S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Dentist / dental therapist

Dentista / terapeuta dentál

Health & care · ISCO-08 2261 / 3251

Dentists and dental therapists look after teeth, gums and the mouth. They check, clean and fill teeth, take out teeth that cannot be saved, and teach people how to prevent tooth decay. When the national plan was written in 2011, Timor-Leste had seven dentists and 40 dental nurses.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No national course listed yet
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Priority** National plans: better dental care
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$292–320 / month** Averages for all professionals (US$292) and technicians and associate professionals (US$320) in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Examine: Look at teeth, gums and mouth for decay and disease; Take X-rays of the teeth; Plan the treatment and explain it to the patient.

Treat: Fill holes in teeth caused by decay; Take out teeth that cannot be saved; Clean teeth and remove hard deposits (scaling).

Prevent: Teach children and parents how to brush and clean teeth; Put fluoride on teeth to protect them; Visit schools and communities for mouth checks.

Run the clinic: Clean and sterilise instruments after each patient; Keep a record for each patient; Dental therapists send difficult cases to a dentist.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit groups 2261, Dentists, and 3251, Dental assistants and therapists.

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospitals (Most oral health workers work for the government in hospitals and health centres); Community health centres (Some offer dental services); Private dental clinics (Dentists also run private health facilities); Schools & communities (Oral health promotion).

You work indoors, close to the patient, with your hands. Some patients are afraid, so a calm and kind manner helps.

In 2009 about 40% of people had tooth decay. The 2011 plan said treating it was beyond what the dental workforce could do, so it would focus on prevention and on emergency dental care across the country. The current government programme plans more oral health promotion and better dental services.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Careful work with your hands, Biology, Good eyesight and steady hands, Putting people at ease, Keeping things very clean.

You like: Helping people feel better, Working with children, Precise work, Teaching about health.

Science subjects at secondary school help. Where to train in Timor-Leste: to confirm.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **No national certificate listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no dental course, and that list is incomplete.
- **Faculdade de Medicina e Ciências da Saúde, UNTL** · UNTL's health faculty. Whether it teaches dentistry: to confirm.
- **Training in hospitals** · The national and referral hospitals serve as training centres for all health professionals

Dental courses, their length and fees: to confirm with the Ministry of Health and the universities. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Dental assistant** · Prepares patients and instruments (ISCO 3251)
- **Dental therapist or dental nurse** · Cleans and fills teeth, teaches prevention; training to confirm
- **Dentist** · University degree (ISCO 2261); where in Timor: to confirm
- **Your own dental clinic** · Dentists run private clinics; Startups of Timor helps you start a business

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese dental workers for work abroad yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer from an Australian employer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit groups 2261 Dentists and 3251 Dental assistants and therapists https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
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3. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028 (18 Jul 2023), §2.2 health https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
4. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
5. UNTL faculties https://www.untl.edu.tl/estudo/faculdades/
6. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
7. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/dentist-dental-therapist/?lang=en