FOUNDATION DEGREE IN ADVANCED DENTAL NURSING

FAQs

 WHO ARE HEALTH EDUCATION KENT SURREY SUSSEX (HEKSS)?

Previously known as Kent Surrey and Sussex Deanery, HEKSS coordinates the delivery and funding of postgraduate medical and dental education in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The Dental team operates as part of the NHS to enhance the quality of healthcare, by continually improving the management and provision of supportive, quality assured, education and development of doctors and dentists and, where appropriate, the wider workforce.

HEKSS (Dental) is a validated partner of the University of Kent, enabling them to deliver quality assured programmes leading to degrees at Masters level.

 WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION DEGREE IN ADVANCED DENTAL NURSING (FDSc in ADN)?

The FDSc in ADN is a qualification which will combine academic study at HE (Higher Education) level with work-related learning. It aims to benefit patients through improved standards of care provided by empowered, confident and knowledgeable dental nurses, thereby positively influencing patient and colleague attitudes towards the profession.

It is being designed to equip dental nurses with the learning, skills and competence acquisition appropriate within the limits of their existing GDC Scope of Practice. It will enable dental nurses to achieve academic results and professional skills. It is the equivalent of two thirds of a full honours degree.

 IS THE FDSc in ADN THE SAME AS CPD?

No. CPD is compulsory for all GDC registered DCPs and is aimed at keeping skills and knowledge up-to-date throughout your career.

The FDSc in ADN is not compulsory and it aims to extend your skills in key clinical areas, and contribute to the development of general skills and attitudes, often referred to as graduate skills, which will both drive, and respond to, the evolving dental nurse role.

 IS IT A FULL TIME COURSE?

This is a full time course and stage 1 (first year) is delivered over 4 extended weekends, stage 2 (second year) over 7 extended weekends. It is classed as a full time course because it contains 1200 learning hours per stage.

 HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?
The FDSc will take a total of two academic years to complete, so for example, students who joined in September 2015 would graduate in July 2017.

WHO CAN APPLY?
The FDSc in ADN will be open to dental nurses that:

- Hold a recognised dental nurse qualification such as NEBDN Certificate, NVQ/SVQ or Armed Forces / hospital equivalent NQF Level 4 qualification.
- Are, and remain registered with the GDC, throughout the duration of the programme.
- Are, and remain employed within a dental workplace, throughout the duration of the programme.
- Can demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional education and development planning.

I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY QUALIFIED AS A DENTAL NURSE – CAN I STILL APPLY?
Yes - Provided that you meet all of the criteria detailed above.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Follow the steps below
1. Complete the Expression of Interest form and return to DNFD@kss.hee.nhs.uk and then
2. Apply directly through UCAS ease find below a link to the UCAS course details and how to apply.

http://search.ucas.com/course/howtoapply/296272/advanced-dental-nursing?Vac=1&AvailableIn=2014&ProviderQuery=MidKent%20College%2C%20&AcpId=1643&ret=providers#coursedetailsmenu

3. Also, when you are applying for your student loan it will ask you for the the organisation name and this is Mid Kent College.
4. Send through an email to DNFD to confirm you have completed the UCAS application form. HEKSS final date to receive UCAS applications is the 3 August 2015.
5. Once we have received your UCAS application and it has been accepted according to the course criteria, you will be asked to attend an interview. The UCAS application and interview form the admission process to assess your suitability for the course. Interviews take place on 21 and 22 August 2015 at HEKSS, 7 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 2DD. Your geographical location will be considered, therefore if you have concerns about your ability to attend the above location, then there will be an opportunity to be interviewed via ‘Lync’ (full details will be provided and a test run offered).
6. Following your interview you will be given a short written pre assessment task. (This will not be marked but identifies any areas for additional support needs).

