

WHO WE ARE

The **Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency** (NIMDTA) is an Arm's Length Body sponsored by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland (NI) to recruit, train and support postgraduate medical and dental professionals.

NIMDTA oversees the training of postgraduate dentists in structured training programmes at foundation, core and specialty level. Continuing Education (CE) courses are also offered to qualified dentists and dental professionals to enhance and develop their skills.

THE SIMULATION SUITE



In 2021, NIMDTA opened a bespoke simulation suite with ten virtual reality (VR) and haptic feedback dental simulators.

Haptic technology recreates touch sensation allowing the user to practice clinical skills with the same physical sensations experienced in a real dental surgery.

The VR dental simulators can be used to practice:

- Removing
Dental Decay
- Treating Gum
Disease
- Placing
Restorations
- Root Canal
Treatment
- Crown and
Bridgework

GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL REGISTRATION

To provide private or health service dentistry (HSD) in the United Kingdom (UK), dentists must be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC). To gain registration, dentists who qualify outside of the UK usually must complete the Overseas Registration Exam (ORE).

NIMDTA, supported by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group, offers a 10-day course combining lectures and virtual reality (VR) technology to introduce International graduates to HSD in NI.

The aim is to equip dentists with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in Northern Ireland's health service and ultimately enhance access and reduce oral health related inequalities.

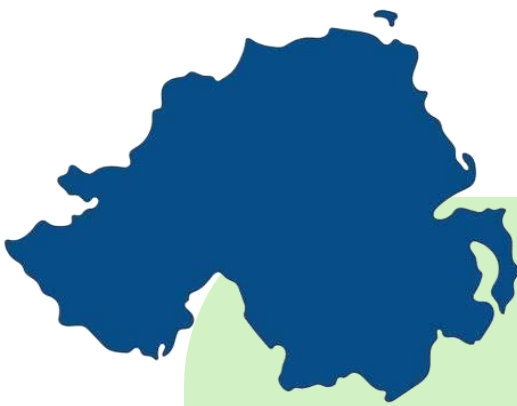


INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SERVICE DENTISTRY IN NI

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is a 10-day programme exploring essential knowledge for providing HSD in NI. Topics covered in the course include:

Diagnosis, Treatment Planning	Prescribing	Local dental service regulations	Safeguarding
Medical Emergencies	Record keeping, complaints, confidentiality	Radiation protection legislation	Infection control



