

Professional Doctorates

Programme specification

Programme definition (approved by Senate June 2014)

A professional doctorate is defined as a programme that requires the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research, advanced scholarship and innovations in professional practice. A professional doctorate programme differs from a 'traditional-route' research degree programme (a PhD) in that candidates are required to make both a theoretical and applied (within the context of the relevant profession or specialism) contribution to knowledge.

Programme Title	Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry in Oral Surgery
Duration/mode of study	FT – 3 years
Name of final award	DClinDent
FHEQ level of final award	8
Name of interim awards	PG Certificate in Clinical Dentistry (60 Credits) PG Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (120 Credits) MSc in Clinical Dentistry (180 Credits)
FHEQ level of interim/exit award	8
Proposed start date for first cohort	September 2025
Responsible school(s)/institute(s) (please identify lead dept)	SMD – Institute of Dentistry
Subject Examination Board (that will confirm taught module results)	Dentistry (Clinical)
Name & contact details person responsible for the management of the programme	Dr Edmund Bailey e.bailey@qmul.ac.uk 020 7882 3858

Programme Outline and Aims

Please provide a brief description of the programme, summarising the programme content, and the distinctive features it offers students. This should be consistent with the programme descriptions in handbooks, website(s) and prospectus.

Programme outline

This programme is jointly accommodated by the Institute of Dentistry, Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry, and Barts and The London Dental Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust.

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop qualified dentist's clinical practice and academic knowledge to a FHEQ level 8 according to the framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014);

- meet the national and international need for more Oral Surgeons working in both academia and in practice
- offer comprehensive, contemporary and novel knowledge in Oral Surgery comparable to specialist level
- provide advanced training to dentists wishing to attain clinical expertise and surgical skills in the specialty of Oral Surgery
- enhance dentists' everyday clinical practice satisfaction through higher expertise for service delivery comparable to a specialist level
- promote a critical approach to evaluating relevant literature so as to enable evidence-based practice and novel practices in Oral Surgery
- instil the need for continuing professional development and lifelong learning;
- embed the foundations of research.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes reflect the Curriculum for Specialist Training in Oral Surgery developed by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (2014) and approved by the General Dental Council (UK), the relevant QAA benchmark statements and The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014) and are guided by the Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes.

Aims of the Programme

By the end of the programme students are expected to achieve:

Academic Content:

- foster development of critical analysis and research skills to prepare graduate students to become independent researchers.
- demonstrate the possession (through competency based progression) of in-depth and extensive contemporary knowledge in Oral Surgery comparable to the level of a specialist
- understand and critically appraise the literature and the research base for evidence-based clinical care
- plan and perform research and clinical audits

Disciplinary Skills:

- undertake independent, proficient and advanced clinical and surgical practice in Oral Surgery in both primary and secondary care settings, providing leadership to varied groups of clinicians
- relate Oral Surgery practice to other dental and medical specialties
- utilise problem-solving and decision-making skills to assess, diagnose and treatment plan advanced, multi-disciplinary and complex cases in Oral Surgery
- accept secondary referrals for advice and treatment in Oral Surgery
- communicate effectively and interact with patients and colleagues in other dental and medical specialties

Attributes:

- motivation and commitment to a career in clinical academic Oral Surgery
- possession of the competencies required to perform at the level of an Oral Surgery specialist
- the ability to work effectively in diverse communities.

Other Professional Qualifications:

- This course will prepare students to sit the Membership in Oral Surgery (MOralSurg) examination of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons (Tricollegiate Edinburgh, Glasgow, England) UK. This is not a conjoint programme and students will need to apply and register for this examination on an individual basis.

How is the Programme Structured

The structure of the programme should be described in detail. Precise details of the modules can be given in a table. All programme proposals must demonstrate how they will meet the requirements of the Queen Mary Professional Doctorates Framework, and that the elements of independent research provide sufficient opportunity for the candidate to be able to demonstrate the depth of research expected of doctoral level studies.

The programme is full-time over three calendar years.

