of Clinical Dentistry. The School is a busy, thriving and well-regarded institution. We consistently rank in the top five dental schools in the UK in the Independent Complete University Guide.

It is at the forefront of world-class research, so our teaching is informed by the very latest developments in dentistry. The School is linked to the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, where the majority of clinical teaching takes place. The School and Hospital has invested in a multi-million pound redevelopment to provide first class teaching and research facilities.

At Sheffield we recognise the importance of training the dental team together and there is a strong belief in integrating the dental hygiene and therapy students with dental students. Our students also benefit from our outstanding placement programme. We enable our students to learn and develop in a friendly, caring and professional environment. The pass rate for our course is consistently high and our graduates can launch themselves into the responsibilities of a working life with confidence and competence.

Reasons to choose Sheffield:

- No tuition fees. NHS funded.
- Professional Accreditation. General Dental Council accreditation.
- No. 1 university in the UK. Times Higher Education Survey.
- England’s greenest city. 150 woodlands and 50 public parks.
- A world top-100 university. QS World University Rankings
- The UK’s best Students’ Union. Times Higher Education Survey.
- Rigorous outreach placement training.
- No. 1 in the Russell Group for student services. Student Barometer.
- Among the safest cities in the UK. Home Office crime figures.
- High pass and employment rates.
Our course

The Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy is a full-time course, which runs for 27 months and starts in April each year. The first and second years are split into three terms. The third year consists of one term only. Vacations take place during Christmas, Easter and the summer.

Course structure

Our course enables students to gain professional accreditation with the General Dental Council as dental hygienists and therapists. The course is kept under continual review and a new exciting curriculum was recently launched with professionalism at its core.

First year

At the beginning of the first year you’ll develop your understanding of the anatomy and physiology relevant to dentistry. You’ll also be introduced to a range of study skills to help you thrive at University.

After the first month you’ll begin clinical skills training to give you the skills you need to treat patients. You’ll be introduced to the concept of putting patients’ needs first, as well as careful and thorough instrumentation. Alongside this you’ll visit and assist on clinics to help build your confidence and communication skills in a clinical environment – we place great emphasis on helping you become a caring, competent and confident member of the dental team.

Throughout the first year you’ll also develop your knowledge and understanding in other subject areas including law, ethics and professionalism, health promotion and education and oral disease. Our course is very dynamic and within no time you’ll be treating patients under close supervision in the Dental Hospital.

Second year

The second year is mainly clinical – you’ll be treating your own patients and will be expected to show a commitment to compassionate, high quality care. You will also rotate around many different specialist departments within the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, helping to broaden your clinical experience. There will also be the opportunity to attend Sheffield Children’s Hospital to assist with oral surgery and you’ll visit care homes to train staff in oral health care.

In addition you’ll further your knowledge and understanding in important areas of dentistry. During your second year you will work towards an oral health promotion project. Oral health promotion is one of the roles pivotal to all dental personnel and this project will give you the opportunity to plan and deliver your very own scheme to promote oral health for a targeted group of people. This is an exciting opportunity to make a real impact, with previous schemes launched in primary schools and residential care homes.

Third year

By the time you reach the third year and the last few months of the course, you will have acquired a vast range of knowledge, skills and experience. Our principles of practice theme will inform you of the important issues you will confront in the workplace and help ensure you begin your career as a well-rounded professional.

Outreach training

During the second year you will spend part of your time working as a team in a range of primary care settings in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. We use carefully selected placements in community dental services, dental access centres and general dental practices. Our pioneering outreach training programme provides a real working environment to encourage your professional development. It will give you an exciting opportunity to see and treat a variety of patients and maximise your clinical and communication skills.

Typically you will work in three placements, two days a week, each for two months with nursing support. Usually these will be in contrasting settings. As a working member of a dental team you will learn from the inside how the services operate and gradually build confidence and speed of working in your new role. Transferring skills learned in the Dental Hospital to new working environments should ease your move into employment upon qualification. Many students find this outreach training a challenging but rewarding and reassuring part of the course. It’s one of the most rigorous placement programmes in the UK giving you a head start in your career.

Teaching and learning

We take a lively and innovative approach to preparing students for a career in dental hygiene and therapy. Dynamic teaching and learning methods are employed which are broadly divided into lectures, laboratory work, clinical sessions and tutorials. A strong emphasis is also placed on directed self-learning.

Current accepted practices are taught and our students learn about the new techniques and advances that are rapidly taking place in the field of dentistry.

Assessment

Throughout the course you will be assessed by a variety of methods including written and clinical examinations, assignments and presentations. As part of your final examination you will present a patient for whom you have provided an extensive range of treatments. Through our broad range of assessment methods you will develop a wide collection of transferable skills.
Your personal development and support

We are committed to providing feedback to suit every student. You will regularly receive feedback on formal and informal assessments and on how you are progressing on the course. We also have an online platform where you can record and reflect on your portfolio of clinical work.

