

Sheena Vyas

Specialist Oral Surgeon/SAS Grade

I graduated from the University of Manchester in 2009 and began my dental foundation training in Oxford. My vocational trainer shared my keen interest in oral surgery and encouraged me to improve my skills by assisting me with surgical cases during my weekly tutorials. I then spent a year as a dental foundation trainee in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and John Radcliffe Hospital – a major trauma centre.

In 2011, I unexpectedly found myself back in general dental practice after the clinical fellow post I was due to commence was withdrawn due to a problem with Trust funding. I worked as a general dental practitioner in Essex and Suffolk, which enabled me to build on my communication skills and knowledge of NHS dentistry and the UDA system. I then moved to Melbourne, Australia where I had the opportunity to travel and continued to work as an independent general dentist.

After returning to the UK, I accepted a post as a dental core trainee in Essex and my experience solidified my desire to pursue a career in oral surgery. Following this position, I was appointed as a specialty doctor at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and was fortunate to be working in an environment and with colleagues that were supportive of training and development. In 2016, I accepted an oral surgery specialist trainee post with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. My time as a speciality doctor had helped me to increase my confidence in minor oral surgery and better my basic surgical skills and I was therefore able to use the training programme to focus on more complex cases, improve my diagnostic and treatment planning skills, manage patients requiring multidisciplinary care and develop my leadership and management skills- this was complemented by NHS senior leadership training and an MSc in Healthcare Management.

Having completed my training, I now live in Buckinghamshire with my husband and work as a specialist oral surgeon in primary and secondary care.

The specialty training programme and my supportive network have been invaluable in my continued development as a professional.