

# Dental Officer

*Practise dentistry at one of our bases in the UK or overseas and have the opportunity to support our service personnel whilst on exercises or on operations.*

As a Dental Officer, you will provide a high standard of dental care to RAF personnel. Depending on your duty Station this could range from providing dental care to recruits undertaking basic training through to fast jet pilots at front line flying units. All RAF personnel are entitled to receive free dental care to ensure that they are fit for military service. At the core of this care programme is a preventative philosophy that gives high priority to dental screening and regular dental inspections. RAF dentists carry out a full range of treatment in an environment which encourages and values high quality care. Older patients, for example, may present with complicated dental problems, requiring advanced clinical solutions. Younger personnel, on the other hand, may present with problems such as impacted third molars.

Like all RAF service personnel, you are required to be flexible as to where you work. You will be expected to move location every few years, the average tour length being 3 years. It is likely that you will be based in a Dental Centre on an RAF Station within the UK, supported by both uniformed and civilian staff. Depending on the size of your patient base, you may be the only dentist, or you may work in a multi-chair practice with other clinicians. During your service career there is the possibility to be assigned overseas. This could mean working on one of our overseas bases, carrying out routine dentistry for service personnel and their families, or providing primary dental care in the field on operations. Whether you are working in a practice or under canvas, you will have all the facilities, training, equipment and support that you need.

## Initial Officer Training

Like all specialist branch officers, you will begin your RAF career by undertaking initial officer training on the Specialist Officer Initial Training Course (SOITC) at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will follow a 12-week programme specially designed for professionally qualified entrants to the RAF. Your initial officer training will focus on developing your Command, Leadership and Management skills, as well as improving your general service knowledge, physical fitness and providing initial training in force protection. Reserve Dental Officers will undertake their own initial officer training course (Reserve Officer Initial Training).

## Foundation Training

The RAF Dental Branch only recruits GDC registered qualified dentists who have already undertaken, or are undertaking, their General Professional Training post-graduation. Foundation Training is not currently offered within the RAF.

## First Tour

For your first tour, you will be posted to a multi-chair practice to work with an experienced dentist where you will be mentored and supported to practise dentistry to the highest standards. Comprehensive clinical governance, including quality assurance and practice audit, are built into RAF working practices. Once you have gained experience of working within the Dental Branch you will have clinical freedom to give your patients the best possible care, whilst maximising RAF resources.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Dental Officer

**Minimum Age:** When completed professional/education qualifications.

**Maximum Age:** 53  
Must have entered SOITC by 54<sup>th</sup> birthday

#### Qualifications:

You must be qualified to practise dentistry and be fully registered with the General Dental Council of the United Kingdom. Must have completed Foundation Dental Training or equivalent.

You should also have GCSEs at a minimum of Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) or equivalent in English Language and Mathematics or Scottish National 5 (Grades A-C) in English Language and Mathematics.

#### Residency:

Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

## Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant on an Initial Commission of 6 years and you will be eligible to be considered for promotion to Squadron Leader after 4 years accredited service (time spent in civilian practice may count towards seniority). Further promotion, to the rank of Wing Commander and beyond, is by competitive selection. You may apply for your engagement to be extended until the age of 60.

## Ongoing Development

All of our Dental Officers are encouraged to take up to 5 days of postgraduate education each year. You will be encouraged to study for the Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties (MJDF) qualification. As your career develops you may be selected to work towards further postgraduate qualifications, e.g. Masters Degrees, and then be appointed as an enhanced general practitioner in disciplines such as periodontology or advanced conservation. Professional training pathways leading to consultant status are also funded by the Ministry of Defence to meet our clinical and manning requirements.

## Adventure Training and Sport Opportunities

Taking part in Adventure Training and sport is an important part of Service life. Like all RAF personnel you will be expected to remain physically fit and will be given the opportunity to undertake regular physical activity.

## Transferable skills

As a Dental Officer in the RAF, you will have all the development opportunities and career prospects available to your civilian counterparts, together with the chance to work around the world and gain unique dental and personal experiences. Some Dental Officers pursue a full career within the RAF whereas others will leave at the end of their 6-year or 20-year commissions and go on to work in civilian practice where the skills they have learned within the military are highly valued.

## Find Out More

The Medical, Dental and Physiotherapist Specialist Recruitment Team (MDRT) give 'find out more' presentations at certain times during the year, covering all aspects of the RAF Medical Services and the selection process. You should contact the MDRT directly on 01400 266811 or Email: [CRN-RecruitSelect-MDLT-Grp@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CRN-RecruitSelect-MDLT-Grp@mod.gov.uk) for their programme dates and to book your place on a presentation.

### Nationality:

You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

### Pay:

For current information visit: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/dental-officer>

### Selection:

You must pass a specialist interview where your professional suitability will be assessed. You will then be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

### A Modern Force:

The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.

### To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/dental-officer>

or

Telephone:

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 05 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

Search online for other branches both Regular and Reserve  
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**