We have a strong personal tutorial support system and you will regularly meet with your personal tutor to discuss your personal development and plans for the future.

At Sheffield we pride ourselves on the good relationships we have with our students. As well as your personal tutor, all our staff are available to offer advice, answer questions, and provide general advice. The University and Student’s Union also operate a range of services where trained staff provide practical help and advice on all aspects of student life.
The role of the dental hygienist and therapist has never been so exciting. With the introduction of Direct Access and NHS dental contract reform, dental hygienists and therapists have become central members of the dental team.

They have an ever increasing scope of practice which includes preventative and periodontal treatment, placing simple restorations, taking dental radiographs, and extracting deciduous teeth. They also have a key role in oral health education and promotion for the individual and the wider community.

Dental hygienists and therapists treat a range of patients including those that are dentally anxious, medically compromised or physically disabled. They must work within the General Dental Council’s standards of conduct, performance and ethics for the dental team and uphold the core values of the NHS constitution.

At Sheffield we are continually redeveloping the course to meet the demands of this ever changing and exciting dental profession.

Your future
When it comes to getting well-paid jobs, our graduates are very successful. Career opportunities exist in the community dental service, hospital service, local NHS and private dental practices. Demand for qualified dental hygienists and therapists is strong and there are excellent opportunities for full-time, part-time and flexible working hours. Dental hygienists and therapists with experience can move into research work or teaching roles at universities. With additional training dental therapists can also work as orthodontic therapists.

What we do to help
Right from day one we will help you develop the key skills employers are looking for and prepare you for a successful career. We have a dedicated Careers Advisor who liaises with the School. During your final year we also run sessions on job searches, applications, interview techniques and career pathways.

The University’s Careers Service also offers extensive help to students including a drop-in advice service. They can also support you throughout the process of applying for a job.

Find out more at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers

Studying Dental Hygiene & Therapy at Sheffield University is the best thing I’ve ever done. The staff and students are very friendly and welcoming, which makes life at University so much more fun and enjoyable.

Esther Liptrot,
Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy student
First-class facilities

The University of Sheffield offers an outstanding student experience, combining excellent facilities and support within a friendly forward-thinking environment, and was voted number one university in the UK in the Times Higher Education student experience survey 2014-15.

We invest millions to create the right environment for you. That means the best equipment, facilities and support services.

The Information Commons

The Information Commons has set a new standard for learning and study environments. It’s open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The latest IT resources are combined with library facilities and a range of innovative study spaces. The Information Common’s experience will soon expand into The Diamond, a brand new, state of the art interdisciplinary building. Complementing the Information Commons, our newly refurbished Health Sciences Library has access to all the books relevant to dentistry.

Computer access

The University prides itself on its IT facilities. You can take your pick from over 34 computer rooms and 1,300 PCs or tap into our fast, free WiFi access all over the campus and in University accommodation. If you have a problem with your computer we’ll investigate it for free. You can access the library catalogue via your smartphone and there’s a free University app so you book a PC or look up an email address while you’re on the move.

Student welfare

At the University of Sheffield there are teams of staff and excellent resources dedicated to supporting you in your academic and non-academic life. The Counselling Service can help you if you feel stressed during your time with us and runs various workshops and holds sessions with individuals and groups. The University Health Service is a modern and friendly General Practice which offers full GP services to our students and their dependents.

Accommodation

There’s a range of university accommodation available from our student villages in leafy parkland settings to our city self-catering apartments.

Alternatively, some of our students prefer to live together in private rented accommodation. To make such accommodation searches easier, we have an online group where you can get in touch with fellow students before the course starts. Whichever type of accommodation you prefer, the University’s Accommodation Services are there to help you.

Find out more at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation

Sport for all

Our students benefit from top-of-the-range sports facilities including a fitness centre, swimming pool, bouldering wall, tennis courts, floodlit synthetic pitches and 45 acres of grass playing fields. The University is committed to the principle of ‘Sport for All’ and is constantly improving the sporting opportunities and services it provides.

Find out more at: www.sport-sheffield.com
Our Students’ Union

The University of Sheffield’s Union of Students is consistently rated as the best Students’ Union in the UK (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey).

The Sheffield student experience

The Union building recently underwent a multi-million pound rebuild and is at the centre of student life. It has bars, cafés, shops, study spaces, an advice centre, banking and much more.

There are over 250 clubs and societies taking in the recreational, academic, religious and political. You can become a cheerleader, write for the student newspaper or tread the boards with the Sheffield University Theatre Company. Our students can also join one of the largest Dental Students’ Societies in the UK which organises intra-mural sports, careers events and socials including the annual Dental Ball.

