

## Doctor of Clinical Dentistry<sup>1</sup>

### Programme of Study for the degree of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry

The Doctor of Clinical Dentistry is offered on a full-time and part-time basis. Candidates will be expected to undertake one of four specialties: Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics or Dental Public Health. The standard period of study for the full-time programme is 3 years and for the part-time programme is 5 years. The maximum period before submission of the thesis is 4 years for the full-time and 7 years for the part-time programme. The programme will normally commence in September.

#### Admission

1. The following may be accepted as candidates for the degree of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry:  
Graduates of an approved university or equivalent institution who have been awarded at the appropriate standard an Honours degree of Bachelor in Dentistry (BChD or BDS equivalent).  
Applicants should also have postgraduate experience equivalent to two years full-time clinical practice.  
Graduates seeking a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST), in order to be eligible to register on the General Dental Council's (GDC) Specialist Lists, must be accepted onto the course as a Specialist Registrar (SpR) with an NTN (National Training Number). Providing all necessary requirements are met, such individuals are then eligible to undertake training for the relevant Royal College Memberships.
2. Where the applicant's first language is not English, applicants for admission to the programme leading to the award of the degree of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry must, before they can be admitted to the University, provide evidence that they have obtained normally the specified band score on one of the recognised English language qualifications as follows:
  - (i) British Council IELTS band score 7.0 (with not less than 6.5 in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills);  
*or*
  - (ii) internet-based (iBT) TOEFL 100 (with not less than 22 in Listening, 24 in Reading and Speaking, and 25 in Writing).
3. Candidates will in the first instance be accepted as provisional DClinDent PGRs.
4. On entry to the programme every candidate will be assigned a research supervisor (normally 2) and a clinical supervisor: in most cases one of the research supervisors will also fulfil the role of the clinical supervisor.

#### Content of Programme of Study

5. Candidates are required to complete both research and taught components totalling 540 credits and notional credits over the duration of the period of study.

The pattern of study for full-time candidates will be as follows:

##### Year 1

A total of 180 credits will be taken:

Transferable Skills Modules (10 credits);

Generic skills Modules (40 credits minimum for Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics specialties; 30 credits minimum for Dental Public Health specialty);

Specialist and Clinical Training Modules (60 maximum);

Service-related research and Major Research Project (70 notional credits for Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics specialties; 80 notional credits for Dental Public Health specialty).

##### Year 2

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<sup>1</sup> This programme has been withdrawn to new applicants from 2012-13. Please see Professional Doctorate in Paediatric Dentistry

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A total of 180 credits will be taken:

Transferable Skills Modules (10 credits);

Generic skills Modules (10 credits minimum for Dental Public Health route);

Specialist and Clinical Training Modules (60 maximum);

Researched Case Studies and Major Research Project (110 notional credits for Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics specialties; 100 notional credits for Dental Public Health specialty).

### Year 3

A total of 180 credits will be taken:

Specialist and Clinical Training Modules (60 maximum);

Major Research Project (120 notional credits).

A full list of compulsory and optional modules is available within the Programme Handbook. Changes may be made from time to time to the titles of modular courses and the optional modular courses that are available.

For part-time candidates the number of taught credits taken will vary from year to year. However the total number of taught and research components to be taken each year is structured as follows.

Year 1 – a total of 120 credits

Year 2 – a total of 120 credits

Year 3 – a total of 110 credits

Year 4 – a total of 110 credits

Year 5 – a total of 80 credits

### Progression

- Candidates will be initially accepted as provisional DClinDent PGRs. By the end of the first 18 months for full-time study and 30 months for part-time study, candidates are required to prepare a report and undergo an assessment for transfer to the specific doctoral degree category of DClinDent. An assessment panel will be established, in accordance with the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidatures and Faculty Protocol for the implementation of the University Code, to assess each candidate for transfer to full DClinDent registration. All candidates will be interviewed by an assessment panel and this will take the form of a viva voce examination.  
  
A successful transfer is dependent upon the candidate having passed (ie. achieved a mark of 50% or above) all taught modules which have been delivered and examined up to the point of transfer.
- A candidate who is initially unsuccessful in the transfer assessment may be given, at the discretion of the assessment panel, one further opportunity for review normally within a period of three months (six months at the maximum) ) for full-time candidates and within six months (eight months at the maximum) for part-time candidates.
- A candidate who is not recommended for transfer to full doctoral registration may be given the opportunity to complete the academic year and submit a dissertation that would form part of the requirements for the award of a Masters degree (see 18 (iii)).

### Examination and Assessment

#### *Research Project*

- The normal expectation is that candidates will successfully complete modular courses, accruing no less than 240 credits for the taught component, by the end of Year 3 for full-time study (or by the end of Year 5 for part-time study) and submit their theses for examination by the end of Year 4 for full-time study (or by the end of Year 7 for part-time study).
- Candidates are required to submit a thesis for examination of up to 50,000 words in length in the area of their specialist field of study and satisfy the examiners as specified in Ordinance X and its associated Regulations.
- Except with the special permission of the relevant committee, every candidate is required to submit his/her thesis for examination for the degree of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry by no later than:
  - the end of the fourth year after his/her entry upon the approved course of full-time study and research; or

