



BDA

British Dental Association

Everything
you need to
know to start a
successful career
in dentistry

CAREER GUIDE

bda.org/students

Career Guide

Everything you need to know to start a successful career in dentistry

Written specifically for BDA student members, this guide is designed to help you with your future career choices.

Experienced dentists give advice on a range of careers including general practice, specialisation and community dentistry.

GDPs give the low down on working for NHS, mixed practices and dental corporates. They also give advice on special interests whilst working in practice and private dentistry.

Professor Professor Liz Kay MBE and Dr Janine Brooks MBE give their predictions for the future of dentistry and the impact this may have on your career choices.

This guide also contains information on:

- Dental career options
 - Career pathways
 - Top tips for success.
-

Contents

01	Introducing the British Dental Association	6
	Your trade union	7
	Your professional association	10
02	The future dental market	12
03	Career options	20
3.1	After graduation	22
	Dental Foundation Training/Vocational Training	22
	Dental Core Training	23
	Postgraduate qualification – MFDS	26
3.2	General practice	28
	Working in practice	28
	Mixed practice	28
	NHS practice	35
	Private practice	36
	Specialist private practice	40
	Dental corporates	42
	Dentists with special interests in practice	46
	Locum dentists	48
	Roles in general practice	50
	Contracts	54
	NHS contracts in England and Wales	54
	HS/NHS contract in Northern Ireland and Scotland	57
3.3	Salaried services	60
	Hospital dental services	60
	Oral Surgery and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)	63

Oral Surgery	66
Orthodontics	67
Paediatric dentistry	68
Restorative dentistry	69
Community dentistry/Salaried Primary Dental Care Services	72
Dental Public Health	78
Academic dentistry and research	82
Armed Forces	86
3.4 Other career options	88
Implant dentistry	88
Prison dentistry	90
FD Educational Supervisor	92
04 Portfolio career	94
05 Developing your career	98
06 Contracts and agreements	100
07 Professional responsibilities	104
Ethical and legal aspects of dentistry	105
General Dental Council (GDC)	108
Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	111
Specialist societies	115
Professional indemnity and income protection	116
Managing your finances	118
Tax, National Insurance and Student Loan repayments.	120
Further help	123
Other BDA resources	123
Useful contacts	124
Abbreviations	125

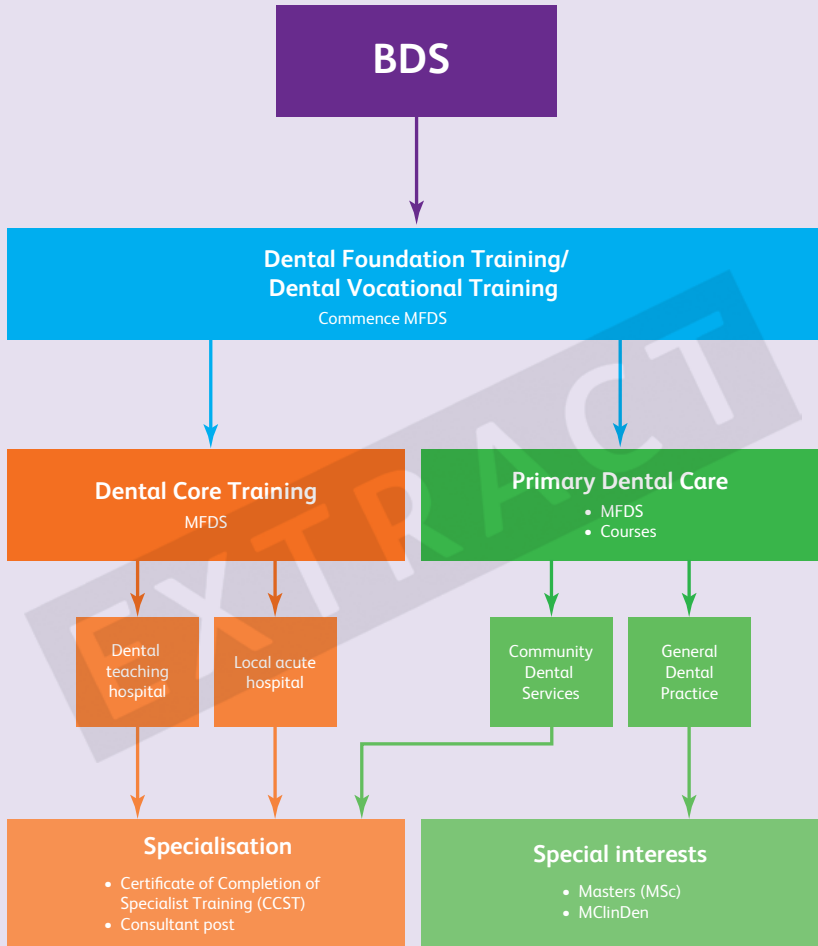
03

Career options

After graduation there are broadly two career paths you can follow. This chapter looks at each of these different options in depth.

