

## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	MSc in Dental Science for Clinical Practice
Name of interim award(s):	PG Certificate in Dental Science for Clinical Practice (60 credits) PG Diploma in Dental Science for Clinical Practice (120 credits)
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 calendar year, FT
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	Dentistry
QAA Benchmark Group:	Dentistry
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	Not applicable
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Institute of Dentistry

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

N/A

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

N/A

### Programme outline

This full-time, one-year MSc programme is open to dentists from countries outside of the United Kingdom who seek to enhance their clinical and professional skills, as well as to those from the UK who wish to deepen their knowledge and clinical expertise. The curriculum is designed to impart knowledge and skills relevant to practice in the United Kingdom and many other countries. As a student on our programme, you will acquire a deeper understanding of both basic and applied sciences while advancing your clinical skills through a series of practical, laboratory-based classes in a simulated dental setting, alongside clinical observations. You will also gain hands-on experience in undertaking dental procedures using typodont teeth set in a manikin head, where you will build upon your existing knowledge and skills through supervised clinical practice on dental manikins, treatment planning, and the completion of specified clinical procedures. Candidates will benefit from conducting clinical audits and presentations, which will assist them in their further studies, including MPhil and PhD programmes. Successful completion of the didactic, clinical, and research components of the MSc programme will prepare students for examinations leading to registration as a dentist in the UK.

### Aims of the programme

This programme aims to build upon the prior professional experience of overseas and UK dentists by enhancing their knowledge,

skills, and approaches within the field of dentistry. This MSc programme emphasizes and promotes the following key areas:

1. Basic sciences and their application to the dental clinical environment;
2. Enhancement of clinical skills;
3. A critical approach to evaluating relevant literature so as to be able to establish evidence-based practice in dentistry
4. A deeper understanding and relationship of audit to clinical governance and clinical effectiveness
5. The structure and features of health provision in the UK with particular regard to dentistry; and
6. Effective methods of health promotion and oral health promotion

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Students that successfully complete the programme will be able to:

1. Assess and manage oral and craniofacial hard and soft tissue diseases including referral as and when appropriate
2. Undertake the comprehensive clinical management of dental patients of any age including diagnosis, treatment planning surgical and non-surgical management and prevention of dental diseases
3. Manage medical and dental emergencies in line with guidance from the UK Resuscitation Council
4. Manage pain and anxiety in patients requiring dental treatment
5. Identify key transferable skills to aid them with their career goals and continuing professional development

### Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A 1	The application of basic medical and dental sciences to the clinical environment.
A 2	The principles of clinical dentistry.
A 3	The structure and features of health provision in the UK with particular regard to dentistry.
A 4	Effective methods of health promotion and oral health promotion.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Understand the role of professional and self-regulation.
B 2	Critically explore and evaluate scientific and clinical research in order to appraise the evidence base for current clinical practice.
B 3	Describe statistical methods, the principles of research governance and ethics and research methodology.
B 4	Develop management techniques and practices to ensure high standards of dental practice and optimum performance of team members.

Attributes:	
C 1	Extract and analyse information to identify problems and solutions and generate discussion on a broad range of issues.
C 2	Better appreciate the limits of skill sets and the point at which additional support is required.
C 3	Exercise sound clinical judgement around the selection and execution of appropriate operative techniques for all stages of planned treatment in conjunction, as necessary, with other specialists and technicians.
C 4	Communicate with patients, the public, members of the team and other professionals to ensure a holistic approach to the delivery of care.
C 5	Using laboratory skills assess and manage oral and craniofacial hard and soft tissue diseases to include referral as appropriate.
C 6	Using laboratory skills undertake the comprehensive clinical management of dental patients of any age including diagnosis, treatment planning surgical and non-surgical management and prevention of dental diseases.
C 7	Develop the ability to detect abnormalities in general, craniofacial or dento-alveolar development using laboratory skills.
C 8	Manage medical and dental emergencies in line with guidance from the UK Resuscitation Council.
C 9	Manage pain and anxiety in patients requiring dental treatment.

### How will you learn?

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be employed including:

- Lectures, seminars and workshops
- Clinical skills sessions in a laboratory using a dental manikin
- Clinical sessions observing patient treatments/management
- Self-Study
- Tutorials with those students needing additional guidance
- Clinical Case presentations
- Audit project presentation
- Group work
- Journal club
- Reflective practice and integration of learning
- E-Learning.

In order to achieve the programme learning outcomes students are expected to independently study and weekly self-directed study sessions are timetabled to allow students to prepare for scheduled sessions, follow-up work, wider reading, research and

revision.

Students attend a study skills session at the start of the MSc course to prepare them for Postgraduate study in the UK and academic writing sessions to support writing of their dissertation.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment strategies :

- Formative assessment - regular informal verbal feedback to individual students regarding their performance and achievement of the learning objectives.
- Summative assessment of each module: continual assessment, written papers, OSCE, clinical case presentation, literature review report and audit report and presentation.
- Competency-based Practical test on a typodont.

Assessment strategies support student learning and timely feedback is provided to students on assessed work by teachers.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The Masters course will be run over one year (Full time) and will comprise of six Level 7 credit modules.

The research component will be fulfilled by a structured literature review and clinical audit report.

The Fundamentals of Research Methods module is a module which is taught jointly with other taught postgraduate programmes in the Institute of Dentistry.

The remaining five modules are unique to the MSc in Dental Science for Clinical Practice and are listed below.

Students are required to read and critically review essential research papers and additional papers of relevance, as suggested by teachers.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Fundamentals of Research Methods	DIN7011	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Applied Principles of Clinical Dentistry	DIN7090	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Dental Clinical Skills	DIN7091	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Professionalism: Management & Leadership	DIN7092	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Dental Manikin Practical Skills	DIN7093	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dental Science Clinical Audit Project	DIN7094	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3

### What are the entry requirements?

- Upper Second Class (2.1) BDS degree or equivalent
- Minimum of 1 year relevant post-qualification experience
- An IELTS score of 7.0 is required including a minimum score of 6.0 in writing and a minimum score of 6.0 in either reading, listening or speaking. (A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is required at the point of submission in order for an application to be considered, but an IELTS score of 7.0 must be achieved before the course starts. Pre-sessional English course is available to improve the score by 0.5 if a conditional offer is given).

If you are offered a place on this course you will be required to undertake a DBS and an occupational health check.

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee (SVC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The SVC meet regularly throughout the year.

All lectures will have feedback documentation.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review (APR) of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery who work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

Students attend a course Induction at the start of the MSc.

Each student is assigned a primary and secondary supervisor for their literature review and clinical audit.

Students are taught and supervised by Consultants when they attend a Consultant Clinic.

The Institute of Dentistry's strategy for postgraduate student support and guidance is based on the principle of providing support through the Programme Lead. The Programme Lead will help you with academic and pastoral support. The small size of your postgraduate student group means that students can meet and talk informally with their Programme Lead easily.

Students will make formal appointments to meet their Programme Lead during the year, to receive termly feedback on their progress, but informal meetings at other times are also welcomed. The Programme Lead is there to provide positive pastoral and academic support.

## How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

The Institute of Dentistry will provide the following:

### Student Support

The Student Support Office (SSO) offers confidential, independent, and non-judgmental advice on personal, academic, and financial matters, including university procedures and student funding. The SSO is committed to ensuring students receive the support they need to succeed.

### Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS)

Queen Mary's Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) supports all students with disabilities, learning difficulties, or mental health conditions whether full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK, or international students across all campuses. The DDS provides guidance and assistance in the following areas:

- Assessment for specific learning difficulties (e.g., dyslexia)
- Applying for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Organizing special examination arrangements
- Access to loaned equipment (e.g., digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Providing course materials in alternative formats
- Educational support workers (e.g., note-takers, readers)
- Specialist mentoring for students with mental health issues or Autism Spectrum Disorders

### Support for Specific Learning Disabilities:

- Regular one-to-one study skills sessions with a dyslexia specialist
- Lecture notes provided in advance through QMPlus or email
- Q-Review lecture access, or permission to record non-Q-Review sessions (e.g., Clinical Skills Laboratory sessions on Phantom Heads/the use of Haptics)
- Specialist software with text-to-speech functionality to aid concentration and reduce fatigue

### Support for Physical Disabilities:

- Speech recognition software for dictation
- Accessible lab and clinic environments, including ground-floor clinics, lifts to higher floors, and ramps

### Inclusive Education

We are committed to providing all students with equal access to learning opportunities. Inclusivity ensures that all students are valued and supported, regardless of their background or circumstances, in line with the QMUL 2030 Strategy, which emphasizes "progressive, inclusive" teaching and curriculum design centred on the student experience.

To achieve these goals, inclusive pedagogical practices recognize the importance of diverse knowledge, identities, and ways of learning. This approach shifts the focus from student deficits to individual abilities and needs, ensuring that institutional practices do not alienate certain groups of students.

## Programme-specific rules and facts

None.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The programme is offered by the Institute of Dentistry, Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry. The students will be qualified dentists, mainly from India, Pakistan and Libya. Many of these dentists wish to gain GDC registration by taking one of the appropriate examinations offered by the GDC or the Royal Colleges. Others intend to return to their country of origin to pursue their clinical/academic careers after undertaking a high quality programme of study in a recognized overseas institution. This programme will deliver elements of the UK Foundation Curriculum which will enable students to develop their knowledge and skills in preparation for an examination leading to registration in the UK or to progress in their career goals and continuing education in their country of origin.

## Programme Specification Approval

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Mrs Lorraine Low, Quality & Assessments Officer

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dr Ali Nankali

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:**

31 Oct 2024

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**