

## Becoming a Trainer FAQs

It is essential that prospective applicants read the guidance booklet, [Becoming a Vocational Trainer](#).

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 or Dental Recruitment at [vthub@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:vthub@nes.scot.nhs.uk) or [dental\\_recruitment@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:dental_recruitment@nes.scot.nhs.uk).

### Q. How do I apply to be a trainer?

A. Applications are submitted via the NES Dental Portal [www.portal.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.portal.scot.nhs.uk). Applications open on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

### Q. How do I know if training is right for my practice?

A. The VT Hub can arrange a mentoring visit at your practice when a NES adviser can advise you on the suitability of you and your practice for training. This visit lasts for a whole session and, if you decide to apply to be a trainer, you will be paid a sessional fee (currently £231.10). You should **not** arrange to see patients during this visit.

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

A. Yes. You 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 you have already had a CPI then you will most likely not require a further inspection. If you have yet to have this type of inspection, 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](http://www.scottishdental.org)

### Q. Is funding available to improve my practice to VT standard?

A. Determination X funding may be available. This can be discussed at your mentoring 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. You do however **normally** require at least 4 years post qualification experience, and this does not include your own training period. As noted in the “Becoming a Vocational Trainer” booklet, you must have completed a minimum of 100 hours verifiable CPD, including the core subjects, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. (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. You are expected to provide help to your trainee as required. You must be available to provide support for your VDP for a **minimum** of 21 hours/week. In DVT, weekly tutorials must be conducted, and you must support your VDP throughout their assessment process. In addition, full time DVT trainers must give 14 sessions of their 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. Will I get paid?**

**A.** Yes. 100% of the VDP's gross accrues to the practice and you receive a trainer grant monthly which amounts, as a new trainer, to £14,004 annually, more experienced trainers receive £15,000.

**Q. Do I have to be a fully committed NHS dentist to train?**

**A.** No, however your overall practice NHS earnings must have been at least £27,800 for the financial year ending April 2021. Your 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 you the skills needed to train. It is compulsory for all new trainers. Attendance comprises of the following:

- a single day in April 2022
  - a 2-day module in June or July 2022\*
  - a single day in October or November 2022\*
- \*Dates will be dependent on group allocations*

These days are outwith your commitment to NES, but you will be paid £231.10 per session (£462.20 per day) for attending these days.

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

**A.** Yes. You do not have to be a practice owner to train and part-time posts are available. 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 mentoring visit to your practice so that you can make a more informed decision. Alternatively, you can apply via portal 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 become a trainer, and the process is competitive. In recent years, there have been more appointable applicants than vacancies and NES has applied a scoring system. [Click here](#) to view the scoring matrix.

Arranging a mentoring 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 training 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.