DENTAL NURSING

Information for Trainees
Welcome to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is the largest local healthcare system in Scotland and one of the largest in the United Kingdom as a whole. In April 2006, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde was established by redrawing the boundaries of NHS Greater Glasgow and incorporating a large area of the now dissolved NHS Argyll and Clyde. This links together Scotland’s major urban areas and key facilities and services in a single healthcare system, presenting further opportunities to take forward the modernisation process begun in Glasgow. Over the coming years, new plans will be drawn up to create first-class services for the region and the nation as a whole.

Employing over forty-four thousand staff and serving a population of one point two million, we offer a world-class range of opportunities for job satisfaction and career development – all within a working environment undergoing modernisation through the largest-ever investment programme in the history of Scottish healthcare.

Our hospitals and staff have a world-renowned reputation, backed up by a long tradition of excellence – antiseptic surgery and ultrasound, as well as many other innovations, were pioneered in our hospitals. And we count on excellent undergraduate and postgraduate teaching facilities - supported by the world-famous University of Glasgow Medical Faculty and Glasgow Caledonian University with links to research facilities like the Beatson Institute.

We spend over one and half billion pounds a year caring for our population - a significant proportion of who present serious medical and public health challenges.
What is the Oral Health Directorate?

The Oral Health Directorate comprises all NHS Dental Services provided by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde in Primary and Secondary care locations:

- Glasgow Dental Hospital & School
- Community & Salaried Dental Services
- All NHS General Dental Practitioners, i.e. General Dental Services

In the past these services have been managed and organised through separate NHS structures. The Oral Health Directorate was established in April 2006. Currently there are approximately 700 NHS Dentists in GG&C. In addition to this there are over 600 Dental Care Professionals and staff.

The entry requirements

Three Standard Grades at Credit Level three or above including English and one science would be recommended.

A team player with strong relationship building skills is essential along with good written, oral and organisational skills. Employers will also expect a friendly, responsible attitude and positive approach to people, well presented and a willingness to study.

DENTAL NURSE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training programme will encompass practical experience within Community and Salaried Dental Service clinics, departments within Glasgow Dental Hospital and General Dental Practice. These placements will be on a rotational basis during the two year programme. Trainees also attend the Postgraduate Centre for underpinning knowledge delivered by NHS Education staff on a day release basis. A Record of Experience Portfolio will also be completed throughout all the placements. On completion, trainees will sit the National Examination Board for Dental Nurses examination.
Glasgow Dental Hospital & School

Part of your training will take place in the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School on Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow’s city centre. The Glasgow Dental School is the second largest in the UK and its size makes it possible to incorporate a rich variety of facilities and activities, with many social advantages.

The hospital has been operated by the NHS since 1948, when the building became home to the University of Glasgow’s Dental School. It is also home to the Emergency Dental Treatment Centre.

The Glasgow Dental Hospital and School has been educating dental students since 1879. There are comprehensive up-to-date facilities for treatment and research.

In addition to its City Centre premises, the Dental Hospital operates from outreach clinics and surgeries and serves a population of 3 million.

Community & Salaried Dental Services

Comprehensive dental services and oral health education is delivered to priority groups of patients, including those with Special Needs. Treatment is provided in clinics, schools, nurseries, care homes, hospitals, homeless units and on domiciliary visits. The training component within the Community & Salaried Dental Services incorporates placements for undergraduate dental students.

General Dental Services

The majority of Primary Dental Care is provided within the General Dental Services (GDS). Services provided by General Dental Practitioners include: preventative treatment, regular check-ups and oral hygiene advice, restorative treatments, fillings, root canal therapy, crowns, dentures and periodontal treatment and cosmetic treatment: including porcelain veneers, bridges, and implants.

The role of the dental nurse in all settings will involve:

- Care and maintenance of equipment and instruments
- Preparation of surgery and setting out instruments
- Decontamination and sterilisation procedures
- Recording and charting
- Chairside assistance during all operative procedures
- Pre-and post-treatment care of patients
- Processing and mounting radiographs.

Training methods:

Training throughout the programme is carried out in the form of:

- Formal lectures, Tutorials, Oral and Practical Examinations
- There is ongoing formal assessment throughout the programme
Testimonies

Testimonies for General Dental Practitioners involved in the Programme:

“We have an excellent trainee who has worked well to fit in with the team to everyone’s benefit.”

“The trainee is dependable and is able to cope well with the workload.”

“The trainee has brought in new techniques and new ideas which we can incorporate into the practice and which helps to keep us up to date with current issues.”

“It has been very motivating for the rest of the team by encouraging them to assist in teaching and passing on their skills and experience to a trainee.”

“Good for other staff members to teach, learn and keep up to date.”

Comments from qualified dental nurses involved in the training programme

“Having new members joining our team”

“It has encouraged staff to refer to past knowledge to help with training students.”

“Patients feel well looked after with the students being so keen.”

“It has helped me think a lot more about my role and make sure my knowledge and standards are up to date.”

Testimonies from past trainees:

“I chose to pursue a career in dental nursing as I felt that I would enjoy the challenge of learning something completely different.”

