

Careers in dentistry



Dentists practice a branch of medicine which focuses on oral health involving the study, diagnosis, prevention and surgical and non-surgical treatment of disease.

What do dentists do? Dentists treat both adults and children.

From providing patient check-ups to treatments – a day in the life of a dentist can vary greatly. One day, a dentist may have a busy schedule of check-ups. The next day, it may be all about the treatment, starting with some dental fillings and then onto a root canal and even taking out a few rotten teeth.

Where do dentists work?

Dentists work across a range of settings:

- general dental practices
- specialist dental practices
- community clinics
- hospitals
- the armed forces
- prisons.

Dentists can also do further training in one of 13 fields such as orthodontics to become a specialist or consultant.

What skills do I need to be a good dentist?

- you will need to have good communication and people skills, being friendly, explaining things in a way that people can understand and helping patients to feel at ease
- as a practical role you will need good manual dexterity to enable you to be able to use the required tools with precision
- good eyesight and attention to detail is required
- you will need to be organised and able to prioritise tasks
- creativity is a great skill to have in dentistry, helping when solving problems and improving patient care
- the role of a dentist can sometimes be stressful so you will need to be able to keep calm under pressure.

How do I become a dentist?

Step one: you will need to study a dental degree which typically takes five years to complete. In Wales we have the bachelor of dental surgery (BDS) available at Cardiff University. Once graduated, dentists are required to register with the General Dental Council (GDC).

Step two: once you have graduated you will then need to complete the one-year dental training foundation programme (DFT). During the DFT you will work in an approved dental practice, treating your own patients and will be paid a full-time salary.

Want to find out more?

Careersville: <https://careersville.heiw.wales>

NHS Wales Careers: www.nhswalescareers.com