



Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training

Information Booklet for Applicants

Posts commencing 1st September 2026



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Section 1 – Introduction

Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training – Explained

Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training (LDFT) is a longitudinal programme combining primary and secondary care. The primary (Vocational Training) and secondary (Dental Core Training) care placements take place over 2 years, with rotations equally split between the placements. It combines 1 year of Dental Vocational Training (DVT) and 1 year of Dental Core Training (DCT). It's sometimes known as DFTDCT or General Professional Training (GPT).

Trainees will undertake a hybrid educational programme that combines the standard Dental Vocational Training Core Curriculum and will include a range of events in the educational programme that is delivered to Dental Core Trainees.

Aims and Objectives of LDFT

Aim of Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training

Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training (LDFT) aims to provide recently qualified dental graduates with both the skills necessary to undertake unsupervised General Dental Practice by enhancing clinical and administrative competence, as well as providing the opportunity to simultaneously develop their professional skills and abilities within the secondary care system through complementary posts in the Public Dental Service (PDS) and the Hospital Dental Service (HDS).

Longitudinal Dental Training offers a more diverse training experience. As with the more traditional one-year programme, throughout the training period trainees are encouraged to promote high ethical standards and deliver a high quality of care to patients.

This is achieved by:

- The LDFT trainee undergoing supervised training in General Dental Practice and PDS/HDS posts, using a planned programme of teaching and assessment to identify and build upon strengths and weaknesses.

Removing the financial pressures from the training environment so that the LDFT trainee can develop free from these concerns.

- Continuing the development of professional skills and encouraging postgraduate education

Objective of Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training

The objective of LDFT is that by the end of the training period, the LDFT trainee is either able to practice without supervision and eligible to become an associate/ principal or continue their professional training in a recognised training post. After satisfactory completion of LDFT, you can consider applying for Dental Core Training 2 (DCT2). Satisfactory completion of DCT2 can allow you to apply for Dental Core Training 3 (DCT3) and Specialty Training.

The LDFT trainee must, by the end of the training period, be able to demonstrate competence relevant to the work of an associate/someone at the end of DCT1, in the following areas:

- Clinical skills, knowledge and values
- Communication skills and professionalism
- Organisation and management ability
- Management of psychological aspects of patient care
- Teamwork within the practice or secondary care setting
- Ability to make decisions in a competent and professional manner, whilst considering personal strengths and weaknesses, and knowing when it is appropriate to refer to more experienced and appropriate colleagues.
- Knowledge of and adherence to ethical and confidentiality guidelines within General Dental Practice and secondary Dental care.

- Implementation of guidelines and regulations, to deliver safe practice
- Utilisation of various resources and support networks available to General Dental Practitioners and those in Training posts.

Recruitment process for LDFT Posts

You can apply for LDFT in the same way you apply for Dental Vocational Training (DVT). For the Scottish LDFT 2026-28 pilot programme, applicants must submit an application through the Oriel system using the Dental Vocational Training (DVT) application mechanism. Applications must be submitted by noon on October 15th, 2025. Once all applications have been received, and have been assessed through the established longlisting process, all applicants will be approached by NES to establish who would like to be considered for the LDFT programme.

Further information about the next stages of the LDFT recruitment process will be offered to applicants at that stage.

The recruitment timeline and links to apply can be found on the NES Website: [Dental vocational \(foundation\) training | NHS Education for Scotland](#)

Eligibility to undertake LDFT

In order to undertake a funded place in LDFT in Scotland you must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a BDS or equivalent by start of the training programme
- Provide evidence of the right to work in the UK without restriction
- Have full GDC registration by the start of the training programme. Training is limited to within 2 years of first GDC registration

For a full list of the criteria required, please refer to the LDFT Person Specification available at: [Dental vocational \(foundation\) training | NHS Education for Scotland](#)

If you have any questions about your qualification and whether it is fully recognised by the GDC, or if you would like to find out if you are eligible for full registration, you should visit the GDC website at: [Recognised overseas qualifications](#)

Additional Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for whom Dental Vocational Training/ Longitudinal Dental Foundation Training (DVT/LDFT) is the only route available to be admitted to a relevant NHS Dental Performers List are given priority in the recruitment process. This applies to candidates who will graduate from a UK Dental School, or to candidates who will graduate from overseas Dental Schools, i.e. from outwith the EEA, for whom DVT is the only route available to be admitted onto a relevant NHS Dental Performers List.