HEALTH SERVICE STATISTICS

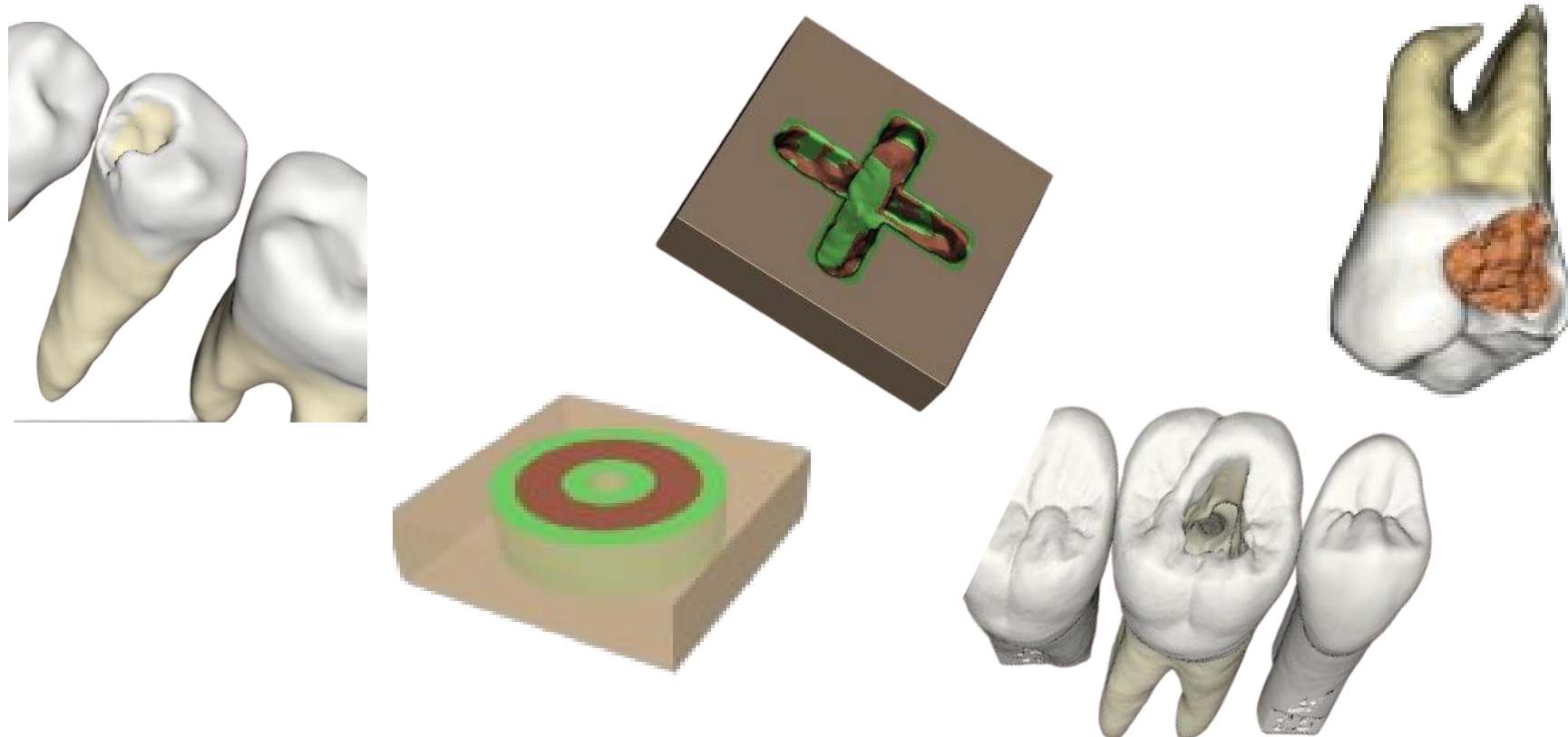
- Dentists registered via ORE make up 8.8% of the UK dental workforce.¹
- In the most deprived areas of NI, 65% of children and 56% of adults are registered with a health service dentist.²
- There are clear educational and social class inequalities in the use of preventative and restorative dental services across the UK.³