I DO NOT HAVE A RECOGNISED DENTAL NURSE QUALIFICATION AND WAS ADMITTED TO THE GDC REGISTER UNDER THE GRAND-PARENTING SCHEME; CAN I APPLY?
Not at the moment. Because the final award takes account of the previous study associated with a recognised qualification, it will not currently be possible to accept applications from ‘grand-parented’ dental nurses.
However, once it is up and running, and if there is sufficient demand for the FDSc in ADN from ‘grand-parented’ dental nurses, it may be possible to create an entry route in the future. If this current exclusion would apply to you, please email DNFD@kss.hee.nhs.uk to register your interest, stating clearly that you are a ‘grand-parented’ dental nurse. This will provide HEKSS with a picture of the demand.

**WHERE WILL THE PROGRAMME BE DELIVERED?**
HEKSS has a number of post-graduate education centres available with both clinical and academic teaching facilities.

**HOW WILL THE PROGRAMME BE DELIVERED?**
The programme will be delivered via face-to-face teaching sessions over extended weekends (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) and weekends (Saturday, Sunday). This teaching will be supported by telephone and email contact with the Programme Director, Module Leads, Lecturers and HEKSS staff.

Students will be expected to supplement this face to face time with guided study, work-related learning and self-directed personal study.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

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<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>M1(Module Induction &amp; Life Long Learning And the Academic Nurse (part 1 – Introduction)</td>
<td>Weekend 0 Induction 24-26 September 2015 Holiday Inn Gatwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>M1(Module) Life Long Learning And the Academic Nurse (Substantive part 2)</td>
<td>Weekend 1 12-14 November 2015 Holiday Inn Gatwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2: Microbiology and Cross-infection Control in the Dental Workplace. (M2) Part 1</td>
<td>Weekend 2 18 – 20 February 2016 Holiday Inn Gatwick</td>
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<td>Final Weekend Purpose: Final Tutorials, Evaluation and Academic Development improvement</td>
<td>Weekend 3 12 – 14 May 2016 Holiday Inn, Gatwick</td>
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<td>Modules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3 Biomedical Science and Pharmacology in Dentistry</td>
<td>15 – 17 Sept 2016 (provisional)</td>
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<td>Module 4 Part 1 Topical Fluoride and Practical Competence</td>
<td>10 - 12 Nov 2016</td>
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<td>Module 5 Law, Ethics and Professionalism</td>
<td>12-14 Jan 2017</td>
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<td>Holiday Inn</td>
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<td>Module 6 Oral Pathology and Oral Health Education (Part 1)</td>
<td>16 -18 Feb 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4 Part 2 Topical Fluoride and Practical Competence</td>
<td>9 -11 March 2017</td>
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<td>Gatwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 6 part 2 Oral Pathology and Oral Health Education</td>
<td>20- 22 April 2017</td>
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<td>Evaluation and Academic Development improvement weekend</td>
<td>25– 27 May 2017</td>
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**CAN I GET CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING?**
The primary dental nurse qualification which provides access to the programme also provides advanced standing of 60 credits at level C.

There are currently no specific plans for giving full module credit for the completion of previous training in fluoride application. However, this issue is being discussed and further information will be posted as soon as the information is available.

It is possible that dental nurses who currently hold a Certificate in Oral Health Education will receive some credit for this prior learning, providing that the learning outcomes of their particular course can be mapped against the requirements of this programme.

**WILL I HAVE TO TAKE EXAMS?**
There are no formal written exams associated with this programme.
Formal assessment will however be based on a combination of presentations, portfolio style submissions, written essay or report style assignments, case studies and reflective commentary.

In Module 4, demonstration of clinical skills acquisition and competence will be assessed via OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examination).

**HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?**

£5950 per academic year.

Tuition fees will be payable each term or year in advance, but, like other HE courses, students will be eligible to apply for a student loan to cover these costs via Student Finance England (SFE).

Tuition fees will cover: contact and distance learning elements; course handbook and module guides; academic support system; online support; assignment marking; material for the practical sessions; and access to online library facilities.

Students will be responsible for their personal learning materials, suggested further reading materials, computer and internet access, accommodation (if required) and travel costs.