During the Recruitment Process

Applications will be sorted into two batches. Batch one is for those applicants for whom DVT / LDFT is the only route available to be admitted to a relevant NHS Dental Performers List, e.g. those graduating from a UK or Overseas Dental School. Batch two applicants are those who have alternative routes for entry onto a relevant NHS Dental Performers List, e.g. those graduating from within the EEA. All offers of posts will be made to Batch one applicants in the first instance. Batch two applicants will be put on hold at the point of application and will only be offered posts should there be remaining posts to fill and no suitable Batch 1 candidates.

Section 2 – Application Process

Submitting your application

All applications are made on the recruitment platform Oriel. You must follow the recruitment timeline and log onto Oriel during the application window, submitting your application by the closing date. There is a separate Applicant Booklet which provides step-by-step guidance for completing the application form.

All further information is found on the NES website, including a link to the DVT applicant guidance and a link to the Oriel vacancy, during the application window [Dental vocational \(foundation\) training | NHS Education for Scotland](#)

Late applications will not be accepted!

Please ensure you provide a valid email address when completing the application form. You should not use your university email address as your main point of contact for this application.

Should you successfully match to a training place, NES will continue to contact you using the email address you provide, (e.g. to complete pre-employment checks, contracts and payroll) beyond July 2026, when your university email account may have ceased.

All information regarding the recruitment process will be sent to this address.

During the recruitment process you may find it useful to periodically check spam/junk folders to ensure that important messages are not missed

If you are experiencing any issues prior to the application deadline, please contact the Dental Recruitment Team by submitting a support request on our Service Desk <https://nesdigital.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/30/group/121/create/591>

The Visitation Period

In Scotland, applicants can visit prospective trainers at their practices or communicate through online platforms during a defined visitation period.

Over the course of the visitation period you will be able to visit the available LDFT practices and decide to have a number of interviews. It is a good idea to make a note about each practice following interview to act as a memory aid; all LDFT training practices will be eligible to make direct appointments. Please note that PDS and HDS training sites cannot be visited however, a webinar with PDS and HDS representatives will take place shortly prior to Visitation.

Before going to interview, it is a good idea to think about what you want from your training programme and about the type of environment in which you will perform best. To help you do this, try reading this information booklet again. Also re-read the Trainers' practice profiles, as this might help you focus on areas of interest and questions you could ask when you meet the Trainers. These may include asking about any special interests and typical cases seen in the practice.

The LDFT training period is an important time in your career. You should try to ask questions, which will help you to decide whether it is the right practice for you!

Candidates should ensure that they allow themselves plenty of time to travel to and from the training practices during Visitation. The responsibilities for all travel arrangements are with the candidate and we advise that you plan carefully.

Please note travel expenses will not be reimbursed.

References: Neither LDFT or DVT applicants are required to submit references within their Oriel application, however, you may be asked to provide Trainers with a reference during the visitation period and we would advise that you obtain 2 references in advance of the visitation period. There is a structured reference form that can be downloaded from the NES Website: [Dental vocational \(foundation\) training | NHS Education for Scotland](#)

When contacting your referees please ensure that:

- You do not use family members as referees
- Referees must be able to comment on your clinical ability as a student

- Referees know you sufficiently well to be able to complete the reference on your behalf.
- You give the referees as much advance warning as possible. Remember, if your referee is a clinician at the Dental School, they may be a referee for a number of people.

Practice Prospectus

At the beginning of the visitation period, and throughout, you will gain access to the Practice Prospectus area of NES Dental Trainer Information System (DTIS). This is an interactive platform where you can view the Trainers profiles. Information on how to access this will be sent prior to visitation from the Dental Recruitment Team.

