

JOB OF THE WEEK

What is it?

Dental Hygienist – the main duties include providing dental related advice, information, and treatments to prevent and treat tooth decay and gum disease. In comparison to a dentist, the dental hygienist is the expert who will evaluate the oral health and apply preventive treatment.

Universities that offer Dental Hygiene Degrees: [Dental Hygiene Undergraduate Courses in UK \(whatuni.com\)](http://whatuni.com)

Day to day tasks

- Clean and polish teeth to help prevent tooth decay.
- Apply fluoride and sealant treatments to reduce decay.
- Remove plaque.
- Give local anaesthetic under the supervision of a dentist.
- Apply temporary coatings and sealants to protect teeth.
- Encourage and demonstrate tooth brushing and flossing.
- Sterilise equipment.
- Check and maintain patient records.

Qualifications

5 GCSEs – grades 9 – 6 including English and Maths and Science

A Levels – you will require 2/3 A levels or equivalent for a degree course – check out specific universities prior to choosing A Levels

Salary

Starting salary for dental hygienists working in the NHS are typically between **£24,907 and £31,200**. Earnings increase for experienced and private practice hygienists.

The national average wage in the UK is £42,088

Jobs and labour market

Weekly Pay	Annual Pay
£600	£31,200
Hours/Week	Hourly Pay
37h	£16

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth	Replacement
5.5%	48.7%

Routes into the industry

- A university (Higher Education) course.
- An Apprenticeship.

To work as a dental hygienist, you must be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC). To do this you must complete one of the qualifications approved by the GDC.

Find out more at: [Dental hygienist](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)