**WHEN I APPLY FOR A STUDENT LOAN WHAT ORGANISATION ARE WE PUTTING DOWN ON THE FINANCE STUDENT APPLICATION?**

Mid Kent College.

Those paying fees privately must follow Payment Plan below. Payment is to be made in four instalments via debit or credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Plan</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Due on</th>
<th>Method of payment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment 1</td>
<td>£2975</td>
<td>Enrolment - Induction weekend 24 September 2015</td>
<td>Debit or credit card at enrolment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment 2</td>
<td>£992</td>
<td>27 October 2015</td>
<td>Mid Kent - through card details supplied during enrolment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment 3</td>
<td>£992</td>
<td>27 November 2015</td>
<td>Mid Kent – through card details supplied during enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment 4</td>
<td>£991</td>
<td>5 January 2016</td>
<td>Mid Kent – through card details supplied during enrolment</td>
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If you are successful in gaining a student loan, you will need to bring proof of this in the form of a letter from the Student Loan company to the Induction weekend. You can apply for a student loan through Student Finance England and information regarding eligibility etc can be found in the documents on our website: http://www.midkent.ac.uk/courses/higher-education/student-finance

HOW ARE STUDENT LOANS REPAYED?

Student loans are not repaid until after the course finishes.

The website link provides examples of loan repayments and can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan.

There is a useful student guide to the terms and conditions of a student loan for part-time courses available online at: http://www.sfengland.slc.co.uk/media/598136/sfe_fspt_loans_1314_d.pdf

Loan repayments are deducted at the same time and in the same way as Tax and National Insurance, so you do not have to do anything; once your loan is due for repayment, it just happens. If you are self-employed, your student loan repayments for the year will be calculated when you complete your Self-Assessment form – although the repayment rates remain the same for employed / self-employed people.

- WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE FDSc IN ADN?
  - The opportunity to formalise your knowledge and experience into a qualification, without having to give up your job – something many people could not afford to do.
  - The opportunity to achieve at HE without going back for GCSEs and/or A Levels first.
  - The option to convert your FDSc into a full degree by adding one further year of study.
  - The FDSc is designed to meet current employment needs, and provide you with a range of skills which are attractive to employers and contribute to your sustainable and enduring career in dental nursing.
  - Academic and professional credibility within the dental team.
  - Academic understanding with the capacity for lifelong learning and professional development.

- WHY SHOULD I DO THIS??
  - Times are changing; the way in which NHS dentistry will be delivered is undergoing major change.
  - DCPs roles will be greatly enhanced, the GDC “Scope of Practice” reflects these fundamental changes.
  - Nurses, in particular, will have significant “extended duty” opportunities.
  - They will find that opportunities for working away from the practices with other team members will become a much greater part of their roles.
  - Career opportunities will be significantly improved.
  - The status of an Enhanced Duty Dental Nurse will become greatly increased throughout practice and community settings.
  - The opportunity for “work satisfaction” to reach new heights will be greatly improved.
Additional payment s for additional skills will be part of this job role expansion. There will be opportunities to boost your salary through his qualification.

WHAT LEARNING RESOURCES WILL I HAVE ACCESS TO?
- Core books from the reading list
- Students will be given “Athens” access which will allow them to research dental journals and academic papers
- Student will be given access to the Mid Kent “Moodle” site where students can access dental journals and academic papers. Students may also use the Mid Kent Library in Medway
- Access to the NHS Postgraduate Centres if you work within Kent, Surrey and Sussex with a payment of a small annual fee.

The added extras provided such as lunch and refreshments at weekend sessions are not incorporated into the running costs of the programme.

WHAT DO OTHER DENTAL NURSES THINK OF THEIR OWN TASTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

“I had become complacent, but discovering Higher Education has changed my whole attitude towards dentistry and re-established my love of this worthwhile career.”
Leigh O., Clinical Manager, Maidstone.

“The sense of achievement and drive that HE has given me is indescribable. I would encourage any dental nurse to go further with education.”
Christine H., Clinical Skills Tutor, Leeds.