DTIS is an easy-to-use interactive system that allows applicants to engage with Trainers during the visitation period. It is accessed via a link that will be provided to applicants along with the visitation guidance.

The Practice Prospectus area is your primary tool when planning your visitation period. It has detailed information on the training practices, how many posts are on offer, whether the practice is part of the LDFT programme, the type of work that the practice carries out, special interests of the practice and how you should make contact with trainers.

From the information in the Practice Prospectus, you should then decide which practices you are interested in visiting. Trainers will have different preferences in terms of how you make contact with them and submit your CV. You should check each practice profile for information on how to contact individual Trainers.

In order to prepare for the visitation period, you should ensure your CV is up to date and contains all the relevant details to help trainers during interviews. There is no standard format for the CV, but you should take time to prepare it and put in as much relevant information as you can in order to separate you from the crowd. Your CV will be the first impression a Trainer has of you and it will act as a memory aid after interview.

LDFT is a very competitive process and you should take time to think about how to set yourself apart from other applicants.

Your CV may include:

- Personal details – name, address, contact details (email, mobile)
- Education – include dental school, any relevant training courses that you have attended
- Qualifications
- Skills – give evidence of transferable skills you have acquired such as time management, organisational and communication skills etc.
- Interests – activities where you have leadership or responsibility, or which involve you in relating to others in a team will be of particular interest. It

may also be useful to mention any specific areas of dentistry you are keen to explore in your career

- Additional information, e.g. awards, travel

The Matching Process

During the visitation period both Trainers and Trainee applicants will be able to make a direct appointment to the LDFT programme, via the GDS Trainer.

Clearing

If you are not matched with an LDFT Trainer at the end of visitation, and have not submitted a DVT preferencing list, you will enter the general DVT clearing process. You will need to view the NES Dental Trainer Information System, where you can access a list of remaining training practices. You may contact the practices directly for further information about available posts and to discuss interview arrangements.

As the DVT clearing stage progresses and appointments are made, the details of training practices will be removed from the Practice Prospectus so that you will know which practices are still available.

The Dental Recruitment Team will provide further information about clearing to unmatched applicants at that time

The majority of matches in Scottish Dental Vocational Training are made as a result of Direct Appointment or via Preferencing. A minority of applicants and Trainers will remain unmatched when results are released on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 @ 10am.

All remaining Trainers and applicants will be put into the clearing process, and a second period of visitation will begin; during this period both parties can agree to an immediate direct appointment.

Clearing will open at or before 5pm on Thursday 26th June 2026, and all those involved will be notified of their inclusion and it opening accordingly.

Should it be found that any Trainers or applicants have made contact to discuss clearing or direct matching, however informally, before the clearing process opens, they will be removed from the 2026-27 Vocational Training Process.

Failure to pass final exams

All posts are dependent upon having full GDC registration, which in turn, is dependent upon successfully passing your final examinations. Unfortunately, some students do fail these exams and, as a result, have to re-sit later in the year – this means you will not be able to commence your training post.

If you have been appointed to a training post, but have failed your final examinations, you must contact your trainer and contact the Dental Recruitment team by going to the Service Desk [here](#) and submitting a support request.

Appointments to Training Posts

Once offers are accepted and confirmed on the system, successfully matched trainee applicants will undertake pre-employment checks, listing and registration, requiring regular contact with NES, your Trainer and Educational Supervisor, and their Health Board(s), as well as the General Dental Council.

Pre-employment checks for each party:

- 1) **NES HR** - pre-employment checks, payroll and contractual paperwork
- 2) **Trainer and Educational Supervisor** - specific placement details e.g. base location, working hours
- 3) **Trainer's and Educational Supervisor's Health Board** - listing process
- 4) **GDC** - professional registration

All those appointed **MUST** ensure they liaise directly with NES and their Health Boards and provide **ALL** necessary documentation, as well as return **ALL** Start Pack documentation as soon as possible. **Failure to do so is likely to result in trainees not being able to take up post on the specified start date, which will have an impact on the training practice or hospital unit and salary payment.**

1) Pre-employment checks at NES

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is the employer of LDFTs joining LDFT in NHS Scotland.

