

Foundation Degree in Advanced Dental Nursing

Frequently Asked Questions



Developing people
for health and
healthcare

www.hee.nhs.uk

Who are Health Education England (HEE)?

Health Education England working across London and the South East coordinates the delivery and funding of postgraduate medical and dental education in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.



The Dental Team operates as part of the NHS to enhance the quality of healthcare, by continually improving the management and provision of supportive, quality assured, education and development of doctors and dentists and, where appropriate, the wider workforce.

HEE (Dental) is a validated partner of the University of Kent, enabling them to deliver quality assured programmes from Foundation Degrees to those at Masters level.

What is the Foundation Degree in Advanced Dental Nursing (FdSc in ADN)?

The FdSc in ADN is a qualification which will combine academic study at Higher Education level with work-related learning. It aims to benefit patients through improved standards of care provided by empowered, confident and knowledgeable dental nurses, thereby positively influencing patient and colleague attitudes towards the profession.

It has been designed to equip dental nurses with the learning, skills and competence acquisition appropriate within the limits of their existing GDC Scope of Practice. It will enable dental nurses to achieve academic results and professional skills. It is the equivalent of two thirds of a full honours degree.

Completion of the FdSc in ADN enables you to complete a two year part time programme to gain a BSc in Professional Practice at the University of Kent.

Is the FdSc in ADN the same as CPD?

No. CPD is compulsory for all GDC registered DCPs and is aimed at keeping skills and knowledge up-to-date throughout your career.

The FdSc in ADN is not compulsory and it aims to extend your skills in key clinical areas and contribute to the development of general skills and attitudes, often referred to as graduate skills, which will both drive, and respond to, the evolving dental nurse role.

Is it a full time course?

It is classed as a full time course because it has 1200 learning hours per stage. 'Stage 1' is delivered over four extended weekends, 'Stage 2' over seven extended weekends. Please remember that supported self-study and work placed assignments are a key requirement of this foundation degree.

How long will it take?

The FdSc will take just under two years of academic study to complete. Students who start in September 2017 would graduate in July 2019.

Who can apply?

The FdSc in ADN is open to all dental nurses that:

- Hold a recognised dental nurse qualification such as NEBDN Certificate, NVQ/SVQ or Armed Forces/hospital equivalent NQF Level 3 qualification
- Are, and remain, registered with the GDC throughout the duration of the programme
- Are, and remain, employed within a dental workplace throughout the duration of the programme
- Can demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development and call on the support of the dental team in which they work.



I have only recently qualified as a Dental Nurse – can I still apply?

Yes - Provided that you meet all of the criteria detailed above.

How do I apply?

Follow the steps below

- Complete the Expression of Interest form and return to dnfd.kss@hee.nhs.uk
- Next apply directly through MidKent College (please note the process for this is to be confirmed - we will advise you directly of the process for this once details have been received from the college.)
- Your application to the college and a telephone interview form the admission process to assess your suitability for the course. Interviews will take place via telephone adhoc, prior to the induction weekend.
- You will also need to apply for student finance, if relevant, though again further details on this will be provided once advice has been received from MidKent College.

Where will the programme be delivered?

HEE has a number of post-graduate education centres available with both clinical and academic teaching facilities, as well as links with some local dental practices. These will be utilised along with a regular teaching base at the Holiday Inn, Gatwick.



How will the programme be delivered?

The programme will be delivered via face-to-face teaching sessions over extended weekends (**Thursday, Friday and Saturday**). This teaching will be supported by telephone and email contact with the Programme Director, Module Leads, Lecturers and HEE staff.

Students will be expected to supplement this face-to-face time with guided study, work-related learning and self-directed personal study. This will include OHI and fluoride practice-based competencies.

What will I learn? and dates for the first year

Stage 1 – Cohort 4	
Modules	
Induction & Introduction to Life Long Learning and the Academic Nurse	21 – 23 September 2017
Life Long Learning and the Academic Nurse (Substantive Part 2)	23 – 25 November 2017
Microbiology and Infection Control in the Dental Workplace (Part 1)	22 – 24 February 2018
Law, Ethics and Professionalism (Part 1) Final Tutorials, Evaluation and Academic Development Improvement	7- 9 June 2018

Stage 2 – Cohort 4	
Modules	
Biomedical Science and Pharmacology in Dentistry	TBC
Law, Ethics and Professionalism (Part 2) Oral Pathology and Oral Health Education (Part 1)	TBC
Oral Pathology and Oral Health Education (Part 2)	TBC
Topical Fluoride and Practical Competence (Part 1)	TBC
Topical Fluoride and Practical Competence (Part 2)	TBC
Oral Pathology and Oral Health Education (Part 3)	TBC
Evaluation and Academic Development Improvement Weekend	TBC

Can I get credit for prior learning?

