

MEDICAL

DENTAL NURSE



As a Dental Nurse in the Royal Navy, you'll be a vital member of the team, just as you would be in any well-equipped civilian dental practice. The difference is that you'll be seeing patients on board a warship, or in a shore establishment anywhere in the UK or overseas. Working as part of a small team led by the Dental Officer, you'll be responsible for preparing materials and instruments, making appointments and maintaining surgery stocks. You'll also look after patients before and during their appointments, prepare the surgery and keep everything clean and tidy – quite a challenge when you're at sea, or attached to a Royal Marines unit.

What we're looking for

You'll need excellent technical and clinical skills and a bright, caring outlook. Our emphasis is on maintaining the highest standards of dental care and in managing patients, so you'll need to be able to communicate effectively with patients and colleagues. Above all, you should enjoy working as part of a team, whether in the surgery or helping with routine and emergency tasks on board ship.

Initial training

Your Royal Navy career begins with 10 weeks' basic training at HMS Raleigh. It sounds like a ship, but in fact it's a shore base near Plymouth. The discipline, teamwork, organisational, firefighting and weapon-handling skills you'll learn here will stay with you right through your Royal Navy career. Aim to get yourself as fit as you can before you arrive. You'll be doing a lot of physical exercise, and you'll find it much easier if you're already in good shape. There's also a swimming test, so if you can't swim, make sure you've learned by the time you join us. You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Professional training

After your basic training, you'll progress to the Defence Medical Services Training Group (Dental Training School) in Aldershot, Hampshire. Here, you'll spend the first 14 weeks of your professional training, which will include spending time in a Royal Navy dental centre on shore. At the end of your training, you'll sit the national examination for dental nurses and achieve your registration with the General Dental Council. This training will be shorter if you already have a qualification registered with the General Dental Council. As your career goes on, you'll have a chance to specialise in practice management. There may also be opportunities to train as a Dental Hygienist.

Skills for life

Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications like GCSEs and A-levels, and even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. As well as helping you develop your Royal Navy career, everything you achieve will be recognised and valued by a future civilian employer.

Promotion

You'll start your career as an Able Rate. With some experience and further training, you could be promoted to Leading Hand. After that, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer then a Warrant Officer. If you show the right commitment, skills and academic ability, you may also have the chance to become a Commissioned Officer. You'll be chosen for promotion on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly rise through the ranks.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, you'll get extra money when you're promoted and when you're away at sea. We also offer an excellent pension scheme, six weeks' paid holiday a year and free medical and dental care.

You'll generally join us on a full career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. You may have the opportunity to serve beyond this, depending on what you want and the needs of the Royal Navy. If you want to leave, you can send us your request one year before completing your specified return of service. How long this return of service is, will depend on the branch you join. You will need to give 12 months' notice.

Not just a job, a way of life

There is a lot more to joining the Royal Navy than doing a job. For a start, all our ships and shore bases have superb sports and fitness facilities. We can offer a fantastic range of sports and other activities. You'll also have the chance to go on adventurous training, which could be anything from a jungle expedition to mountaineering and caving to parachuting. From the moment you join, you'll be part of a team that lives, works and relaxes together, forming friendships and experiences that can last a lifetime. It's a unique way of life, and the opportunities we offer will allow you to reach your career potential and enjoy the time you spend with us to the full.

DO I QUALIFY?

DENTAL NURSE

Age:	17 to 36.
Nationality:	British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	Two GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent, which must include English language.
Sex:	This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary:	For current information, visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

HOW TO APPLY

GET IN TOUCH

1. Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers or call **08456 07 55 55**.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

2. Go to an initial careers presentation.
3. Fill in a short application form.
4. Take the recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass the medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
7. Attend a formal interview at the Careers Office.
8. Pass the Pre-Royal Navy Course.
9. Join the Royal Navy.