Once you match to a training place, the process is as follows:

1. You will first receive a pre-employment check poster, offering a quick overview of the requirements for successfully completing pre-employment checks.
2. Following that, you will receive a welcome email from Turas, granting you access to the Turas People platform.
3. Subsequently, you will receive a pre-employment letter (via email) from NES. This letter will contain instructions on how to complete pre-employment checks and provide details about the necessary payroll paperwork.
4. Additionally, all trainees will be issued a conditional offer of employment from NES.

You will be asked to complete and submit:

Staff Engagement Form: You must complete and submit the Staff Engagement Form at least four weeks in advance of your start date to enable you to be added to payroll.

Occupational Health Check: You must complete and submit the Health Declaration Questionnaire and confirm your immunisation status on Turas People.

PVG: Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme: There is a requirement to instigate a PVG check with the Disclosure Scotland Office and any conviction records to be disclosed. NES will carry out an ID check prior to sending you a PVG Application online.

Other pre-employment documents required for onboarding:

Proof of GDC registration and membership: you must present the current GDC practicing certificate.

Qualifications: You must provide a copy of your BDS degree (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) or equivalent.

Identity and immigration documents: NES sponsors all Medical and Dental Trainees in Scotland who require Skilled Worker sponsorship. The sponsorship team will contact you with relevant instructions, if applicable.

Fitness to Practice: You must complete a Fitness to Practice declaration form available on Turas People.

Once pre-employment checks are satisfied, including having received your exam results, Health Board list number, GDC registration and evidence of right to work in the UK, you will be issued with a copy of your contract, via Turas People.

You will also attend your regional Postgraduate Centre at the start of your training for induction, where you will receive further details of your training programme. The training administration teams will contact you to send you information about your induction using the email address you provided on your application form. Please note, this may not be a face-to-face induction.

2) Pre-employment contact with your trainer and Educational Supervisor

You should contact your Trainer and Educational Supervisor to discuss specific details regarding your training with them, including details of:

- base location
- working hours
- local working
- practices and induction arrangements
- Trainer's and Educational Supervisor's list number* (**see point 3*)

Important: Your passport and any right to work documents will be checked on your first day in the practice. If they have not been attested prior to day 1, they will also need to be attested and submitted to NES HR.

3) List numbers with your Trainer's and Educational Supervisor's Health Board(s)

It is a requirement of the appointed trainee to liaise with the Health Board about Health Board information and Medico-Legal Indemnity. Documents will vary amongst the Health Boards with regards to relevant health aspects, and it will be your responsibility to ensure you follow this up with the Health Board(s) prior to taking up post.

Recent changes have taken place to NHS regulations relating to the provision of dental care and Health Board requirements may include:

- Evidence of Hepatitis B status and other health clearances
- Copy of passport and/or birth certificate
- Copy of GDC current practising certificate
- Copy of membership of Medico-Legal Defence Organisation
- PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups)
- Satisfactory references

List Number

You are required to hold a secondary list number of both the GDS Trainer and the PDS Educational Supervisor, issued by the Health Board area for the practice and PDS service, where you will complete training. Please ensure that you provide all the necessary information to the Health Board so this process is complete in a timely manner. The listing process is carried out by the Health Board directly and NES HR will be liaising with the Health Boards on the progress of this, as part of pre-employment checks.

Rehabilitation of Offenders

Under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, you are required to disclose CRIMINAL convictions, which are unspent (current). The National Health Service employment for which you are applying is EXCLUDED in the provisions of the Act. You are required NOT to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act. This means that all previous convictions must be declared. If you are offered employment, any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action. Any information given, however, will be completely confidential and will be considered only in relation to the post for which this application form refers. You must also disclose any pending proceedings and cautions.

