



BDA Executive Update 29.06.13

DFT process survey paints mixed picture

Although many aspects of the applications process for dental foundation training places are being handled well, some could still be improved according to a BDA survey of this year's final year dental students. The survey found that, despite much positive feedback, many applicants did have concerns about their experience.

More than a third said they did not find the application form easy to complete, with just under a third reporting that they did not feel well informed about the process before beginning their application. More than half felt they lacked sufficient information to choose which scheme to apply for.

The [report](#) has been published ahead of the second round of allocations for places for this year's schemes, which begins in the first week of July. The BDA is [reminding candidates](#) to check their email accounts regularly during this period.

The BDA continues to [campaign](#) for an adequate number of places to be provided in order that every graduate from a UK institution can be guaranteed a place. The petition in support of this call, founded by Young Dentists Committee Chair Dr Martin Nimmo, remains available for concerned parties to [sign](#).

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Hospital juniors contract draft Heads of Terms published

The first step towards a new contract for junior hospital dentists and doctors has been taken with the agreement of draft Heads of Terms. The draft will now be considered by NHS Employers and the BMA. The Heads of Terms sets out the scope of discussions and its publication follows exploratory talks. The BMA is leading negotiations on behalf of junior doctors and dentists, with British Dental Association (BDA) representatives feeding members' views into the process via a steering group that guides negotiators.

Parallel talks that may lead to new contractual arrangements for hospital consultants are also taking place, although as of 24 June 2013 those discussions had not reached the stage of agreeing draft Heads of Terms.

Further details of both sets of talks and how hospital dentists might be affected by them are available on a dedicated page on the [BDA website](#).

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Oral medicine seminar

Seventy-seven delegates attended the 'Oral medicine' seminar held on Friday 28 June. The day saw presentations from Mike Lewis from Cardiff University, and Mike Pemberton from University Dental Hospital of Manchester, focusing on issues such as dry mouth, oral ulceration, orofacial disease and viral infections. The day was supported by Komet Dental/West One Dental who exhibited at the event.

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Oral health care for children

On Friday 21 June, the first of a two-date seminar 'Oral health care for children' took place in Leeds. The event attracted 45 delegates and the speakers Monty Duggal and Stephen Fayle, both from Leeds Dental Institute, were well received by the audience. The second date of the seminar will be Friday 27 September at BDA in London.

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Training essentials

On Friday 28 June the one-day training course, 'Oral cancer: the dental team's responsibility' took place in London attracting 30 delegates from the whole dental team. Saman Warnakulasuriya and Richard Cook helped define the dental team's duty of care, offering information and advice on how to manage oral cancer and pre-cancer effectively and sensitively.

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