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- (ii) the end of the seventh year after his/her entry upon the approved course of part-time study and research.
12. Where the progress and quality of the candidate's research justify it, the relevant committee is empowered to reduce the required minimum period of study, as specified in Article 5 of Ordinance X provided that no candidate shall submit for examination before the completion of:
- (i) a total of two calendar years of full-time study; or
  - (ii) a total of three calendar years of part-time study.
13. Following examination, the examiners will be asked to make one of the following recommendations:
- (a) Pass.
  - (b) Pass (subject to the correction of 'editorial and presentational corrections' or 'minor deficiencies'): these corrections must be made within four or twelve weeks respectively from the date of the oral examination. The internal examiner is responsible for ensuring that editorial and presentational corrections' or minor deficiencies are corrected by the candidate. The degree will not be awarded until confirmation that the corrections have been completed is received.
  - (c) Referral (see 14 below).
  - (d) Fail: the candidate has no further opportunity for submission.
14. If the thesis is not considered to be of sufficiently high standard to recommend the award of the degree but there is evidence of the potential of a successful DClinDent submission, then on the recommendation of the examiners the candidate will be granted permission to resubmit the work in a revised form for the degree of DClinDent within a period of eighteen months, on one occasion only and on payment of an additional fee.
15. The recommendation of the examiners is subject to confirmation by the Graduate Board's Examinations Group which will consider the examiners' report.
16. The Learning Outcomes for the degree of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry are published in a later section.

### Course Failure

17. Candidates will normally be deemed to have failed the course and be asked to withdraw from the programme if:
- (i) they fail to meet the requirements for taught modular study namely: marks at or above 50% in all of the compulsory modules and accruing no less than 240 credits for the taught component overall.
  - (ii) they fail to satisfy the transfer assessment panel;
- or*
- (iii) they fail to satisfy the examiners in the research thesis.

### Exit Points

18. Candidates who leave without completion of the research thesis element of the programme may, providing that they have satisfied the relevant regulations for the award of these qualifications:
- (i) elect to graduate with the Postgraduate Certificate;
  - (ii) elect to graduate with the Postgraduate Diploma;
  - (iii) transfer to registration for the degree of Master of Science in Clinical Dentistry (MSc)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> In the event that a transfer assessment panel does not recommend that a candidate be transferred to DClinDent (see section 8) those candidates who have accrued sufficient credits but are not recommended for transfer to full degree registration (i.e. DClinDent) may be permitted to complete Year 2 (full-time) or year 3 (part-time) and submit a dissertation that would form part of the requirements for the award of a Masters degree as an exit qualification after 24 months for full-time study and 36 months for part-time study.

## **Learning Outcomes / Transferable Key Skills / Learning Context / Assessment for the degree of DCLinDent**

### **1. Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the programme PGRs should have shown evidence of being able to:

- interpret and communicate knowledge through research and scholarship of publishable quality that would satisfy peer review
- present and defend research outcomes which extend the forefront of the discipline or area of clinical practice
- demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the subject area and expertise in generic and subject or professional skills
- be able to undertake decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations, including diagnosis and treatment planning (together with the limitations of treatment) and patient management.
- be able to underpin clinical practice with theoretical knowledge
- take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and develop professional relationships with others, particularly in relation to functioning within a multi-disciplinary team
- formulate ideas and hypotheses proactively and develop, implement and execute plans by which to evaluate these
- be able to articulate complex ideas and discuss them with peers and other professionals
- critically evaluate current issues, research and advanced scholarship
- understand relevant ethical and legal issues and be able to apply them in their research
- understand relevant health and safety issues
- demonstrate responsible working practice

### **2. Transferable (Key) Skills**

PGRs will have had the opportunity to acquire the following abilities through the research training and research specified for the programme

- the skills necessary for a career as a researcher and/or for employment in a senior and leading capacity in a relevant area of professional/clinical practice or industry;
- evaluating their own achievement and that of others;
- self-direction and effective decision making in complex and unpredictable situations;
- independent learning and the ability to work in a way which ensures continuing professional development;

### **3. Learning Context**

The learning context will include the critical analysis of, and decision making in, complex and unpredictable professional and/or clinical situations. The structure of the programme will provide research and/or professional training, breadth and depth of study and opportunities for drawing upon appropriate resources and techniques. This will include clinical skills development. Opportunities will be provided for PGRs to:

- develop to a high level interests and informed opinions
- develop to a high level their design and management of their learning activities
- develop to a high level their communication of their conclusions;
- make an original contribution to the field

PGRs will be expected to engage in the exercise of autonomous initiative in their study and work in professional environments.

### **4. Assessment**

Achievement will be assessed by the examination of the candidate's thesis and performance under oral examination. During the course of the programme there will also be assessment of achievement by a variety of

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methods in accordance with the learning outcomes of any taught modules specified for the programme. Final assessment will involve the achievement of the candidate in:

- evidencing an ability to conduct original and independent broad and in-depth enquiry within the discipline or within different aspects of the area of professional/clinical practice normally leading to published work;
- drawing on and/or developing a range of research techniques and methodologies appropriate to enquiries into the discipline/area of professional practice;
- demonstrating independent critical ability in the application of breadth and depth of knowledge to complex issues within the discipline or specialist area of professional/clinical practice;
- drawing on a range of perspectives on the area of study;
- evaluating and criticising received opinion;
- making reasoned and well-informed judgements on complex issues within the specialism whilst understanding the limitations on judgements made in the absence of complete data
- the written style and overall presentation of the thesis.