4) Registration with GDC

Please note that GDC registration normally takes at least six weeks to process, and it is therefore important that you apply at your earliest possible opportunity. This means that you should be in a position to submit your paperwork to the GDC, fully completed and carefully checked, on the day you receive notification of success in final exams.

Any delays in applying for your GDC registration may prevent you taking up post or may delay the date upon which you can start work and could affect your pay at the end of September and impact on the Dental Practice. It could also affect your ability to comply with the requirement to complete one year in practice by the end of August 2025.

Section 3 – The Training Programme

The Role of the Longitudinal Dental Foundation trainee

Once you start as a Longitudinal Dental Foundation Trainee, you will become an assistant for two years to your Trainer within the training practice from the 1st September 2026. Information on Trainer and VDP obligations is available and can be found within the standard Single Employer contract. NES will provide you with a copy of this document.

- As a trainee you will spend six months of the LDFT programme in the Public Dental Service. The PDS, known as the Community Dental Service in other parts of the UK, provides specialised and specialist care for children and adults where carrying out treatment in a General Dental Practice setting may not be appropriate. Examples include the dentally anxious, medically complex, those with a learning disability, the dependent elderly and vulnerable children. The delivery of oral care by the PDS may be delivered in a variety of settings including clinics within health centres, dental centres, prisons, specialist/alternative provision schools and hospitals, as well as care homes and domiciliary care. You will also spend six months in the Hospital Dental Service (HDS). This will give you the opportunity to work in a large, often multidisciplinary team, alongside specialists and consultants and to manage patients referred from primary care. During your training you will be expected to complete a portfolio of evidence of progression in your training. This will be reviewed at various stages in your training and will include various forms of supervised learning events, completed with your trainers, multi-source feedback, patient assessment questionnaires and involvement in quality improvement projects. Further information can be found in the Dental Core Training Curriculum.

LDFT trainees will be required to:

- Enter into and abide by the terms of a legal contract for full-time employment with NES.
- Attend the day or block release courses as set out in the published programme. Absence from the study day course for any reason would
- be authorised only in exceptional circumstances. LDFTs must notify their Associate Dean or VT Adviser of any absence in advance and in writing. Take holidays outwith the educational programme. Unexplained absence from the course will be discussed fully with the VT Advisor and may imply withdrawal from the scheme.
- Complete such educational studies and assessment as may be required.
- Inform the Associate Dean or VT Adviser of any alteration in the circumstances of the practice, the Trainer or self which might alter the contract of employment as a LDFT

Travel and subsistence for study days

Travel and subsistence for the Dental Core Training study days will be available and trainees can apply for funded study leave for training and development purposes that have been discussed with your Educational Supervisor and are included in your Personal Development Plan. LDFTs will be able to access an allowance during their time in the HDS/PDS part of training, on a pro rata basis.

The Scotland Deanery operates a national process and system to ensure that all applications for study leave are considered on a fair, equitable and consistent basis

Applications and expense claims must be made via Turas, NHS Education for Scotland's (NES) single unified digital platform

Training Schemes/post details

LDFT TRAINING SCHEME – East Region

The East Region of Scotland incorporates Tayside and parts of the North of Fife down to Kirkcaldy. The region is rich in natural beauty, recreational opportunities and convenient transport links. Training sites will be based throughout the East region of Scotland. Being based in the East of Scotland puts dentists in easy reach of a whole range of outdoor and cultural pursuits, whether it be water-based, high mountains, music or art. The LDFT training programme will be based in the East region, and the Dundee Dental Education Centre will be the hub for educational delivery.

The study days held at Dundee Dental Education Centre (DDEC) will be overseen by a nominated VT Adviser, who will work in conjunction with the NES Core Training Advisers to deliver educational days aligned to both the VT curriculum and the Core Training programme.

Contact Details for the East Region of Scotland

Fiona McFadzean, Assistant Postgraduate Dental Dean VT: fiona.mcfadzean@nhs.scot@nhs.scot

Dental Training Management team: VTHub@nes.scot.nhs.uk