



**University Dental Hospital of Manchester  
The School for Dental Care Professionals**

**Orthodontic Therapy Course  
Fact Sheet**

**Overview**

The Manchester Orthodontic Therapy programme is delivered over one year and designed to train Dental Care Professionals (DCPs) as Orthodontic Therapists. Successful completion of the programme will allow the student to sit the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Diploma Examination in Orthodontic Therapy. Attainment of this qualification allows registration with the General Dental Council (GDC) as a qualified Orthodontic Therapist, who is then permitted to work under the supervision and guidance of a Specialist Orthodontist.

**Format, content and final examination of the course**

The course will be held at The University Dental Hospital of Manchester and is led by the course directors, Mr. Richard Needham and Miss. Saskia Schwabe. The programme curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of the GDC Safe Practitioner Framework for Orthodontic Therapists, ensuring that students develop the necessary skills and knowledge.

A variety of guest speakers will deliver a mix of seminars and lectures to cover the theoretical aspects of the curriculum. Typodont practical exercises will be undertaken, allowing students to develop the necessary clinical skills to perform orthodontic procedures as a student Orthodontic Therapist, under the close supervision of their workplace trainer. Qualified Orthodontic Therapists will also contribute to the teaching, by sharing their expertise and experiences. They will serve as mentors, providing additional support to students as required.

The course is delivered over 11 months, with a one-week induction programme in June, followed by a three-week core teaching programme in August. Additionally, trainees will attend a monthly study day for the duration of the course, to build on existing knowledge and develop exam technique, to prepare them for the final examinations.

All clinical practice will take place in the student's clinical working environment under their trainer's supervision (please see trainer application form). The trainer **must** be registered as a Specialist Orthodontist with the GDC.

After successful completion of the programme, including satisfactory workplace reports and completion of end-term assessments, students will then be eligible to sit the Royal College of Surgeons examination. The final examination is designed to assess the trainee's competence to fulfil the role of a qualified Orthodontic Therapist. This will consist of written and structured oral examinations.

## Applications for the course

The Orthodontic Therapy student must be registered as a Dental Care Professional with the GDC and have attained at least one year of full-time, or equivalent, post-qualification experience.

Students will need to work exclusively in an orthodontic practice with adequate timetabled clinical activity, to achieve the requisite competencies.

The recognised Dental Care Professional Roles eligible for application include:

- Dental Nurses
- Dental Hygienists
- Dental Therapists
- Dental Technicians\*

*\*Dental Technician applicants should demonstrate prior learning and knowledge of clinical dental sciences, patient management and clinical protocols, including cross infection*

## Enhanced DBS checks

The course will involve management and treatment of children and/or vulnerable adults. The student will be required to obtain a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance (EDBS) certificate prior to the start of the programme.

## Indemnity

The student will be required to obtain appropriate professional indemnity throughout their period of training. It is the trainer's responsibility to ensure this is implemented.

## Cost of course and allocation of placements

- The cost of the course is £13,500 and is non-refundable (pre-payment plans can be arranged).
- An initial, non-refundable deposit of £1,000 is required once an applicant has accepted a place on the programme. This is payable within 5 working days, to secure their place.
- A maximum of 10 places are available each year.
- Selection of students is based on the application form, as well as a structured, online interview
- Trainers of benchmarked applicants, will be contacted for an informal interview, prior to confirmation of the trainee's place on the programme.
- Admission to the course is by competitive entry only.

## Further information/enquiries /how to apply

If you would like to discuss the programme, please contact Kareline Bull, Dental Education Manager, via: **Email:** [kareline.bull2@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:kareline.bull2@mft.nhs.uk), **Telephone:** 0161 272 5671, or **Scan** the QR code below to register your interest.

The applications for the 2026 Orthodontic Therapy Programme will open **1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**. Interviews will take place from the first week of November 2025 onwards.

Expression of Interest Form.

