

DENTAL TECHNICIAN / CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNICIAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dental Technicians or Clinical Dental Technicians make dentures, crowns, bridges and braces that improve the patient's appearance, speech and their ability to chew. They work to a prescription from doctors or dentists using a range of materials including gold, porcelain and plastic. Dental Technicians design and construct appliances to meet each patient's need. The extended role of Clinical Dental Technician is proposed as a professional who will make removable prosthetic devices directly to the patient.

There are four specialist areas.

- Prosthodontic technicians design and make the denture.
- Conservation technicians specialise in crown and bridge work.
- Orthodontic technicians make braces to correct tooth positions.
- Maxillo-facial technicians work in hospital oral surgeries, ophthalmic, cancer and burns units helping to reconstruct the faces of patients damaged by accident or disease.

N.B Clinical Dental Technicians will be allowed to see patients for the purposes of supplying and maintaining complete dentures without the prior review of a dentist.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

At the moment there are no minimum qualifications required to work as a dental technician. A BTEC National Diploma in Dental Technology can be obtained, which requires the candidate to have the equivalent to at least four GCSEs at grade C or above.

The General Dental Council has agreed with the Dental Laboratories Association (DLA), Dental Technicians Association (DTA) and Skills for Health (Sector Council) that the minimum qualification acceptable for registration is a foundation degree, in Scotland this equates to the new Higher National Certificate. Entry to both the above is either via an A level and a range of science GCSEs or via a level 3 BTEC Award or similar qualification.

Relevant qualifications in dental technology range from NVQ Level 3 through to degree level.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

From 31 July 2006 the GDC opened a register for Dental Technicians. Further information regarding registration requirements can be found in [Annex 1](#). Information on recognised qualifications can be found in [Annex 2](#).

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The job meets the criteria where it requires either of the following qualifications that must be approved by the GDC:

- A UK equivalent degree level qualification in dental technology.
- A qualification equivalent to a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Dental Technology

To meet the work permit criteria by 31 July 2008 the applicant must be registered with the GDC and hold a five digit registration number to verify this registration. Caseworkers should always check the GDC Register to confirm that a dental technician/clinical dental technician holds the required registration before approving an application. For applications approved before 31 July 2008 caseworkers should include paragraph P70H in approvals.

TWES

Training

This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

Work Experience

This occupation may be suitable for work experience providing the entry level to qualify for the work experience is at NVQ level 3, the work experience programme is at NVQ level 3 and the criteria outlined in the guidance notes are met. Caseworkers should ensure that the work experience post is additional to normal staffing requirements.

SALARY

NHS staff should be paid according to the new Agenda for Change. The pay bands for a Dental Technician are -

Job Title	Band	Salary
Dental Technician	Band 5	£19,683 - £25,424
Dental Technician	Band 6	£23,458 - £31,779

Specialist		
Dental Technician Advanced	Band 7	£28,313 - £37,326
Dental Laboratory Manager	Band 8a – c	£36,112 - £62,402

Additional allowances may be paid regionally.

Salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable with those in the public sector and as at October 2007 the minimum recommended starting salary for a qualified Dental Technician is £18,021.

ADVERTISING

Dental Technicians are a **not** a shortage occupation therefore they must be treated under Tier 2.

The following journals are the main sources of advertising for dental posts:

The Dental Technician

A E Morgan Publications Ltd
Stanley House
9 West Street
Epsom
Surrey
KT18 7RL
Tel: 01372 741 411

Dental Guide

www.dentalguide.co.uk/index.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dental Technicians Association (DTA)

PO Box 6520
Northampton
NN3 9ZX
Tel: 0870 243 0753
Website: www.dta-uk.org
Contact: Sue Adams
Email: sue.adams@dta-uk.org

General Dental Council (GDC)

37 Wimpole Street

Internal Caseworker Guidance

London
W1G 8DQ
Tel: 020 7887 3800
Email: information@gdc-uk.org
Website: www.gdc-uk.org

Dental Laboratories Association (DLA)

Chief Executive: Richard Daniels
44-46 Wollaston Road
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 2NR
Tel: 0870 991 4525
Fax: 0870 991 4526
Email: enquiries@dla.org.uk
Web: www.dla.org.uk

ANNEX 1

On the 31st July 2006 the General Dental Council (GDC) opened the register for Dental Technicians and Clinical Dental Technicians. The previous voluntary register was held by the Dental Technicians Association (DTA) and closed in March 2006. The GDC will hold two registers one for dentists and one for Dental Care Practitioners (DCPs).

Following the opening of the register, there will be a two-year transitional period during which individuals with seven or more years experience should apply for statutory registration. During the two-year transitional period only some DCP's with no formal qualifications may be eligible for registration with the GDC on the basis of their experience.

Under the new transitional arrangements all applicants regardless of nationality can apply for registration if a current GDC registrant is able to provide a reference to verify skills/experience.

DCP's who are non-EEA nationals who are unable to apply under the transitional arrangements will be assessed through a registration assessment process. The assessment process will be paper based and applicants will be asked to submit evidence of training and/or experience, which will be assessed against the UK GDC curriculum Developing the Dental Team.

Dental Technicians who are registering on the basis of their experience need to be able to prove that they have been employed for the necessary amount of time and that they are confident at managing the manufacture of a range of custom-made dental devices within one of the following areas:

- Fixed Prosthodontics
- Removable Prosthodontics
- Orthodontics

Dental Technicians who have worked full time must have done so for seven years in the past ten. The seven years will be counted back from the date of their application. A table, which calculates experience, can be found at <http://www.gdc-uk.org/Potential+registrant/Regulating+the+dental+team/Transitional+arrangements.htm>

After the two-year transitional period the register will become statutory, and the only route of registration will be for those DCP's who have a recognised qualification. The titles Dental Technician and Clinical Dental Technician will then become protected and can only be used by those DCP's registered with the GDC. Entry to the DCP register will be on the basis of training and qualifications recognised and regulated by the GDC.

ANNEX 2

Qualifications that are still being awarded and that are acceptable for registration through the transitional period are:

- BTEC National Diploma in Dental Technology
- SQA Higher National Certificate in Dental Technology
- Degree in Dental Technology awarded by Manchester Metropolitan University
- Degree in Dental Technology awarded by University of Wales Institute, Cardiff

Qualifications which are no longer awarded but which will be acceptable for registration for the first two years are:

- City and Guilds Final Certificate in Dental Technology

Qualifications awarded by Technicians Education Council or Scottish Technicians Education Council

- BTEC National Diploma in Science (Dental Technology)
- BTEC Diploma in Dental Technology, Lambeth College, London
- SCOTVEC Higher National Certificate in Dental Technology
- Army – Levels 1, 2 and 3 (Dental Technology)