

# A Career in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology in the Midlands & East



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# What is Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology?

This specialised field of diagnostic histopathology deals with diseases not just of the mouth and jaws but also, nose, throat and neck. The exact type of work undertaken depends on the balance of interest and skills of the pathologist with a range of clinical, teaching, research and management duties all being possible.

## Why choose this specialty?

- Chose this specialty if you find satisfaction in the more academic aspects of medicine/dentistry instead of patient contact.
- It is highly diverse in nature and allows for the combination of clinical work with academia and or management.
- Although you must be a team player, if you are good at and enjoy working on your own, this specialty allows for a high degree of autonomy.
- OMFP is a good specialty for flexible or part time working.

# Future challenges

# Typical Day

## A day in the life...

Daily clinical work generally involves dissection of surgical specimens and the diagnosis of disease by microscopic examination. An oral and maxillofacial pathologist regularly provides advice on diagnosis and treatment and participate in clinico-pathological case conferences and Multidisciplinary Team Meetings.

Pathologists with teaching commitments, and those with a PhD and research interests, are mainly associated with Dental Schools. The subjects taught and researched by such pathologists are among the more academic disciplines such as fundamental science, pathology, microbiology, human disease, oral medicine and pathology, radiology or surgery.

## Personal Qualities for this career

- Excellent communication skills –
- Good interpersonal skills –
- Leadership –
- Resilience –
- Practical skills –
- Life long learner –
- In line with all specialities, trainees need to be **reliable, self-motivated, punctual , flexible and good team players**

## Personal Qualities for this career

Decisions, such as whether a patient should have major surgery or not, are based on the pathologist's diagnosis and advice.

To work at the highest of standards, the pathologist must have:

- extensive breadth and depth of knowledge, not just in histopathology, but also in clinical and surgical practice.
- an inquisitive mind, self-motivation and a meticulous approach
- the aptitude for visual pattern recognition and attention to detail
- manual dexterity and accurate hand eye coordination
- ability to problem solve and make decisions in a high-pressure environment
- skills to work independently, communicate effectively and work in a team
- excellent organisational and time management skills



# Training Pathway

To apply for a specialist training post in OMFP you need to:

- Complete one year of dental foundation training
- Complete at least one year in dental core training or equivalent in a secondary care setting.
- Obtain an MFDS or MJDF

Training in OMFP is divided in three main stages. In years 1 – 3, training will cover both oral and maxillofacial pathology and at least one year of general histopathology. A further 2 - 3 years will then be spent in more advanced specialty training in the full range of oral and maxillofacial and relevant head and neck pathology.

To complete training, you will be required to pass two exams:

- FRCPATH Part 1 – this aims to determine whether you have successfully acquired a core body of knowledge that will underpin your ability to practice in histopathology.
- FRCPATH part 2 – this exam is designed to test your practical skills and understanding, and shows that you can apply your expertise appropriately and safely.

## Training pathway

The Oral and Maxillofacial training curriculum can be found here:

<https://www.gdc-uk.org/professionals/specialist-lists>

# Requirements During Training

- Work place based assessments (supervised learning events)
- E Portfolio
- Life support courses; PLS, APLS
- Audit
- Presentations
- Publications
- Safeguarding courses
- Teaching
- Managerial experience
- Annual review of competence progression (ARCP)

# Recruitment

There is now an annual national recruitment process for entry into OMFP

## Recruitment

- ST3-4 applications open in February with interviews in April/May. These are held in the RCGP, Euston.
- All shortlisted applicants are invited to interview.
- Successful candidates commence on the training programme in September in the West Midlands.

# Competition Ratios

## Insert Competition Ratios

This figure will vary but is usually in the region of 5:1

## Why train in the M&E?

- Largest regions in the country
- Diverse area resulting in wide range of pathology.
- Mix of smaller DGHs, large teaching hospitals and tertiary units ensures broad training and excellent opportunities.



## Demonstrating commitment to Specialty

- Top tips
  - Arrange experience in a histopathology department beyond that of just simple observership
  - Complete a dental core training post in oral pathology
  - Take part in the annual BSOMP conference before applying for a specialist training post
  - If possible gain experience in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as a core trainee too – this experience is very useful to be able to correlate clinical and pathological findings as well as understanding the roles of other members of the head and neck teams that you will be working with.



## Where to go for more information...

- [NHS health careers](#)
- <https://www.bsomp.org.uk>
- <https://www.rcpath.org/trainees/examinations/examinations-by-specialty/oral-pathology.html>