The Union offers a packed programme of club nights and live bands. The Octagon Centre is a major venue on the national circuit, putting on the best and latest live music, and there’s a club night to suit all tastes. Uniquely, the Union also has its own 400-seat cinema, screening films throughout the year.

All students are encouraged to use all the facilities, but the Union also recognises the particular needs of some groups. Women students are provided with an evening minibus service from the central campus to their accommodation. For student parent there’s top-rated nursery facilities and a play scheme during school holidays. Other special facilities include a prayer room for Islamic students.

More than just a building

The Union exists to represent your views. Every academic department has a Union representative and there are hundreds of students elected to serve on committees and put forward student views.

Find out more at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/union

As a city, Sheffield’s high student retention rate speaks for itself. Not only does the University have a fantastic Students’ Union, but the Dental Students’ Society also provides a whole calendar of exciting social and sporting activities.

Lee Del Rosso,
Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy graduate
Our city

Sheffield is England’s fourth largest city and with two universities is home to over 45,000 students.

A sense of wellbeing

Sheffield is the greenest city in England, with 150 woodlands and 50 public parks. More than a third of the city is inside the Peak District National Park, a world-famous area of outstanding natural beauty. It’s the perfect playground for anyone who loves the outdoors. Sheffield also has a safe and friendly atmosphere – Home Office figures show that it is one of the UK’s safest cities.

Value for money

It makes financial sense to choose Sheffield. The cost of living for students is one of the lowest in the UK, so your money will go further.

Always something going on

Sheffield is a vibrant, exciting city. It has a legendary pub, club and live music scene and even has its own music festival. Sheffield also has a thriving cultural scene with museums, art galleries, award-winning theatres and the largest independent cinema outside London. The list of cafes, bars and restaurants is constantly evolving, serving food and drink from around the world. For sports lovers, there’s an enviable choice of world-class facilities including the English Institute of Sport Sheffield, Europe’s largest ice complex, and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Shopoholics are also in their element, from well know high street names, including Meadowhall with 270 stores under one roof, to niche independent stores.

A home from home

The atmosphere in Sheffield is so relaxed and friendly that students begin to feel at home almost immediately. Many of our students love the city so much they decide to stay and build their careers here. In fact more students decide to stay on and live in Sheffield than in any other university city.

“ Shefield was my first choice, mainly due to the excellent teaching facilities and the reputable outreach programme. It’s also NHS funded which goes a long way to making life less of a financial struggle whilst studying. ”

Amy Worrall
Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy graduate
First class facilities at Sheffield
Finance

This information is only intended to give you an indication of the financial support which may be available to you. It is subject to change at any time.

You do not have to pay tuition fees for our course. The School of Clinical Dentistry is allocated a set number of NHS funded places each year.

If you are offered a place on our course, you will need to apply for your tuition fees to be paid by the NHS.

You will also be entitled to apply for additional financial support every year. This includes a £1,000 non-means tested grant, a means tested bursary and a reduced rate non-means tested loan.

To be eligible for NHS financial support you must meet certain immigration and residence criteria.

Find out more at:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

Entry requirements and how to apply

Our entry requirements are updated every year. To apply for a place on our course, you will need to meet our entry requirements and submit an application form to the School of Clinical Dentistry. Please note applications to study are not made through UCAS. Our comprehensive Application Guide contains details of our entry requirements and will help you to complete your application form.

Visiting us

If you’d like to visit us before applying, you can book a place on one of the University Open Days which are usually held between June and October. You’ll have a chance to meet staff and students and look around the School and Dental Hospital.

Find out more at:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays

If you’re invited to interview you will also have the opportunity to explore the facilities of the School and Dental Hospital, as well as speak to our current students about their experiences of the course.

How to contact us

If you would like further information or advice on your application to study Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy at the University of Sheffield, please contact:

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School of Clinical Dentistry
The University of Sheffield
Claremont Crescent
Sheffield
S10 2TA

Telephone: 0114 226 8287
Fax: 0114 271 7843
Email: hygieneandtherapy@sheffield.ac.uk
You can also visit our website:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/dentalschool/undergraduate/ht

Keeping in touch

USHefDentistry
Theuniversityofsheffield
Sheffielduni
uniofsheffield

“...The speed with which you progress on the course was a big plus. Within months I was working together with my colleagues to manage and treat patients. The combination of fantastic facilities, enthusiastic tutors and support from fellow colleagues means that although the course is fast paced and persistently challenging, the work is manageable and you can develop into a competent member of the dental team."

Lee Del Rosso,
Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy graduate
Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure, the School of Clinical Dentistry can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. We continually review our courses and reserve the right to amend course programmes.

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