



**Joint statement from Health Education England (HEE), Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA), and the Dental Schools Council (DSC)**

**19 April 2021**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on undergraduate dental students, it is anticipated that a small proportion of UK dental students will be unable to graduate as originally scheduled this year. All final year students should expect to be contacted with information about their graduation by their dental school.

HEE, HEIW and NIMDTA along with the DSC are committed to supporting all dental students to progress from UK dental schools to Dental Foundation Training (DFT) where possible, as the only route UK trained graduates can access the NHS Performers List.

This statement sets out the nationwide approach to fairly accommodate those applicants who do not graduate in time to commence DFT in September 2021. It is intended that a second intake would be introduced to DFT recruitment this year, to start in early 2022. Ensuring dental students are not unfairly disadvantaged has been paramount when adapting the DFT recruitment process this year.

The preferencing and offering process for eligible applicants will be conducted in two stages:

- Stage 1 (for September 2021 commencement)
  - o All applicants will be asked to preference and if eligible and have graduated, receive an offer via Oriel.
- Stage 2 (for early 2022 commencement)
  - o Remaining applicants who have been *unable* to graduate in the summer will be asked to preference again and if eligible receive an offer via Oriel. An applicant's chance of receiving a DFT place if eligible will not decrease by being included in this stage. Inevitably however, given that the number of places needed for Stage 2 will be small in comparison to Stage 1, this will mean that there will be a smaller pool of places available for preferencing. Nevertheless, we will make all efforts to ensure a range of geographical areas is covered.

There will be no change in the recruitment process for non-UK graduates. As in previous years, they will be offered posts once the UK graduate list has been exhausted. This principle will apply at both stages.

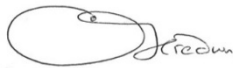
The DSC is working with all English, Northern Irish and Welsh dental schools to assess which students will be in a position to graduate. The students' graduation date will be the sole determining factor when assigning students to the appropriate stage.

HEE, NIMDTA and HEIW recruitment offices will submit scheme numbers to the DFT national recruitment office to support the appropriate number of posts using the likely number of graduates from DSC for both stages of the process.

Whilst we understand there continues to be a lot of uncertainty and disruption for dental students at this time, our aim is to support as many students as possible to graduate and begin DFT in September 2021. However, for those who are not in a position to graduate in the summer, we hope that the staged preferencing and offering approach will minimise the risk of disadvantage.

We firmly commit to keeping dental students informed and when timelines have been agreed these will be communicated to all applicants.

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



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