

Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy

The Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy aims to equip students with the scientific knowledge and necessary clinical skills to practise as allied dental health professionals. Graduates of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy will be able to provide basic dental services, preventive care and manage a school dental clinic independently.

Course Aims

The course is designed to offer a comprehensive learning and training experience to prepare graduates to function as fully competent dental hygienists and therapists. Through lectures, tutorials, practical sessions and clinical education, the course aims to equip graduates with the ability to:

- ❖ assess, plan and provide basic curative dental services to primary and secondary school students by regular dental inspection and treatment;
- ❖ provide quality oral hygiene services which includes the prevention and treatment of simple periodontal (gum) diseases to patients
- ❖ work closely with patients and use preventive, health education and behavioural science knowledge to provide options for improving and maintaining sound oral health;
- ❖ manage a school dental clinic independently;
- ❖ upkeep and maintain equipment and oversee the infection control of equipment in the clinic;
- ❖ maintain professional working relationship with clients and parents;
- ❖ work and interact professionally as an essential member of the dental team in the planning, maintaining and delivering of dental services; and
- ❖ undertake basic research projects related to professional issues and patient care.

Duration

3 academic years on a full-time basis

Career Prospects

The prospects for oral health therapists are very promising. They can practise in a variety of settings, for example within the School Dental Service/School Health Services where they can be deployed to work in the Field or Mobile Dental Clinics, the Oral Health Promotion Section, the Dental Therapists Training Section, the Audit Section or at the School Dental Centre at the Health Promotion Board. With the recent Dental Act to

license Oral health Therapists, graduates can work in private dental practices or dental institutions under the supervision of dentists.

Because of the increasing demand for and shortage of professional oral health therapists, graduates can expect an attractive and competitive pay structure with opportunities for further career progression and growth. There are also opportunities for further studies overseas upon graduation.