SIMULATION AND VIRTUAL REALITY

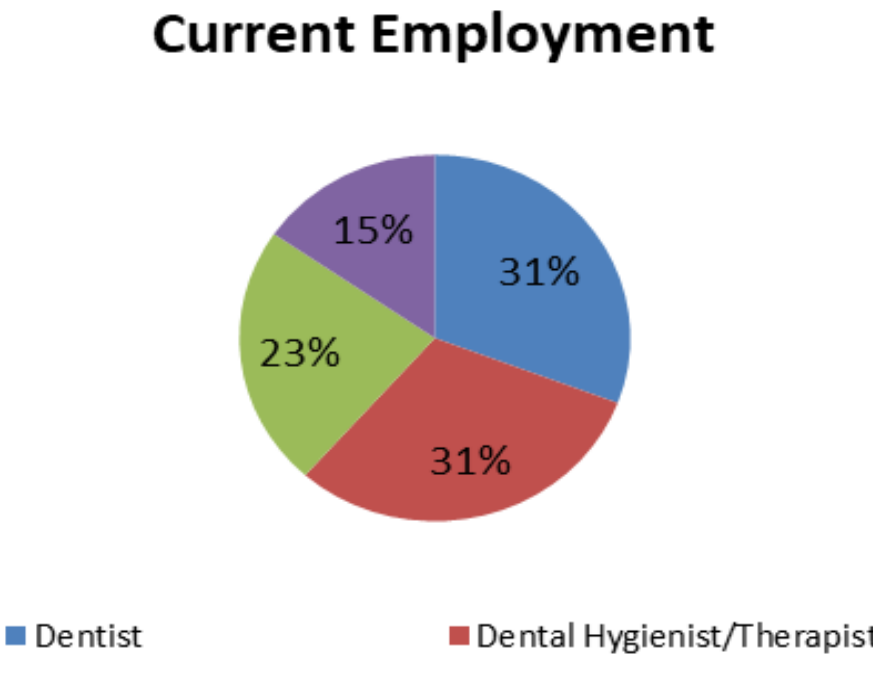
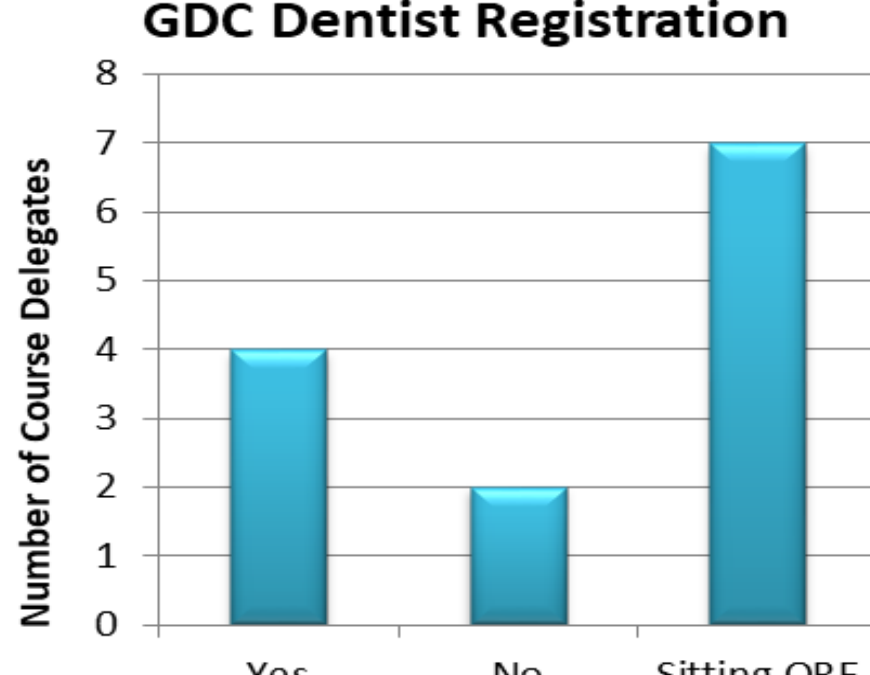
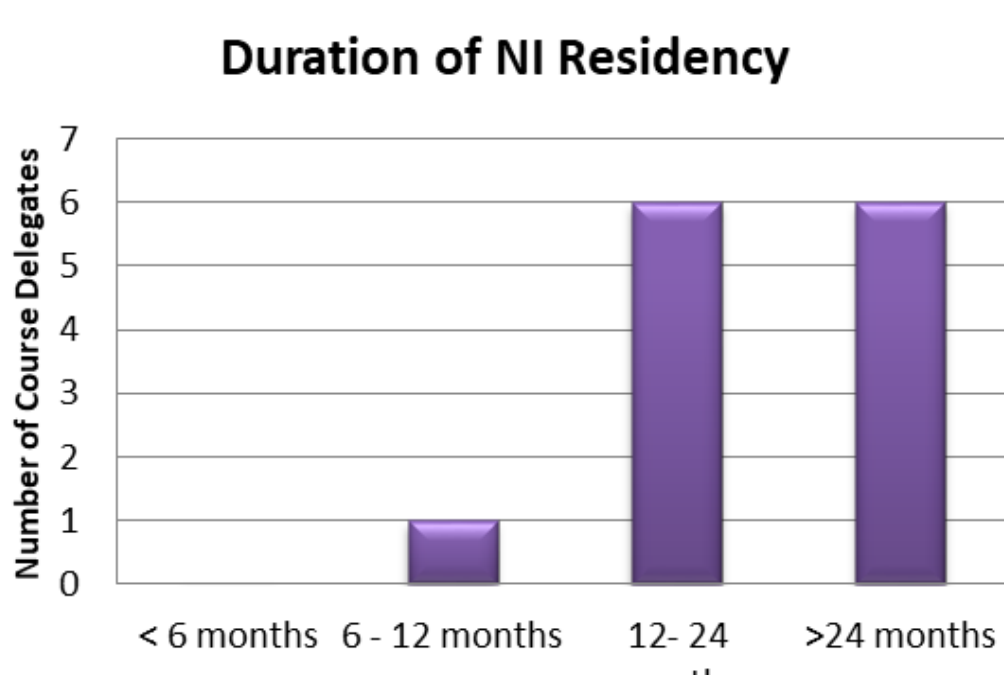
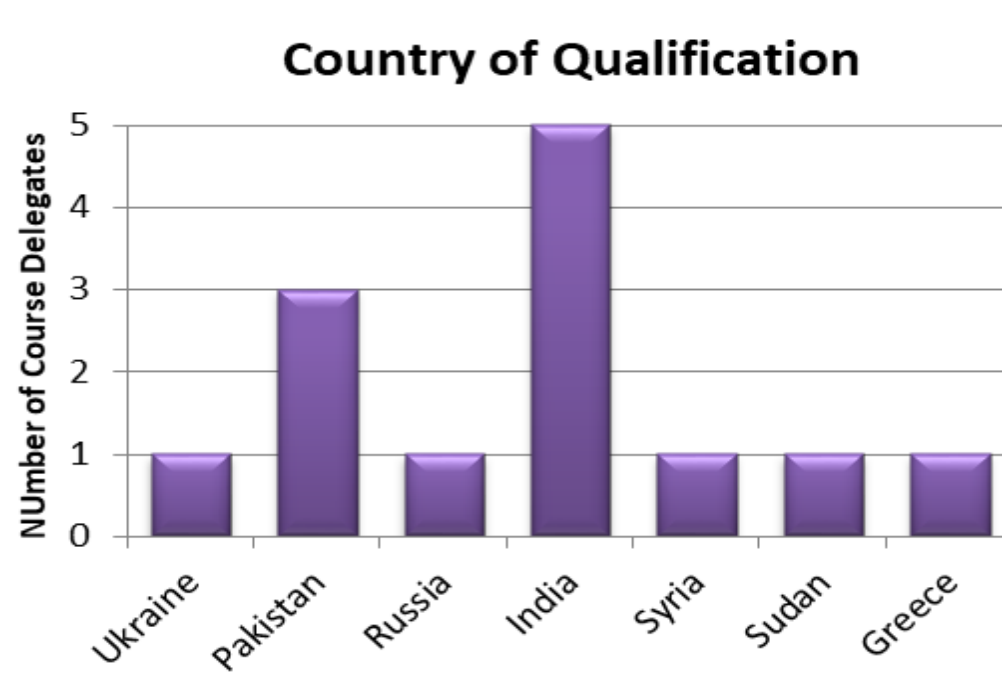
To complement the lecture programme, there are four sessions in the simulation suite where participants use virtual reality dental simulators to practice clinical skills and develop their knowledge in a range of areas including:

