Working as a Dental Hygienist and Therapist offers you the unrivalled opportunity to make a positive impact on patient's overall health and confidence. In the supportive environment of Birmingham School of Dental Hygiene and Therapy you will learn how to prevent and treat oral diseases and to influence your patient’s attitudes and behaviours for long-term gain.

Mrs Carolyn Inman, Director, School of Dental Hygiene and Therapy

This integrated honours degree leads to a qualification in both Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy. The course is a collaborative programme in that it is managed by Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust and validated by the University of Birmingham.

Studying for the BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy offers you the following benefits:
- The teaching is based in a Dental Hospital where a wide range of patients are referred for specialist care
- Clinical work on patients begins as early as the second term
- Clinical practice is juxtaposed with lectures, small group teaching and self-directed learning
- Clinical placements in the second and third year broaden the experience in treating patients
- Integrated teaching and learning with undergraduate dentists in the Clinical Practice setting is an important component in fostering the team approach to dentistry

Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists work closely with other members of the Dental team. They are able to carry out preventive and periodontal treatments for adults and children. They carry out a variety of treatments on a wide range of patients including fillings, radiographs and impressions. They may also extract deciduous teeth, undertake pulpotomies and place preformed crowns on children's teeth.
What will I learn?

The course is currently delivered at Birmingham Dental Hospital, located in the City Centre which is due to move to a new purpose built building, near to the main campus in September 2015.

Clinical placements within West Midlands locations enrich the learning experience. The course consists of 13 modules, fully integrated to prepare the student to become a caring, competent practitioner.

Introduction to Year 1
In dental hygiene, clinical practice is a major component of the early part of the programme, preparing you for seeing your first patient in the second term in your first year. Professionalism is introduced in year one and is embedded in all teaching throughout the course.

The Biomedical Sciences and Oral Health Promotion modules prepare you to study disease, patient management, and health education later on in the programme. You will begin to learn about law and ethics in dentistry and how to manage dental decay by restoring teeth on phantom heads in the laboratory.

Year 2
Building on experience gained in the first year, you will be continuing to manage your own list of patients and gaining confidence and competence in clinical skills. You will learn applied pharmacology, general pathology and dental radiography, along with the specialities of paediatric dentistry and the management of periodontal diseases. In addition you will begin to restore teeth for patients on clinic.

Year 3
In your final year, clinical placements (including outreach) prepare you for life after graduation. Integrated clinical practice combines the dental hygiene and therapy skills into holistic patient care. You will also undertake research and critical appraisal of published literature, relevant to your studies.

What are my employment prospects?
On qualification you will be eligible to apply for entry to the General Dental Councils register for Dental Care Professionals.

Employment opportunities exist in General Dental Practice and Community/Salaried Dental Services.

There is a post qualification vocational training scheme available in the West Midlands for selected applicants.

The curriculum empowers the student to develop lifelong skills in self development and patient management. Precision and hand/eye coordination, communication skills and an empathetic approach to patient care are essential qualities in a Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist.
Student profiles

Mittie Shah, First year

It is an incredibly enjoyable course that is really practical from the beginning, and Birmingham is fantastic as there is lots to do!

Laura Ceaser, Second year

Studying Dental Hygiene and Therapy at Birmingham was the best academic decision I ever made, the teaching quality is superb and you get a feel for life as a dental care professional as we get to see patients and treat within the first 6 months of studying.

We are a small group of students, smaller than most university courses – this is great as you become a close, tight-knit community of like minded people all eager to help one another.

As a Hygienist and Therapist at Birmingham, you get access to the recently renovated dental laboratory, to learn the precise and skilled techniques of a Therapist. This was one of the many reasons why the University of Birmingham was my primary choice of university.

Rachael Tsang, Third year

Dental Hygiene and Therapy at the University of Birmingham is a course that brings challenges in order to become a well-rounded member of the dental team. Not only has the course taught me to treat dental problems, it has enhanced my personal development such as confidence and communication skills, which are applied to other aspects of my life.