It consists of six modules which are all core modules and must be passed for progression from one year to the next and for the final award of DClindent.

Teaching will generally be carried out based on a weekly timetable, with block teaching at the start of year 1.

The components of the programme are:

- A programme of seminars, practical classes and other didactic sessions (averaging 15.5 hours/week) commencing with an introductory course and reviewing the clinical and scientific scope of the subject to determine its evidence base.
- Supervised clinical and as appropriate laboratory practice in which treatment planning and clinical procedures are performed for selected cases, including several complex surgical treatments.
- A self-directed research investigation identified by the student and supervised by research active staff, leading to a dissertation in which the candidate is required to demonstrate the application of scientific method to a problem of relevance to the subject area.
- Presentations of cases and the research project.
- A clinical audit project to define a service quality improvement process through systematic review of care against explicit criteria, to identify the changes necessary to implement to improve patient care and outcomes.
- The support of clinical academic staff and access to student support.
- Reading lists of books and journal papers. Students will receive a course booklist at the start of teaching (provided per module).
- E-learning (using QMPlus for teaching material)

Indicative year 1 timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 – 12:30	Study	Clinic	Lectures/seminars	FRM course	Treatment clinic
12:30 – 13:30					
13:30 – 17:00	Consultant Clinic	Consultant Clinic	Treatment clinic	Self-directed Study	Self-directed Study

The timetable will average out throughout the course into the following proportions:

60% clinical time

25% guided learning

15% self-directed learning

Please note that these proportions are indicative, and that adequate time will be allocated for students to complete their research studies in the times allocated as 'guided learning' & 'self-directed learning'.

The three years of full-time study will provide 540 credits of which 270 credits are directed study element and 270 credits are research element. The indicative components are in the following table. Please note that in research degrees, credits are not given for research. Hence, "notional credits" are allocated to give an indication of time and effort spent by students.

The course aims to offer a high teacher/student ratio so that access to advice and ease of communication can be assured. Clinical sessions will be supervised by experienced clinical academics and NHS staff. Clinical teaching will take place at any of the Barts Health NHS Trust sites. Timetables will be issued to students on commencing the course.

Two staff members will supervise each student research project.

Module Number	Title	Credit value	FHEQ Level	Year of study
1 – DIN7826	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 1	60	7	1
2 – DIN8101	Research I – Research Project progression report I + Clinical Portfolio initial report	30	8	1
	TOTAL	90		
3 – DIN8602	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 2	90	8	1-2
4 – DIN8103	Research Project Progression Report II, Clinical Portfolio and Service Evaluation Preliminary Reports	30	8	1-2
	TOTAL	120		
5 – DIN8604	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 3	120	8	2-3
6 – DIN8105	Research III – Dissertation – Research Project Final Report + Service Evaluation Final Report + Clinical Portfolio Final Report	210	8	2-3
	TOTAL	330		

Modules and Assessment

Please ensure that you identify the core modules that will be necessary for progression on to subsequent years. If students are able to exit the programme with an interim award, please ensure that the core modules needed to be eligible for this award are clearly indicated. Please include any compulsory placements/practice-based modules that need to be undertaken.

Please include the credit value of each module, both taught modules and the research dissertation / research elements.

The programme aims to promote development of clinical skills, learning and research enriched by original scholarship to encourage students to become independent learners. Students will accept responsibility for their own learning and will be encouraged to develop powers of critical thought and reflection. Key skills in information technology and oral and written presentations will be enhanced. The course will offer students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and clinical/surgical skills in Oral Surgery and become familiar with the issues of study design, data analysis and critical thought. Assessments are outlined below.

In addition to the formal seminar and clinical programme, time is set aside for reading and reviews, discussion and problem solving for student research projects, for innovative practical exercises, clinical audit and for feedback and evaluation of the course itself. Time is spent working alongside hospital trainees (Speciality Registrars and Dental Foundation trainees).

Students will receive a course reading list at the start of teaching.