David Stirling, Trainee Dental Nurse

“I have been provided with excellent training and would recommend this course to others looking to gain a dental nursing qualification.”

Leanne Olsen, Trainee Dental Nurse

“Since joining the course I personally feel I have gained some new qualities such as confidence, which is a high part of the role of a dental nurse.”

Tony O’Kane, Trainee Dental Nurse

“The tutors have helped me learn and understand all the different skills and qualities a dental nurse needs.”

Laura Mangan, Trainee Dental Nurse

Testimony from NHS Education Tutor:

“The role of NES dental nurse tutors is to deliver a wide range of underpinning knowledge to Trainee Dental Nurses, complying with the National Examination Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) syllabus. Trainees attend classes to gain theoretical and practical skills required for final examination and qualification. Classes take place one day a week over a two year period and are held in the Post Graduate Centre at
the Glasgow Dental Hospital. This location benefits from many valuable resources, ensuring high quality training is provided.

The course style of delivery gives me the opportunity to develop individual skills and provide optimum support throughout. A major advantage is the communications with the student and the workplace, enabling me to develop the individual holistically.”

Vikki Anderson O.H.E Dental Nurse Tutor
NES West Dental

“This exiting and innovative training programme, which is the first of its kind in Scotland to rotate trainees across the Community & Salaried Dental Services, Dental Hospital and General Dental Services, has helped increase the workforce of qualified dental nurses who will have experience in all dental settings. On successful completion of the course and final examination, the trainee will be awarded a registrable qualification recognised by the General Dental Council.

This is the first line qualification and many qualified dental nurses’ progress to completing other post qualifications in: Oral Health Education, Radiography, Special Care, Orthodontics and also Sedation. There is an excellent career pathway available to qualified dental nurses.

The overall feedback from the programme has been extremely positive from all parties involved.”

Mary Cameron
Dental Nurse Educational Advisor
Oral Health Directorate
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

NHS Benefits

We offer all our successful candidates:

• Continuity of NHS Service
• Final Salary Pension Scheme
• An environment offering unique opportunities to build and develop your clinical skills
• The opportunity to gain expertise in a wide range of clinical conditions in a world renowned facility
• Staff Bursary Scheme to support continuing education and training
• Child care vouchers
• Interest free loan to purchase Zonecard’s - a flexible season ticket for unlimited travel by rail, subway, most buses and even some ferries
• A genuine commitment to supporting professional development through competency based training
• Cycle to Work Scheme, for staff to purchase a bicycle and any equipment needed and then repay those costs through their salary
• Specialist training programmes in association with Higher Education establishments and professional bodies.

For more information about the benefits and discounts available to NHSGGC staff, visit
www.nhsstaffbenefits.co.uk and www.nhsdiscounts.com
Lifestyle and Leisure Benefits

Transport

The local transport system in Glasgow is excellent, allowing you to commute easily to and from work. The West of Scotland’s roads are less congested than many other areas in the UK – largely due to excellent public transport. From the underground railway, to an extensive rail network and frequent bus services, the area has invested heavily in transport.

Shopping

The main shopping areas with their stunning original architecture and broad pedestrian-only streets make Glasgow city renowned for retail. Glasgow offers the UK’s best shopping outside of London, from the Italian Centre in the Merchant City, to the exclusive, designer label parade of Ingram Street, right through to the delicatessens and boutique shops of the fashionable West End, where you can go to the cobbles of Ashton and Cresswell lane and enjoy a post-shopping drink or meal at one of the countless bars and cafes.

Culture

Culture is also well served: with the world famous Citizen’s, Tron, Arches and Tramway theatres staging many cutting-edge productions. Scottish Ballet and Scottish Opera are based in Glasgow, and the Royal Concert Hall plays host to every kind of music, from classical to pop. With the variety and high calibre of Glasgow’s venues, you’ll be spoilt for choice.

Glasgow also offers a great range of museums from the recently reopened Kelvingrove museum, to the Museum of Transport, and the Gallery of Modern Art. And with Charles Rennie Mackintosh born in the city, you won’t have to go far to see his stunning architecture.

Social Scene and nightlife

As well as great cultural activities, Glasgow has a vibrant social scene and nightlife. Whether you want to go out for dinner, to the cinema, or out to a pub or club, Glasgow has a lot to offer you. There is a great choice of top quality restaurants - from Indian, Chinese and American - to more local Scottish cuisine, so whatever your taste you’re sure to find something to suit your palette. After dinner you could catch a film at one of Glasgow’s many cinemas; the art deco Glasgow Film Theatre continues to project the most acclaimed in arthouse and European fare, while the gargantuan, 18-screen Cineworld and the Science Centre’s impressive IMAX cinema by the River Clyde are the settings for watching Hollywood blockbusters. Or you could go to a club or bar - Glasgow is renowned for its clubbing scene, with favourites such as Optimo at the Sub Club, or one of the Art School’s idiosyncratic indie nights frequented regularly by seasoned Glaswegian clubbers.