

**Higher Certificate in Science in Dental Nursing LY816**

Dear Student,

Congratulations on being offered a place on our two -year Higher Certificate in Dental Nursing. This programme offers you the opportunity to learn and develop new skills to seek employment in the dental health area. The programme involves three work placements: two of six weeks and one of 12 weeks duration. These work placements are critical as they put into practice all that the student has learned in the classroom. The Dental Council of Ireland, whom you will be registered with on completion of this course, has oversight of the placements and as such students will be expected to take a variety of placements to ensure that they get exposure to the workings of a dental environment. As a result, students **will be required to engage in placements outside the Donegal and North West region** which will be sourced by you in conjunction with our dental team. Students will be responsible for sourcing and paying for both accommodation and travel to these placements.

**It is essential that when seeking accommodation, you should do so on the basis that you will have a placement to complete each semester, and this may be outside the Donegal region.**

Whilst on placement students will be expected to wear official uniforms. During Induction our dental staff will organise fitting of uniforms for all students. Each student is expected to have two uniforms for placement purposes. The total cost of the two uniforms will be approximately **€85** which will be incurred by the student and should be paid at induction. These two uniforms should last you for the duration of your course of study at LYIT.

As per the Irish Dental Council Code of Practice relating to Infection Prevention and Control "All staff who are at risk through contact with blood and/or body fluids should be immunised against HBV". As such **Dental Nursing students are required to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B**. This vaccine needs to be administered in four stages. This vaccination will be arranged for students through the Student Health Centre on campus. Students will start their vaccinations immediately and this must be completed prior to progressing to placement. Further information regarding vaccination will be provided at Induction. Students are required to provide written evidence of achieving a sufficient Antibody titre following vaccination and prior to progressing to placement. Students who do not provide this information will not be allowed to progress on to work placement. The cost of the vaccination programme is approximately **€25 per vaccine** and will be incurred by the student.

As part of your programme of study you will take both theory and practical classes. Practical classes are an essential part of your programme of study as they put into practice much of the theory you have been taught in class. Employers expect and require graduates to have up-to-date practical skills. As a Department we place considerable emphasis on this aspect of our programmes of study. Laboratory manuals outlining laboratory procedures for the various practical's will be available for new incoming students in September. Each student must have a copy of the practical manual for those modules which incorporate practical work. Students are required to have protective clothing when working in the science labs. All students will be required to purchase a lab coat which costs **€50** and is available to purchase from the LYIT Student Union shop.

Further information on all aspects of the programme will be provided at induction.

**DEPARTMENT OF LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

COVID-19 remains part of our lives and measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are a feature of campus life. In line with Government Guidelines LYIT have place a range of measures to protect both students and staff. For your safety and that of your fellow students and Institute staff, please adhere to all guidelines relating to COVID-19 measures which are in place across the Institute.

Once again congratulations on gaining a place on our Dental Nursing programme. Registration and Induction takes place on campus on Tuesday **21<sup>st</sup> September, and you are required to attend**. Please refer to [www.lyit.ie](http://www.lyit.ie) for information on the induction schedule.

I look forward to meeting you then.

Dr Kim McFadden  
Head of Department of Life and Physical Sciences