Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy

Designed for dental care professionals, this part-time programme will enable you to develop the clinical, academic and practical skills needed to become an orthodontic therapist. The programme's modular structure, taken over one year, allows you time to assimilate information and to develop your practical skills progressively.

This is an interactive programme, taught by specialists in the field of orthodontics and orthodontic therapy who are also experienced in educating the extended duty orthodontic team. The programme includes supervised work place training. When qualified, you will be able to provide orthodontic treatment, working to a prescription from a specialist orthodontist, as a professional member of the orthodontics team.

Who is the course for

The course is suitable for those with qualifications in dental nursing, dental hygiene, dental therapy and for clinical dental technicians. Successful candidates will have post-qualification experience working in orthodontic practices and will usually have additional qualifications in orthodontics, dental radiography or oral health education.

Benefits

Warwick Medical School’s Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy is a unique programme approved by the General Dental Council (GDC), directed by specialist orthodontists with practical experience of working with orthodontic therapists. Lecturers and tutors include specialist orthodontists, trainers and orthodontic therapists, ensuring a high quality and balanced educational experience. The intake is limited to ten students per year, so that we can address your individual needs.

The programme follows a modular format in which periods of teaching alternate with periods spent in your workplace. You will learn in the University’s specialised Orthodontic Centre in Royal Leamington Spa. This has a state-of-the-art clinical skills laboratory linked to a lecture room with a video link to a surgery, enabling hands-on style demonstrations of all types of clinical procedures; there is a fully equipped orthodontic laboratory with specialised technical support. Your workplace training – in an approved orthodontic practice or in a hospital orthodontic practice – will be supervised by specialist orthodontists.
Course content

Five core, overlapping modules:

• Biomedical Sciences and Oral Biology – core knowledge in biomedical sciences, health and safety, law, ethics, human disease, medical emergencies
• The Principles of Orthodontic Therapy – occlusion, malocclusion, principles of tooth movement, aims and limitations of orthodontic treatment, biomaterials
• Removable Orthodontic Appliances – correct use, adjustment and monitoring of removable appliances, headgear and functional appliances
• Fixed Orthodontic Appliances – knowledge of fixed appliances, oral health and pain control during orthodontic treatment, managing orthodontic emergencies
• Interdisciplinary Orthodontic Care – the interface of orthodontics with other dental care specialities, use of information technology, team working

Entry Requirements

You must be registered with the GDC as a Dental Care Professional; have appropriate professional indemnity insurance and the support of a suitably qualified orthodontist trainer. If this is not your employer, your employer must give written confirmation of agreement to make suitable arrangements for you to complete the work-based elements of the course. You must supply two written references.

For more information on how to apply, including English language requirements, please visit our website.

Mode of Study and Assessment

• Initial 20 days core course, spread over eight weeks: the first week is spent at the Leamington Spa Orthodontic Centre, followed by a week in your own orthodontic training practice; alternate weeks are then spent at the Centre and your workplace
• 12 additional teaching days at the Centre – one every three weeks over the next 40 weeks
• The course includes supervised workplace training in an approved orthodontic practice
• Final examination

Assessments: regular written, practical and continuous competency assessments throughout the five core modules; compilation of a clinical skills portfolio; clinical case presentations; final examination following the successful completion of the assessments and satisfactory workplace reports.

Staggering the four core learning weeks over an eight week period gave me a greater chance to gain the knowledge and understanding required to be able to successfully complete each modular exam. I found this to be a sustainable way to retain information learnt, also developing practical aspects of my new role gradually and at the appropriate time. The teaching styles were consistent, with a broad spectrum of tutors who all provided great support.

Eleanor Fennell, Orthodontic Therapy, 2012.

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