EXTRACT

General overview of career options in dentistry



3.1 After graduation

Dental Foundation Training/ Vocational Training

Immediately after graduation, the majority of UK graduates undertake Dental Foundation Training (DF1) or Vocational Training in Scotland (VT) in order to work in an NHS general dental practice. In the NHS, across the UK, Foundation Dentists (FDs) or Vocational Dental Practitioners (VDPs) spend a year in approved practices whilst undertaking training. DFT/VT can provide new graduates with a broad overview of career choices and a good understanding of the NHS system.

DFT/VT introduces new graduates to general practice and gives them a protected environment to work in for a year. Each FD/VDP has a trainer/educational supervisor in the same practice. In some practices, two dentists may share this role. The trainer provides the FD/VDP with supervision and help whenever it is needed, as well as meeting with them for regular tutorials. The trainer takes responsibility for the acts and omissions of the FD/VDP in NHS terms, but the FD/VDP, as a registered dentist, will be liable for their conduct and for patient wellbeing.

During your DFT/VT year you will usually spend four days a week practising dentistry, and one on 'day release' at the study day course, plus regular in-practice tutorials with your DFT/VT trainer.

Another option is a Longitudinal DFT scheme. These provide the opportunity to combine working in primary dental care and secondary care. Effectively, participants combine the DFT/VT year and the Dental Core Training Year 1 through this programme.

You should receive information about the DFT/VT system either at the beginning of your final year or just before your university summer break, as the application process commences at the start of the autumn term.

The information is provided by your dental school with involvement from the HEE regional office/postgraduate dental deanery. There may be information packs and/or a presentation to explain the system. You can also find details on regional DFT/VT schemes by visiting the HEE regional office/postgraduate deanery websites, details of which can be found on the COPDEND website: copdend.org.uk

We support you throughout the interview process with our *Getting Your First Job* guide, *Interview Skills* lecture series and intensive workshop. To find out more, visit: bda.org/firstjob

06

Contracts and agreements

Whatever career path you choose, it is important that you make sure you have a robust contract of employment or associate agreement in place. If you are a self-employed associate, this is even more vital as you do not benefit from the same legal rights as employed dentists. It is also vital to have your contract checked by an expert.

We have a team of expert advisors to help you with legal paperwork and a free associate contract checking service is available to all members.

Contracts and agreements

Whatever career path you choose, it is important that you make sure you have a robust contract of employment or agreement in place. There are two types of arrangement:

1. Associate agreement – for self-employed dentists (associates working in general practice)
2. Contract of employment – for employed dentists (mainly salaried services and becoming more popular for corporates).

Self-employed dentists: Associate agreements

If you are a self-employed associate it is vital that you have an agreement in place, as you do not benefit from the same legal rights as employed dentists. It is also very important to have this checked by an expert before signing. More than half of the calls to our Practice Support Team are the result of associate agreement disputes. An early review, done before you start work, can save you a great deal of heartache in the long run.

Associate contracts should cover the following:

- Names and addresses of the parties
- Date of commencement
- Facilities provided by the practice owner, such as equipment and staff, and how any interruption in the provision of these facilities will be dealt with
- Hours and time away
- Financial arrangements, such as the collection of fees, payment for facilities and laboratory costs
- Arrangements for seeing patients privately and/or on the NHS (in England and Wales the UDA target)
- Maternity or paternity leave
- Locum arrangements
- Termination, including notice of termination and restrictive clauses
- Retention fees.



Save £250 on BDA membership

Maintain your membership for 12 months before qualifying to save £250 off your membership fee after graduation.



- Your renewals notice will be posted to you one month before the end of your 12-month contract.
- You must renew your membership before your contract expires in order to qualify for the saving.
- Renew by phone, post or online 020 7563 4550 / bda.org/renewonline

Career Guide

Everything you need to know to start a successful career in dentistry.

Written specifically for BDA student members, this guide is designed to help you with your future career choices.

Containing useful information about dental career options and career pathways, this guide gives helpful tips for success.

Experienced dentists give advice on a range of careers including general practice, specialisation and community dentistry.

GDPs give the lowdown on working for the NHS, mixed practices and dental corporates. They also give advice on developing special interests whilst working in practice and private dentistry.



@TheBDA



@britishdentalassociation



@britishdentalassociation



@british-dental-association

British Dental Association

64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS

bda.org | 020 7935 0875 | students@bda.org