Dental Technology at RMIT
Dental technicians work behind the scenes using impressions taken by a dentist or dental prosthetist. They manufacture a range of appliances including full and partial dentures, crowns, bridges and orthodontic appliances.

This National Training Package qualification provides you with the underpinning knowledge and practical skills required to safely and effectively perform the entry level roles and responsibilities of a dental technician. The program combines off-the-job training at RMIT and on-the-job training in the workplace.

Mode and duration
Three years (320 hours per year) via block release.

Career outlook
Dental technicians provide support to dental personnel in public hospitals, and public and private dental laboratories and clinics. Graduates will be able to undertake work at the technical level in the following four main areas of non-clinical dental technology: denture construction; cast partial denture fabrication; orthodontics; and crown and bridge.

Program features
Program structure
Year one
- Infection Control
- Dental Anatomy
- Preparation dental practical work, including model construction (plaster models, denture repairs) and mouth guards

Year two
- Full and partial dentures
- Orthodontics

Year three
- Crown and bridge work including ceramics

Year four
- On the job training, refining skills

A full list of courses offered within this program is available at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/c5206

Professional recognition
This program is recognised by the Dental Prosthetists Association of Victoria (www.adpavic.com.au) and the Australian Commercial Dental Laboratories Association (www.acdla.org.au).

Entrance requirements
Students must be employed and registered as an apprentice dental technician under a Training Agreement in either a public or private dental laboratory.

It is also recommended (in accordance with stated industry criteria) that students demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills equivalent to successful completion of Year 12 VCE English and Year 11 VCE Mathematics, or equivalent; oral communication skills in the English language sufficient to ensure they can accurately provide, interpret and respond to simple and routine instructions; and perform basic functions on a computer.

Applicants without this background may be directed to bridging or supplementary programs to acquire the necessary competencies.

Application procedures
Applicants must apply directly to the School of Life and Physical Sciences.

Fees
Students pay for a State Government Subsidised Place (SGSP).

Note: The following fees relate to 2008 and should only be used as a guide. RMIT reserves the right to adjust fees on an annual basis. Further information is available at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/tafe

State Government Subsidised Place (SGSP)
The 2008 tuition fee for TAFE programs was $1.37 per contact hour with the minimum fee of $55 and a maximum fee of $877 per year. Students eligible for concession contributed a maximum of $55.

Fee Paying Place (FPP)
Selected TAFE programs are available on a fee paying basis. FPP students are required to pay the complete cost of their program. FPP fees vary according to each program. For details on program fees please contact the School of Life and Physical Sciences.