

Dental Technician

What is it?

Dental Technicians (also known as Dental Technologists) design, make, and repair dental appliances such as crowns, bridges, dentures, and braces. Their work helps improve patients' appearance, speech, and ability to eat. They work closely with dentists and orthodontists, using both traditional tools and digital technology to create custom-made dental devices.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

Routes include, Complete a **Level 3 Extended Diploma in Dental Technology**.

Study for a **foundation degree or degree in dental technology**, approved by the **General Dental Council (GDC)**.

Apply for a **Dental Technician Level 5 Higher Apprenticeship**.

Start as a trainee in a dental lab and study part-time. Entry requirements typically include **5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A to C)** including English, maths, and science. You can also join the **Dental Technologists Association (DTA)** for professional development and training opportunities.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Good with your hands and attention to detail.
- Interested in science and design.
- Able to concentrate for long periods.
- Comfortable using digital tools and lab equipment.
- A team player who can follow precise instructions.

Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £31,000**
- **Experienced Salary: Up to £47,000**
- **Average UK Salary (2024): £37,430**

What the Work Involves:

- Designing and making dental appliances like crowns, bridges, and dentures.
- Using materials such as metal, ceramics, and plastics.
- Working from dentists' impressions and digital scans.
- Repairing or modifying existing dental devices.
- Specialising in areas like orthodontics, prosthetics, or maxillofacial work.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

With experience, you could become a **Senior Dental Technician, Clinical Dental Technician** (with additional training), or move into **teaching, research, or management**. You could also specialise in **digital dental design** or work in **hospital-based maxillofacial departments**

Typical weekly hours – 39 to 42 hours per week.

Typically, between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Related Opportunities:

- **Dental Hygienist**
- **Orthodontic Technician**
- **Clinical Dental Technician**
- **Maxillofacial Prosthetist**

Further Information:

- [National Careers Service – Dental Technician](#)
- [Careerpilot – Dental Technician](#)