The course aims to offer a high teacher/student ratio so that access to advice and ease of communication can be assured. Clinical sessions will be supervised by experienced clinical academics and NHS staff. Two staff members will supervise each student research project.

Summative Assessment Methods and Procedure

The summative assessments used in the programme are:

- written examinations – these will include clinically applied questions (such as case-based discussions)
- oral examinations – these will include a mixture of seen and unseen cases with focus on diagnosis, medical history, treatment planning and management of complications.
- the submission of a research thesis of up to 50,000 words with an oral examination on the thesis (the viva)
- the submission of a clinical audit / service evaluation report with two cycles.
- the submission of a clinical portfolio with reflection using the ISCP online portfolio (this is an established process for NHS trainees)
- patient case reports.

Formative assessment is provided through written essays, case presentations, practice in oral examinations (vivas) and practice for OSCE examinations as part of the preparation for the RCS examinations.

The assessments take place over three years for full-time students.

All the components of all the modules are core modules and students must pass all the components of the modules to be awarded the DClinDent in Oral Surgery. The intended award of DClinDent is not classified. If students do not meet the criteria for the DClinDent award they will be considered for the interim / exit awards of PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc in Clinical Dentistry. An award will be made where the criteria are met.

Note that modules 1 & 2 must be completed for the student to complete year 1 and to continue into year 2.

Module results are reviewed and confirmed by the Queen Mary PG Dentistry (Clinical) Subject Examination Board.

The award of DClinDent is considered and confirmed by the Queen Mary Research Degrees Programmes and Examination Board.

Interim / exit awards are considered and confirmed by the Queen Mary PG Dentistry (Clinical) Subject Examination Board.

The assessment structures are outlined in the table below:

Module Number	Module	Credit	Assessment
1 -DIN7826	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 1	60	3 hour written Examination – 100%
2 –DIN8101	Research I – Research Project progression report I + Clinical Portfolio initial report	30	Research Project Protocol, 2,000 words 30% Research Protocol 25 minute viva 30% Clinical portfolio - log book (incl 2 case reports), 5,000 words 20% Clinical Portfolio 20 minute viva 20%
3 – DIN8602	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 2	90	3 hour written examination – 75% Oral examination – 25%
4 – DIN8103	Research Project Progression Report II, Clinical Portfolio and Service Evaluation Preliminary Reports	30	Service evaluation interim report (15%) Service evaluation viva (15%) Interim clinical portfolio (15%) Clinical portfolio viva (15%) Research project interim report (20%) Research project viva (20%)
5 – DIN8604	Clinical science and skills in Oral Surgery 3	120	3 hour written examination – 50% Oral Examination – 50%
6 - DIN8105	Research III – Dissertation – Research Project Final Report + Service Evaluation Final Report + Clinical Portfolio Final Report	210	Service evaluation final report (10%) Service evaluation viva (10%) Final clinical portfolio (20%) Clinical portfolio viva (20%) Final research dissertation (20%) Research dissertation viva (20%)

Grading Criteria for Summative Assessments:

- The grading criteria for the taught components will follow the QMUL regulations. However, as this is a research degree, there is not final classification mark, the final award will either be a pass or fail. The need to award module marks is for the purposes of progression and for exit awards only.

Appointment of external examiners:

- The appointment of external examiner(s) will follow QMUL procedures.

Marking and Moderating:

- Students will submit written work through the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin, with the exception of the final thesis and draft sections of the thesis, and the audit report. Students will also be given access to their Turnitin reports.
- All assessments, with the exception of the final thesis, are double marked by two internal examiners and reviewed by an external examiner. The oral examinations for the PGT and PGR components will be marked by one internal and one external examiner.
- Assessments are managed by the QMUL examination board and an external examiner (appointed according to QMUL regulations) will moderate achievement within and between different courses.

