



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

### ***BSc (Hons) Advanced Dental Nursing Professional Practice (Top up)***

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Course Title</b>  | <b><i>BSc (Hons) Advanced Dental Nursing Professional Practice (Top Up)</i></b>   |
| Final Award  | <i>BSc (Hons) Advanced Dental Nursing Professional Practice</i>   |
| Exit Awards  | <i>DipHE Advanced Dental Nursing (120 Level 4, 120 Level 5 Credits).<br/>Ordinary Degree in Advanced Dental Nursing - 300 credits (maximum 120 level 4, 120 level 5)</i>                |
| Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)  | U3337FTC/ U3337PTC (B753)   |
| Mode of study  | <i>Full Time &amp; Part Time</i>  |
| Mode of delivery   | <i>Campus</i>   |
| Normal length of course  | <i>3 Years</i>  |
| Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies   | <i>October 2023 onwards</i>   |
| Awarding Body  | <i>University of Portsmouth</i>   |
| Teaching Institution   | <i>University of Portsmouth</i>   |
| Faculty  | <i>Faculty of Science &amp; Health</i>  |
| School/Department/Subject Group  | <i>University of Portsmouth Dental Academy</i>  |
| School/Department/Subject Group webpage  | <a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/dental-academy/">http://www.port.ac.uk/dental-academy/</a>   |
| Course webpage including entry criteria  | <a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/bsc-hons-advanced-dental-nursing-professional-practice-top-up">https://www.port.ac.uk/bsc-hons-advanced-dental-nursing-professional-practice-top-up</a> |
| Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations   | <a href="#"><u>General Dental Council</u></a>   |
| <a href="#"><u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u></a> | 4, 5 & 6  |

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## **Educational aims of the course**

- Provide a flexible programme of study that produces a skilled workforce able to lead dental teams to provide patient centred care within the broader scope of dental nursing practice.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment where opportunities exist for students to develop academic, practical, professional, research, leadership and communication skills necessary for a collaborative approach to patient centred care and the use of evidence to inform practice.
- To provide opportunities for interdisciplinary education to develop an appreciation of the other professions, their strengths, limitations and to provide the necessary skills for a Dental Nurse to lead multi-disciplinary teams working within community-based learning projects to influence health improvement.
- Develop ability to demonstrate mentoring, management and leadership skills as a member of a multidisciplinary team to evaluate their own performance and the performance of others through critical reflection.
- To promote a philosophy of patient centred care and values-based practice.
- To lead team-based dentistry through collaborative working to enhance service provision to improve oral health care.
- To produce an individual who can demonstrate that they have met the outcomes required to undertake specified procedures from the General Dental Council (GDC) additional scope of practice for Dental Nurses. In addition, they will develop the skills to enable them to work as safe independent and autonomous practitioners, in a variety of leadership roles promoting an ethos of critical reflection, personal development planning, continuous professional development and lifelong learning.
- Develop an openness to or awareness of others, an appreciation of social and cultural diversity, a respect for human rights, and a sense of public or civic responsibility.

### **Subject Specific Aims:**

- Provide focused and progressive knowledge of dental nursing in preparation for employment in a wide variety of clinical and leadership roles within dentistry and wider healthcare.
- Develop a wide range of academic, clinical, management, leadership and transferable skills to prepare students for employment as additional skill mix Dental Nurse who utilises the DN scope of practice within the interdisciplinary dental team, collaborating to provide patient centred oral health care and treatment for patients.
- Prepare students with the necessary skills to facilitate advancement of their career and the dental nursing profession within a variety of senior and leadership roles or by embarking on further postgraduate study.
- Encourage students to critically reflect upon their practice and evaluate provision of care to improve service.
- Develop students to attain the highest standards in terms of knowledge, skills, (including clinical and technical skills), professional attributes, management, leadership and mentoring within dentistry and in particular putting the interests of patients first at all times.

**The skills required of GDC registrants are covered in the following domains:**

- **Clinical** – the range of skills required to deliver direct patient centred care, where registrants interact with patients, and also the essential technical skills, carried out in the absence of patients which support their care.
- **Communication** – the skills involved in effectively interacting with patients, their representatives, the public and colleagues and recording appropriate information to inform patient care.
- **Professionalism** – the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour consistent with the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct and understanding the importance of and demonstrating the values that are outlined within the NHS constitution, putting patients’ needs first to promote confidence in the dental team.
- **Management and Leadership** – the skills and knowledge required to work effectively as a dental team, manage their own time and the team’s resources and the ability to lead professional practices

**Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies**

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

**A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

| LO number | Learning outcome   | Learning and Teaching methods  | Assessment methods  |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| A1        | The critical application of key scientific concepts and theories, clinical dental care and the effect of disease on the health of individuals and populations including the principles of public health intervention, behaviour management, disease prevention and health improvement.   | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops.<br>Tutorials  | Practical skills assessment, portfolio, written assignment, oral presentation,                              |
| A2        | A range of theoretical and practice-based perspectives relating to the advanced dental nurse’s contribution within the multidisciplinary dental team (within the additional skills listed in the GDC dental nurse scope of practice), interdisciplinary practice and leadership and management within the dental healthcare environment. | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials.  | Written assignments, practical skills assessment, oral presentation, and portfolio.                         |
| A3        | The social, political, legal, ethical and regulatory factors influencing contemporary patient centred dental care and the cultural and environmental influences on oral and systemic health.   | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach. | Practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment and presentation, written assignment, set exercise. |

| LO number | Learning outcome   | Learning and Teaching methods                                   | Assessment methods   |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| A4        | The principles of learning, reflection, design and evaluation of contemporary evidence-base to inform and enhance patient centred dentistry, continuous personal and professional development and the importance of the NHS constitution and values-based patient centred dental care. | Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops. | Portfolio, set exercise, dissertation, written assignment. |

### B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

| LO number | Learning outcome   | Learning and Teaching methods  | Assessment methods   |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| B1        | Describe the principles of good research, how to access, evaluate and analyse research interpreting and integrating data from a variety of sources in support of evidence-based dental nursing practice for use as part of an evidence approach to dentistry and advanced dental nursing practice. | Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement.                               | Oral Assessment and presentation, Portfolio, practical exercise, dissertation, written assignment.                 |
| B2        | Apply an evidence-based questioning approach to learning, practice, clinical judgement, and decision making and utilise critical thinking, reflection and problem-solving skills.  | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach. | Practical skills assessment, Portfolio, Oral assessment and presentation, written assignments, practical exercise. |
| B3        | Conceptualise current issues and developments in dentistry and apply to practice.  | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, work-based learning and placement                                 | Report, practical exercise, written assignment, portfolio.   |
| B4        | Critically analyse and evaluate service provision to advance integration of the Dental Nurse scope of practice utilising additional skills within the provision of dental care.  |  |  |

### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|

|    |   |   |  |
|----|---|---|--|
| C1 | Demonstrate the specific practical skills required to practise safely and effectively within the legal and ethical frameworks which inform practice as set out in the UoP Fitness to study guidance and the GDC Fitness to Practise guidance, making the high-quality long-term care of patients the priority, taking into account of the needs of different patient groups and recognising the importance of appropriate communication in health and care. | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement | Practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, practical exercise.                                     |
| C2 | Apply to the practice of dental nursing, principles that derive from the human, behavioural and biomaterial sciences and demonstrate effective clinical decision making within the Dental Nurse extended scope of practice.   | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement | Written assignment, practical skills assessment, portfolio, oral assessment, written examination, presentations, dissertation. |
| C3 | Accurately assess own capabilities and limitations, demonstrating reflective practice, in the interest of high-quality patient centred care and act within these boundaries   | Lectures, tutorials, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning.             | Oral Assessment, presentation, written assignment, portfolio, practical exercise, dissertation.                                |
| C4 | Plan a research project under appropriate supervision.  | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials.                                   | Written assignments, dissertation.   |

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods            | Assessment methods |
|-----------|------------------|--|--------------------|
|           |                  | Lectures, seminars, project supervision. | Dissertation.      |

| <b>LO number</b> | <b>Learning outcome</b>  | <b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>  | <b>Assessment methods</b>   |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| D1               | Demonstrate a range of management and leadership and mentorship skills relevant to Higher Education and employment within a range of graduate roles.   | Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and workshops.   | Portfolio, practical exercise.  |
| D2               | Act with integrity and uphold high personal and professional values, working autonomously and independently as an adaptable, flexible and effective leader within the wider healthcare team.                                   | Lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement, community outreach, project supervision. | Practical skills assessment<br>Portfolio, oral assessment, presentation, written examination, practical exercise, and dissertation. |
| D3               | Acquire, analyse, process and communicate information in a scientific, critical and effective manner to solve problems.  | Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes, workshops, tutorials, work-based learning and placement.                                  | Written assignment, practical skills assessment, portfolio, written examination, oral assessment and presentation.                  |
| D4               | Take responsibility for the planning and execution of own learning, reflecting on and evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses to establish a philosophy of continuing personal and professional planning and development. | Practical classes and workshops, lectures, seminars, work-based learning, placement and community outreach.                                 | Portfolio, oral assessment and presentation, written assignment.  |

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Examination and Assessment Regulations 2019: 10. Compensation. The course has exemption from this academic regulation and therefore does not allow compensation.

This is due to the requirements of the General Dental Council that all outcomes are assessed and passed by the student if they are to apply for registration and a dental care professional. [Preparing for Practice: Dental team learning outcomes for registration \(2015 revised edition\) GDC](#)

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Vision 2030 Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for \*Dental Care Professions \(2005\) Currently out of date \(Archived\)\*](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: General Dental Council
- [General Dental Council \(2015\) Preparing for Practice \(Revised Edition\) Dental team learning outcomes for registration](#)
- [General Dental Council \(2015\) Standards for Education](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards
- [HEOPS Dental Students – Standards of medical fitness to train \(20136\)](#)

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.



Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
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