

Becoming a Vocational Trainer FAQs

It is essential that prospective applicants read the Becoming a Vocational Trainer booklet available on the NES website.

This booklet will provide essential basic information. If you still have queries after reading this booklet, please see the questions below which are the most common FAQs.

Specific advice can also be obtained by contacting the VT Hub: vthub@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Q. How do I apply to be a trainer?

A. Applications are submitted via the NES Recruitment system DTIS. Applications open on Monday, 6th of October at 10am.

Q. How do I know if becoming a trainer is right for the practice?

A. The VT Hub can arrange a VT Suitability and Assessment visit at the practice when a NES VT Adviser can advise on the requirements the trainer and practice would have to meet in order to be considered suitable for providing training. This visit lasts for a whole session. You should not arrange to see patients during this visit.

Q. Does the practice have to undergo a practice inspection?

A. Yes. The practice must be in possession of a valid current satisfactory report from a "Combined Practice Inspection (CPI)." This is the format of practice inspection introduced during 2013. If the practice already holds a CPI then further inspection will most likely not be required. If this type of inspection has not yet been carried out, then your local health board will arrange for this to be carried out. Guidance on this new format of inspection, can be found at www.scottishdental.org

Q. Is funding available to improve the practice to VT standard?

A. Determination X funding may be available. This can be discussed at the VT Suitability and Assessment visit and information is available in the Becoming a Vocational Trainer booklet.

Q. Do I need postgraduate qualifications to train?

A. This is not necessary, although at least 4 years post qualification experience is normally required excluding your own training period. As noted in the "Becoming a Vocational Trainer" booklet, trainers must have completed a minimum of 100 hours verifiable CPD, including the core subjects, for the period 1st January 2021 - 31st December 2025. (Pro rata for those who are less than 5 years from the completion of their own training)

Q. What is the time commitment involved in being a VT Trainer?

A. Trainers are expected to provide help to the trainee as required. The trainer must be available to provide support for the VDP for a **minimum** of 21 hours/week. In DVT, weekly tutorials must be conducted, and the VDP must be supported throughout their assessment process. In addition, full time DVT trainers must provide

14 sessions of time to NES activities, (pro rata for joint/shared/part time trainers.) More information can be found in the Becoming a Vocational Trainer booklet.

Q What training grants are available for providing training services?

A. 100% of the VDP's gross accrues to the practice and the training practice also receives a trainer grant, at a rate of £17,069 (new trainers) for a full training period, or £18,283 (for trainers with more experience of delivering training services).

Q. Do I have to be a fully committed NHS dentist to provide training services?

A. No, however the trainer's overall practice NHS earnings must have been at least £27,800 for the financial year ending April 2023. The trainee must provide NHS dental services accounting for at least 90% of their clinical working time.

Q. Do I have to attend a trainer training course?

Yes. This is the START course and is provided to give trainers the skills needed to train.

It is compulsory for all new trainers, some returning trainers may be asked to attend.

Attendance will involve four days:

14th May 2026

15th May 2026

21st August 2026

29th October 2026

You can claim £231.10 per session (£462.20 per day) for attending these days.

Q. Can I still apply if I am an associate or work part time?

A. Yes. Applications may be submitted by an associate or a practice owner and training delivery on a part-time basis is possible. If you are not a practice owner then NES will require reassurances around managerial autonomy from the owner of the practice, or their delegated representative.

Q. When should I apply?

A. The earlier the better. Even if you are unsure whether ultimately you will want to become a trainer, you should contact the VT Hub to indicate your interest. We can arrange for you to have a conversation or VT Suitability and Assessment visit to the practice so that you can make a more informed decision. Alternatively, you can apply via DTIS which will initiate the same process. You are not committed by doing so, and you can withdraw at a later stage if you change your mind.

Q. Is everyone accepted as a trainer?

A. No, there are certain criteria which must be met in order to be considered suitable for training, and the process is competitive. In recent years, there have been more suitable trainers than trainee vacancies, and NES has applied a scoring system – the scoring matrix is available via the following link - <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/20576>

Arranging a VT Suitability and Assessment visit to the practice is a good way of finding out if there would be any barriers to becoming a trainer, in addition to getting support and advice regarding any areas which may be stumbling blocks. If there are reasons why you would not be suited to delivering training services at this time, these can also be discussed before you commit further time to the selection process. The advisers are there to guide you irrespective of your situation.