

Dental technician

Oral Health

What is a dental technician?

Dental technicians construct and repair dentures (false teeth) and other dental appliances including crowns and bridges, maxillofacial prosthetic appliances and mouthguards. Dental technicians work in dental laboratories on their own or in small work groups. Dental technicians work closely with dentists and dental prosthetists.

Is this you?

- good communication skills
- good hand-eye coordination
- able to do precise and detailed work
- an eye for form and design.

“Dental technology is a career in which you can really make a difference to someone’s health, self-esteem, and social prospects. Being a technical trade, there is also a lot of opportunity for creativity in craftsmanship, and the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technologies.”

Kim Ersser, dental technician

What does a dental technician do?

Dental technicians may:

- Construct plaster and wax models from impressions taken of the patient’s mouth/teeth
- Use the models to construct dental appliances such as mouthguards, dentures or crowns using a range of materials
- Polish and finish dental appliances with a high degree of attention to detail
- Use a wide range of techniques including plaster casting, electrospot welding, metal casting, metal polishing, wax modelling, ceramics, wire bending, electroplating and sandblasting
- Use computer-aided design and manufacturing technology in the construction of dental appliances
- Assist in the achievement of patient goals in relation to improved breathing and nutrition, increased confidence and social prospects, and improved general health.

Where can dental technicians work in Queensland Health?

Queensland Health Oral Health Services offer differing work environments including clinics, hospitals and laboratories. Outreach services are also provided to correctional centres and aged care facilities. Queensland Health encourages contemporary minimally invasive dentistry.

How do you become a dental technician?

To become a dental technician you will need to complete a diploma or degree in dental technology. Entry to the courses below usually requires completion of Year 12. As requirements may vary, you should contact each institution for further details.

Diploma course

Southbank Institute of Technology

- Diploma of Dental Technology, 3 semesters full- time

Degree course

Griffith University – Gold Coast Campus

- Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology, 3 years full-time

Registration

Dental Technicians are not required to be registered.

Interested in other oral health careers?

Visit the Queensland Health website www.health.qld.gov.au and search for Dental to find more career factsheets:

- Dental prosthetist
- Dentist
- Dental assistant
- Oral health therapist.

Where can I find out more info?

Griffith University

- Phone: (07) 5678 0793
- Website: www.griffith.edu.au/health/school-dentistry-oral-health

Southbank Institute of TAFE

- Phone: 13 72 48
- Website: www.southbank.edu.au

The QTAC website has a list of universities and tertiary institutions with links to universities and courses offered. Go to www.qtac.edu.au and select Institutions.

To find out more about the exciting career opportunities in Queensland Health visit www.health.qld.gov.au.