Dear student

We are very pleased to launch our new supportive guidance for you on student professionalism and fitness to practise to support you in your study. Here you can find information on what is means to be professional when you are training and why this is important for the patients you will provide care or treatment for. We hope you find them informative and helpful.

The guidance

The guidance is designed to help you understand:

- the professional values and skills you need once you qualify
- the standards you need to meet while you are studying and when you start work as a registered dental professional.
- what patients expect
- what professionalism is
- what student fitness to practise is
- the help and support that is available

We have developed some case studies that you can use to see what can happen in different scenarios. There is also a ‘Question and Answer’ section. We understand you are learning so the importance of how you respond when mistakes happen and the support and help available is explained.

List of supportive materials

- Introduction for students
- Full guidance for students
- Information for patients
- Student professionalism web resource

Who has produced these resources for you?

This information is produced by the General Dental Council. Our role is to protect patients and maintain public confidence in the dental profession and its regulation. We regulate dental professionals by:

- quality assuring education
- registering you and your colleagues
setting standards that dental professionals must meet
requiring dental professionals to keep their skills up to date
investigating allegations where a dental professional’s behaviour or conduct is called into question and where appropriate recommending actions or in very serious cases removing them from the register

Your contribution and feedback
In a range of surveys in 2015 we asked students what would be helpful in our new resources and also for comments on our first drafts. We received a good response and have taken on board your comments and suggestions. Your contributions have helped to shape our guidance and collection of case studies.

As future registrants your feedback is important to us, and we want to support you as you develop your professional values and skills in dentistry. We encourage you to keep telling us your views so that our communications and developments remain useful and relevant. You can get in touch by emailing QualityAssurance@gdc-uk.org

We hope that you find the new and improved material useful and wish you the very best in your studies.

The Education Team
General Dental Council