The primary dental nurse qualification which provides access to the programme also provides 'Advanced Standing' of 60 credits at level C.



Will I have to take exams?

There are no formal written exams associated with this programme.

Formal assessment will however be based on a combination of presentations, portfolio style submissions, written essay or report style assignments, case studies and reflective commentary.

During the module Topical Fluoride and Practical Competence, demonstration of clinical skills acquisition and competence will be assessed via OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examination).

How much will it cost?

Current figures stand at £5950 per academic year.

Tuition fees will be payable each term or year in advance but, like other HE courses, students will be eligible to apply for a student loan to cover these costs via Student Finance England (SFE).

Tuition fees will cover: contact and distance learning elements; course handbook and module guides; academic support system; online support; assignment marking; material for the practical sessions; the loan of core text books and access to online library facilities.

Students will be responsible for their personal learning materials, suggested further reading materials, computer and internet access, accommodation (if required) and travel costs.

Self-Funded Students (Private Fee Payers)

FdSc ADN Foundation Degree - £5950 first year

Payment is to be made in four instalments via debit or credit card.

Instalments for self-funded students

Mid Kent College requires self-funded students to pay their fees via three separate instalments per year. These will need to be paid to Mid Kent through card details which you will need to supply during enrolment.

Payment via student loan

If you are successful in gaining a student loan, you will need to bring proof of this in the form of a letter from the Student Loan company to the Induction weekend. You can apply for a student loan through Student Finance England and information regarding eligibility etc. can be found in the documents on our website:

<http://www.midkent.ac.uk/help-advice/financial-support/>

What organisation are we putting down to apply for student finance?

Mid Kent College.

How are student loans repaid?

Student loans are not repaid until after the course finishes.

The Students Loan Company website provides examples of loan repayments and can be found at: <http://www.slc.co.uk/>

A dental nurse earning less than £21,000 per year would repay £Nil; one earning £25,000 per year would make repayments of £30 per month; while one earning £30,000 per year would make monthly repayments of £67.

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There is a useful student guide to the terms and conditions of a student loan for part-time courses available online at:

<http://www.slc.co.uk/students-and-customers/loan-repayment.aspx>

Loan repayments are deducted at the same time and in the same way as Tax and National Insurance, so you do not have to do anything; once your loan is due for repayment, it just happens. If you are self-employed, your student loan repayments for the year will be calculated when you complete your Self-Assessment form – although the repayment rates remain the same for employed / self-employed people.

What will I get out of the FdSc in ADN?

- The opportunity to formalise your knowledge and experience into a qualification, without having to give up your job – something many people could not afford to do.
- The opportunity to achieve at a higher level without going back for GCSEs and/or A Levels first.
- The option to convert your FdSc into a full degree by adding two further years of part time study.
- The FdSc is designed to meet current employment needs, and provide you with a range of skills which are attractive to employers and contribute to your sustainable and enduring career in dental nursing.
- Academic and professional credibility within the dental team.
- Academic understanding with the capacity for lifelong learning and professional development.



Why should I do this?

- Times are changing; the way in which NHS dentistry will be delivered is undergoing major change.
- DCPs roles will be greatly enhanced, the GDC “Scope of Practice” reflects these fundamental changes.
- Nurses, in particular, will have significant “extended duty” opportunities.
- They will find that opportunities for working away from the practices with other team members will become a much greater part of their roles.
- Career opportunities will be significantly improved.
- The status of an Enhanced Duty Dental Nurse will become greatly increased throughout practice and community settings.
- The opportunity for “work satisfaction” to reach new heights will be greatly improved.
- Additional payments for additional skills will be part of this job role expansion.

Notes to consider

Our three tier collaborative partnership with Mid Kent and the University of Kent does not permit our students to access the University of Kent Libraries. We have negotiated an agreement with

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the Mid Kent College where students will be able to access Dental Journals and their library in Medway.

If you work in the NHS within Kent, Surrey and Sussex you may access the NHS Postgraduate Centres.

We are currently pleased to offer certain free extras, such as lunch and refreshments at taught sessions and the loan of core text books.

What have previous students said about this course?

“Well explained topics, handouts, answered questions, friendly atmosphere, reassurance. Thank you all very much for your patience and time.”

“I found the whole experience very satisfying. Possibly the best aspect was to see how helpful and supportive every member of the team is.”

“I have felt very welcome and very impressed with the standard of the teaching plus the organisation.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience. I have learnt so much which I want to start using.”

“I feel more empowered as an academic dental nurse.”

“I am really pleased I am starting to develop my confidence as I really enjoy communicating with patients and this has encouraged me to develop my knowledge in other areas, especially in oral health education.”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the taught weekends and the amount of effort and hard work is clearly seen in the content and great organisation.”

“I learnt a great deal from the academic team and my peers and I feel that my practice has benefitted from the application of my new knowledge.”