The course offers variety in the methods of teaching. It is very practically based from the start and the first day working on model teeth was very exciting. There are opportunities not to be missed with the course at Birmingham, such as placements at community dental surgeries and some integrated learning with undergraduate dentists, enabling a clear understanding of the roles of both dental professionals. Birmingham Dental Hospital is also home to some of the best dental research and the chance to work alongside the clinicians behind this is invaluable.

I feel fully prepared to graduate soon and eager to start my career. I would recommend a course in Dental Hygiene and Therapy as it offers a very fulfilling career with skills learnt for life.

Eva Goodman, Third Year, Student Rep

I joined the staff student liaison and curriculum development committees in my first year at University and have fully enjoyed the experience. I would recommend it as I felt personally involved in enhancing and contributing to the course development. The role includes acting as a mediator, taking comments from fellow students and relaying information on to the staff. I was able to give feedback on all aspects and felt that my opinion was valued.
Entry requirements

What do I need to get onto the programme?
A number of different factors, over and above your academic record, influence our selection of applicants for the Dental Hygiene and Therapy programme. We like to see evidence of your motivation for becoming a Dental Hygienist/Therapist and understanding of what the career is all about. We advise that you gain an insight into the work of a Dental Hygienist/Therapist prior to application which must include shadowing (observing) a Dental Hygienist/Therapist in the UK.

The University open days also provide an excellent opportunity to explore studying Dental Hygiene/Therapy by talking to lecturers and attending talks.

What qualifications do I need?
The qualifications listed below are typical offer grades for the 2014 entry and are for guidance only so please contact the admissions team to discuss your specific qualifications further.

Minimum of 6 GCSEs at grades C or above, including Biology, English and Mathematics. Applicants who have studied combined Science must also offer Additional Science, at grades C or above.

And either
- 3 A Levels – ABB to include Biology/ Human Biology. Chemistry is also strongly recommended
- International Baccalaureate: 34 points including Biology at HL

Alternative Specific entry requirements
- National Dental Nursing qualification
- 2 A Levels at BB to include Biology. Chemistry is strongly recommended

What about work experience?
It is essential that you shadow a Dental Hygienist/Dental Therapist in the UK before applying.

Is there anything else I need to do?
If you are shortlisted we will invite you to attend for interview. There are several other conditions that you will need to fulfill before being accepted onto the programme and details of these will be sent with an offer letter. These include:
- A satisfactory health declaration
- Evidence of appropriate immunisations
- A satisfactory DBS ( Disclosure and Barring Service) (enhanced level)
- Signing of the subject-specific Fitness to Practice Code of Conduct on entry

You also need to know that:
- Clinical placements are situated in the West Midlands and you will be able to access them via excellent public transport systems. There are no overnight stays
- Holidays are fixed and not negotiable. Students have two weeks at Christmas, two weeks at Easter, and six weeks in the summer.

How do you support students with disabilities?
We take a positive view of what candidates with disabilities can achieve as future healthcare professionals and take seriously our obligation to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all students with disabilities can successfully complete their studies.

If you have a disability which you think may affect your studies or student life, please talk to us. University staff will make every effort to work with you to help you study effectively. We liaise closely with the University Disability and Learning Support Service, which works with all disabilities including specific learning difficulties, mental health, problems, physical and sensory disabilities.

Do I have to pay tuition fees?
If you are considered to be normally resident in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland you will qualify for Department of Health funding. This means you will not have to pay tuition fees and may include eligibility for a means tested bursary. For further information and to access the NHS Student Bursary calculator please go to: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

For information about costs of student life and support please go to www.undergraduate.bham.ac.uk/finance

Are there any places for international students?
We can only accept applications from those considered as home fee status. Please go to: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

How do I apply?
If you would like to apply please fill out your application online via UCAS at www.ucas.com by 15 January.

Learn more
If you would like to know more about any aspect of the BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy programme at the University of Birmingham please contact our friendly admissions team on:
Tel: +44 (0) 121 466 5125
Email: sodht@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk