

Joint statement from Health Education England (HEE), Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) regarding 2020/21 Dental Foundation Training recruitment

21 May 2021

Background

In April, a joint statement was published to inform applicants that the recruitment process for dental foundation training (DFT) would be adapted. This process would accommodate and support those applicants who will not be able to graduate in time to commence DFT in September, by introducing a second intake into DFT in March 2022. HEE / HEIW and NIMDTA remain committed to ensuring that this process supports as many graduates as possible to start DFT in September whilst ensuring that employers also have sufficient time to complete the necessary checks and prepare for their future trainees. HEE / HEIW and NIMDTA have been working closely with the Dental Schools Council to agree these arrangements.

It is understood that the delay in providing clear timelines for applicants this year may have caused concern and we are pleased that we are now in a position to inform applicants of the next steps in the recruitment process. We hope that this communication will allay concerns and provide certainty and clarity for applicants of the next stages of the recruitment process.

There will be no change in the recruitment process for non-UK graduates. As in previous years, they will be offered posts in both cohorts once the list of applicants who are not able to access the NHS performers list via other routes has been exhausted.

Timeline & Oriel

Cohort 1 – September 2021 Start

<i>Preferencing Opens</i>	Thursday 17 June 2021
<i>Preferencing Closes</i>	Thursday 1 July 2021
<i>Initial offers released from Upgrade deadline</i>	Thursday 15 July 2021
	Wednesday 4 August 2021

Cohort 2 – March 2022 Start

The timeline for this is still under review and a separate communication will be sent in due course.

Oriel

All applicants will be required to preference to individual practice level across England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 17 June. This is different from previous years, where applicants would preference training schemes nationally in the first instance. This was then followed by a round of sub preferencing of practices after offers to schemes had been accepted. It is expected there will be around 900 practices to preference this year, as opposed to around 65 schemes in previous years. This change has been necessary to

ensure schools can extend the undergraduate programme as late as possible into the summer months. Whereas normally applicants would not be asked to preference to practice until **after** offers are made (sub preferencing), for this round of recruitment the alteration to the preferencing timeline has enabled us to ensure applicants from UK dental schools have as much time as possible to graduate. This also allows more time for employers to onboard their Foundation Dentist for 1 September.

Applicants

- Can filter the available practices by scheme or geographical area, to choose practices within certain areas and make preferencing large numbers more easily manageable.
- Will be informed of their national ranking score prior to the preferencing process and this score is based on SJT performance.
- Will be advised to preference as many practices as possible, to maximise their chance of being matched to a post.
- Will be advised to start the preferencing process as early as possible.

The required number of posts included for preferencing will be estimated in the first instance reflecting the projected number of graduates. This will mean that initially some preferences will be declared with zero posts listed against them. Applicants should still preference these posts, as most of them will become available later in the offers process. This will continually be reviewed to ensure there are sufficient posts for all graduates by the end of the process.

Information on practices to assist with preferencing will be available to applicants. Applicants should **not** contact individual practices during the preferencing process.

There are two dates in particular during this process which are significant; 15 July and 4 August.

Key dates

15 July

On Thursday 15th July conditional offers will be released to all appointable applicants.

Applicants who are content with their conditional offer are able to accept ‘without upgrades’ meaning that they will not be offered any upgrades. This allows them to make arrangements for their new post with immediate effect. Those applicants who would like a higher choice preference will be able to accept an offer ‘with upgrades’ on the system and will remain in the process. This will provide optimal flexibility in preferencing however applicants are advised to bear in mind this will significantly reduce the time available to arrange relocation required to start in practice on 1st September.

Please note it is expected that not all applicants will receive an offer on the initial offers release date of Thursday 15 July. Further iterations of offers will be made during the period of 15 July – 4 August.

4 August

Applicants whose UK graduation status cannot be confirmed by 3 August will have their offers withdrawn and will be removed from the process. These individuals will be accommodated with an opportunity to begin Dental Foundation Training in March 2022 (cohort 2).

Posts released by applicants who have moved into cohort 2 will become available to the applicants remaining in the process and who have either not yet been offered or have not yet accepted a post. This process will happen on a continual basis between the initial offers release date (15 July) and the upgrade deadline (4 Aug). Therefore, eligible UK graduate applicants who were not initially made an offer on 15 July will most likely receive an offer by 4 August.

As in previous years, there will be no change in the recruitment process for applicants who are able to access the NHS performers list through the equivalence route. As in previous years, they will be offered posts in both cohorts once the list of applicants who are not able to access the NHS performers list via other routes has been exhausted.

An applicant's ranking will be the sole determining factor when offers are made, however, applicants should be reassured that where special circumstances to schemes have been approved, these will remain in place for cohort 1.

We wish to thank all students for their continued patience as we move forward with the recruitment process and wish them every success in their future careers.



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