

# DIPLOMA IN DENTAL HYGIENE

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## Programme Learning Outcomes

Programme Learning Outcomes for the Diploma in Dental Hygiene (NFQ Level 7, Special Purpose Award)

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding of the basic anatomical and biological and clinical sciences and recognise the difference between normal and pathological structures;
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the normal physiological functions and differentiate between conditions/disorders relevant to clinical dental hygiene practice;
- Obtain and record a complete history and examination of the patient's medical and oral state, interpreting the findings in order to evaluate oral and periodontal conditions;
- Apply current concepts of prevention and treatment of oral disease that support the maintenance of oral health;
- Promote and improve the oral health of individuals and the community;
- Display an appropriate caring behaviour towards patients and appropriate professional behaviour towards all members of the dental team;
- Demonstrate understanding of relevant research methodologies and be able to carry out a comprehensive literature search of a topic relevant to dental hygiene;
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the ethical and legal responsibilities involved in the provision of care to individual patients and the community;
- Communicate effectively with patients, their families, relatives and carers, and with other health professionals involved in their care.