University of Sheffield | School of Clinical Dentistry

Clinical student entry agreement

This agreement is designed to help you flourish as a student by promoting the high standards of behaviour that are required of a Dental Professional.

As a clinical student, you will work directly with patients. It is therefore important that you understand and follow the requirements of:

- **The General Dental Council's Standards for the Dental Team:** The standards of conduct, performance and ethics expected of all Dental Professionals.
- **The General Dental Council's Student Professionalism and Fitness to Practise - What you Need to Know**: An introduction to professional behaviour amongst students.
- **The NHS Constitution:** The core principles and values expected to treat patients under the NHS.

You can find these documents on our online prospectus.

The University is also committed to creating a community in which every student engages positively and treats others with respect. It is therefore important that you understand and follow the requirements of:

- **The Student Code of Conduct:** This sets out clear expectations around student conduct.

Before accepting an offer to study, you must be aware of the guidelines listed above and read our School's expectations below. You will be asked to sign up to this agreement, which should **guide you throughout your programme**.

We want to help you succeed with this agreement. Our goal is to support you in achieving professional excellence. If you have any questions or concerns, please just let us know.

Dental School expectations

a) Putting patients first

1. I will always put patients' needs first, respect their views, treat them politely, considerately and with compassion, and respect their privacy, dignity and right to refuse to take part in my learning.

2. I will not allow my personal assumptions, biases or prejudices affect my interactions with patients or their families, staff or my peers.

3. I will treat all patients regardless of their background or personal characteristics and contribute positively to the communities I work within.

4. Before starting any treatment, I will obtain valid consent from the patient and ensure they know I am a student.

5. I will not abuse the trust of a patient or other vulnerable person. I will maintain professional boundaries with patients and staff and will not enter into unprofessional relationships.

6. I will be honest and trustworthy in my dealings with patients and their families, staff and my peers.

7. I will maintain patient confidentiality. Outside the clinical setting, I will only discuss patients if the information is anonymous.

8. I will maintain and protect patients' data. I will only access patient data if it is necessary for a patient's treatment or for my educational needs.

9. I will ensure all the information I provide is truthful and accurate, including patient records, clinical feedback, and attendance records.

10. I will follow all relevant policies on posting or sharing content online, including social media. I will not post or share patient-identifiable information or personal or derogatory comments about patients, staff or my peers. I will not interact with any patients online.

b) Commitment to quality of care

11. I will maintain appropriate standards of dress, appearance and personal hygiene.

12. I will not cover my face when interacting with patients, staff and my peers in all clinical teaching settings, including all placements.

13. I will follow all relevant policies for infection control and dress code, including following any "bare below the elbow" policy.

14. I will raise a concern if I think a patient is at risk.

15. I will work collaboratively and communicate effectively with patients, staff and my peers.

16. I will make sure my personal behaviour maintains patients' confidence in me and the dental profession.

17. I will make sure my clinical work supports sustainability goals.

18. Where appropriate, I will provide effective leadership to my peers.

c) Commitment to my training

19. I confirm that my application to the Dental School was truthful and complete. If the School discovers I have been untruthful or left out important information, it has the right to withdraw an offer or exclude me from the programme.

20. Before I register and throughout my studies, I will seek advice from the Dental School if I am the subject of any fitness to practise investigation by any healthcare regulator and will inform the Dental School if I am the subject of any fitness to practise outcome by any healthcare regulator.

21. Before I register and throughout my studies, I will seek advice from the Dental School if I am the subject of any police investigation and will inform the Dental School if I am arrested, charged, convicted, cautioned or similar in relation to any criminal offence.

22. Before I register, I will inform the Dental School if I have been excluded from any other institution which educates healthcare professionals.

23. I will fully engage with my Occupational Health clearance and Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) check at the start of the course, including attending all appointments and supplying all necessary information. I understand that I must achieve a satisfactory Occupational Health clearance and DBS check to study.

24. I will inform the Dental School immediately if there is any significant change to my health that might affect my clinical studies.

25. I understand I may be asked to practise clinical procedures on my peers and allow them to practise on me.

26. I will attend and engage with all teaching events. I understand I may be required to work outside normal working hours, including evenings or weekends.

27. I will approach all assessments in a way that is honest and fair. I will not attempt to gain an unfair advantage in any assessment or undermine academic integrity.

28. If I am faced with a conflict of interest, I will declare it immediately and be prepared to step aside from the situation.

29. I will not give any applicant to the University an unfair advantage by sharing admissions information or help, whether for money or not, which is not readily available to everyone.

30. I will reflect on my learning, respond positively to feedback, and take responsibility for my development.

31. I will monitor my wellbeing, use strategies to support it, and access help if needed.

32. I will effectively manage my time and resources, meet deadlines, respond to requests for information, and be punctual.

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