- Manual dexterity tasks
- Tooth morphology
- Caries removal
- Root canal access cavities
- Crown and bridge preparations

Clinical case, complete with radiographs and special investigations, can be embedded into the VR dental simulators to allow users to diagnose dental problems and engage in small group case-based discussions.



COURSE DEMOGRAPHICS 2024/2025



What would you like to gain from this course?

- Ways the clinical dentistry done in NI, legislations in NI, revision for the exam and motivation to keep going
- Functioning of NHS system in NI and knowledge on Statement of Dental Remuneration

UK-specific theoretical and practical knowledge to better prepare for the ORE

Core surgical training and masters in restorative dentistry

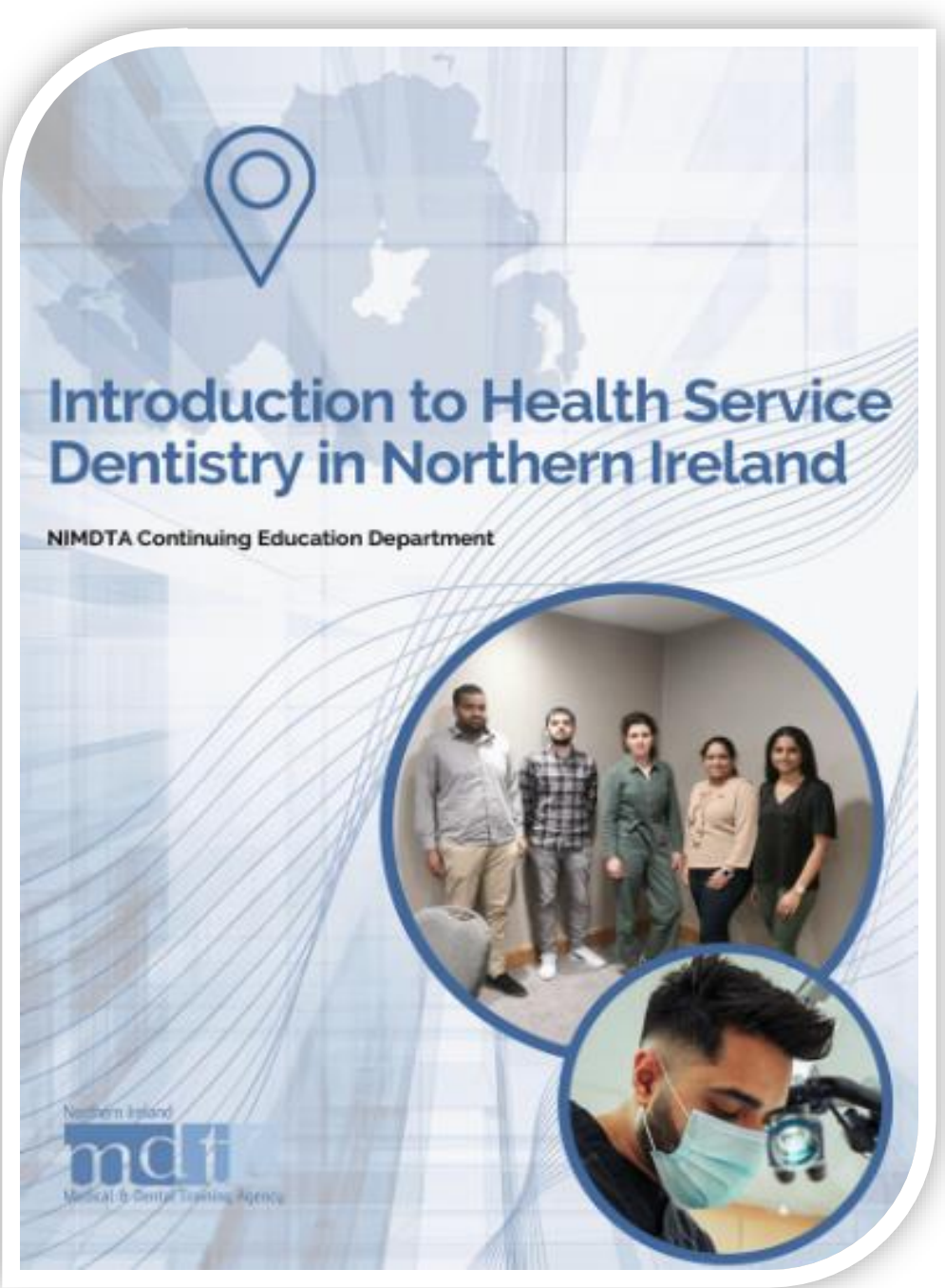
I want to be able to work here as a dentist. Also, I want to do a master's degree while I am working as a dentist

Become a dentist in NI

What are your long-term professional goals?

- Interest in teaching and research

COURSE FEEDBACK



The course successfully met the stated aims and objectives/learning outcomes

100% Strongly Agree (n=13)

What was the most successful or useful aspect of the course?

- Highlighting specific clinical guidelines
- Simulation suite
- Clinical skills refresher and knowledge
- All aspects brilliant
- Oral medicine information
- Legislation and rules overview

References:

- General Dental Council. Registration Statistical Report 2023 [Internet]. 2024 May. Available from: https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/registration/registration-reports/registration-statistical-report-2023---final-and-accessible-v2.pdf?sfvrsn=91957fe_
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- Cheema J, Sabbah W. Inequalities in preventive and restorative dental services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. British Dental Journal. 2016 Sep 9;221(5):235-9.