University of Sheffield | School of Clinical Dentistry

Clinical Student Entry Agreement

All students studying for a clinical qualification will be exposed to all aspects of the clinical environment. It is therefore essential that such students are fully aware of and fulfil the requirements of the General Dental Council's **Standards for the Dental Team.** These standards outline the essential conduct, behaviour, ethics and professionalism expected of all Dental Professionals, including students.

All clinical students should also be aware of the requirements of the General Dental Council as published in **Student Professionalism and Fitness to Practise – What You Need to Know**, which outlines and promotes a positive approach to professional behaviour amongst students.

Our patients are treated as part of an NHS service. As such, all students must adhere to the principles and values contained within **The NHS Constitution.**

The full text of these documents can be found online on our clinical requirements webpage.

Before accepting an offer of a place to study at the University of Sheffield, we want you to be aware of the GDC guidelines and the NHS Constitution and to have read the School's expectations below. We will ask you to sign up to these expectations, to guide you as you follow your clinical programme. If you require clarification on any of our expectations, please contact us.

Dental School Expectations

a) Putting Patients First

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

2. I will not allow my views about lifestyle, culture, beliefs, race, colour, gender, sexuality, age, social status, disability, disease or perceived economic worth to prejudice my interaction with patients, their families, teachers or colleagues.

3. I will not abuse the trust of a patient or other vulnerable person, and I will not enter into unprofessional relationships.

4. I will treat patients irrespective of their lifestyle, culture, beliefs, race, colour, gender, sexuality, age, social status, disability, disease or perceived economic worth. I will have a chaperone present when appropriate. Before undertaking any treatment, I will obtain permission from the patient to do so.

5. I will be honest in my dealings with patients, their families, teachers and colleagues. I will also make clear to others that I am a student.

6. I understand, accept and agree to be bound by the principle of confidentiality of patient records and patient data. I will not discuss patients with other students or others outside the clinical setting except anonymously. I will respect all clinical and other records of patients.

7. I will not access any hospital patient data or information other than is required for the direct care of a patient I am treating, or as part of my educational needs.

8. I will not falsify any information, e.g. Dental School clinical feedback books, hospital patient records or attendance registers.

9. I will not post patient information or informal, personal or derogatory comments about patients or colleagues online or on social media. I will not initiate contact with patients online, but if interactions do occur with patients online, I will conduct myself in accordance with professional ethical guidelines.

b) Commitment to Quality of Care

10. I will maintain appropriate standards of dress, appearance and personal hygiene so as not to disquiet patients, teachers or colleagues.

11. I will not cover my face when interacting with patients, teachers and colleagues in all clinical teaching settings, whether on University, NHS or other sites.

12. I will adhere to NHS policies for infection control and dress, including complying with the "bare below the elbow" policy.

13. I will raise any concern that might put a patient at risk, even if I am not in a position to control or influence the outcome.

14. I will work and communicate effectively with all members of the dental team.

c) Commitment to my Training

15. As part of my training, I will undertake clinical procedures on my colleagues and allow them to reciprocate (e.g. take impressions or scale and polish).

16. I will attend classes and other teaching sessions as required by the regulations of the relevant programme. I will work outside normal working hours, including evenings or weekends as required of me.

17. I will uphold academic integrity and will not enter into academic misconduct to gain an advantage in any form of assessment, including plagiarism.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. I will attend my Occupational Health appointment at the start of the course and any follow-up appointments, and provide any authenticated reports of laboratory tests as may be required.

21. I will inform the Dental School if there is any significant change to my health that might affect my fitness to practise.

22. I confirm that I have been truthful in my application to the Dental School, and that I did not omit any relevant information on my application. I understand that if the Dental School discovers that I have been untruthful in my application, it reserves the right to withdraw an offer or terminate the course of study.

23. If I am faced with a conflict of interest, I will be open about the conflict, declaring my interest formally, and be prepared to exclude myself from conflicted processes. This might include, for example, sharing with potential applicants, for financial gain or otherwise, information or assistance that is perceived to give an applicant an advantage over others who may not have the opportunity or means to engage with this service. This would be considered as unfair, inappropriate and discriminatory practice; that is against the core ethical values of the Dental School and the professions that it represents.

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