Feedback to Students:

- Formative assessment exercises with feedback are carried out during the course. Students will carry out clinical work-place based assessments (WBAs) in a similar fashion to specialist trainees. These assessments are used to develop an online portfolio using the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP) <https://www.iscp.ac.uk>. They may be required to submit several short essays (up to 2,000 words) on a variety of topics to be determined by teaching staff linked to the teaching within the modules. The students will have opportunity to give oral presentations based on progress in the research projects, clinical audits and clinical progression. Candidates will have regular 1:1 contact with clinical tutors and supervisors. Their reflective logs will regularly be reviewed and discussed. Clinical supervisors will also monitor that candidates have an appropriate case load and patient mix in line with Royal College of Surgeons guidelines (as stipulated in the specialist curriculum for Oral Surgery).

Extensions and Deferrals, and Extenuating Circumstances:

- <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/> (policy document containing information on handling such circumstances).
- Students with disability will be offered assistance by QMUL Disability & Dyslexia Service.
- Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the relevant examinations board. This applies to both the modules and the final submission of the thesis where only RDPEB can authorise the extension.

Supervision: Academic and Clinical:

- The research components will be supervised by QMUL research active academic staff. The taught and clinical components will be supervised by both QMUL and Barts Health NHS Trust clinical specialists and staff including specialty registrars in the department.

Research

Please cover:

- *Description of research components and how this meets the Qualification Descriptors for a research degree*
- *Explain how the elements of independent research provide sufficient opportunity for the candidate to be able to demonstrate the depth of research expected of doctoral level studies.*
- *Supervision of research dissertation / projects*
- *Expectations of the dissertation / research project portfolio (e.g. maximum word limit)*

This professional doctorate programme follows the FHEQ level 8 descriptor which is to: 'make a significant and original contribution to a specialised field of inquiry, demonstrating a command of methodological issues and engaging in critical dialogue with peers and accepting full accountability for outcomes'.

The research component in this programme differs from that of the traditional hypothesis driven PhD format as it has an application of knowledge to clinical practice. The final dissertation will be composed of the following three parts:

1. Research project report – the candidates are to produce a traditional research thesis to demonstrate they can critical review scientific literature and carry out hypothesis based research. They must produce dissertations that are of publishable standard. The dissertation must not exceed 50,000 words. Two supervisors will be assigned for each student. The project may include development of a new techniques in surgery; better understanding of wound healing and pharmacology; developments to improve patient experience; meta- analysis and systematic reviews, and other related projects that fulfil the QAA level 8 criteria.
2. Clinical portfolio report – the candidates are to produce a portfolio report of 4 clinical cases covering the full breadth and depth of oral surgery of patients whom they have treated during their training. The portfolio must include detailed documentation of the treatments that they have provided, a critical appraisal, including evidence-based analysis, of the treatments, the novelty of the treatments, evaluation of their success and proposals for future follow-up. This report must not exceed 15,000 words.
3. Service evaluation - the candidates are to produce a service evaluation report (or a clinical audit) that they have designed and carried out. This report must include aims, methods, results and discussion with proposals for future audit and research in the field. Two cycles of audits should be completed, whenever possible. These reports must not exceed 5,000 words.

<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p><i>Provide the entry requirement for the proposed programme as agreed at Part one stage and published on the course finder. This should include the level of English Language and any selection criteria for admission?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recognised dental degree (BDS or equivalent). • Two years full-time (or equivalent) post qualification clinical practice of dentistry, including evidence of specific relevant experience in oral/oral and maxillofacial surgery. • 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)

<p>Links with External Partners</p> <p>N/A</p>

<p>Links to Queen Mary Policies</p> <p>The programme should be designed and administered with reference to the following documents:</p> <p>Academic Regulations</p> <p>Code of Practice for Research Degree Students</p> <p>Support for students with disabilities, SplD and mental health issues</p> <p>Student Appeals and Complaints Policy</p>

Person completing programme specification	Mrs Lorraine Low, Quality & Assessments Officer
Person responsible for management of research degree programme	Dr Edmund Bailey

Date programme specification produced/amended by School/Institute/Lead Department	31 October 2024
Date programme specification approved by Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board	