Draft Programme specification for Research Degrees
Professional Doctorates

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed programme title</th>
<th>Doctorate of Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) in Periodontology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsible school(s)/institute(s) (please identify lead dept)</td>
<td>Institute of Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name &amp; contact details of lead co-ordinator</td>
<td>Dr Domniki Chatzopoulou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected programme duration (FT/PT)</td>
<td>FT – 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of final award</td>
<td>DClinDent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHEQ level of final award</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Name of interim / exit award (e.g. if candidates leave after taught programme) | Pg Cert (60 credits)  
Pg Dip (120 credits)  
MSc (180 credits)  
MClinDent (360 credits) |
| Name of Subject Examination Board that will confirm taught module results | Periodontology (PGT) |
| FHEQ level of interim award | 7 |
| Proposed start date for first cohort | Sep 2019 |

Programme outline and aims
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 (2008).
- meet the national and international need for more Specialists in Periodontics;
- offer comprehensive, contemporary and novel knowledge in Periodontics to a specialist level;
- provide advanced training to dentists wishing to attain clinical expertise and proficiency in Periodontics to specialist level;
- prepare dentists to be eligible for formal recognition as a Specialist in Periodontics by the UK regulatory bodies;
- enhance dentists’ everyday clinical practice satisfaction through higher expertise for service delivery to specialist level;
- promote a critical approach to evaluating relevant literature so as to enable evidence-based practice and novel practices in Periodontics to specialist level;
- 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 Periodontics (2009) produced by the Specialist Advisory Committee in Restorative Dentistry, (monospecialty training) 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 (2008) and are guided by the Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes.

At the end of the programme the student will be able to:

- demonstrate the possession of in-depth and extensive current knowledge in Periodontics to specialist level;
- undertake independent, proficient and advanced clinical practice of Periodontics to specialist level in either primary or secondary care settings;
- relate Periodontics 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;
- accept secondary referrals for advice and treatment in Periodontics;
- understand and analyse the literature and research bases for evidence-based clinical care;
- plan and perform research including clinical audits;
- communicate effectively and interact with patients and colleagues in other dental and medical specialties;
- be eligible for entry to sit the in conjoint membership examination of the Dental Faculties of the Surgical Royal Colleges in Periodontics.

Entry requirements
What are the minimum entry requirements (please remember to include English language requirements) and selection criteria for admission?

- A recognised dental degree (BDS or equivalent) and two years full time equivalent of post-qualification experience working as a dental surgeon, with at least 6 months experience in Restorative dentistry.
- Where English is a foreign language the entry requirement will be an IELTS of 7.0 overall with not less than 6.5 in every skill, or equivalent.
For candidates seeking a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST), they must hold a Specialist Registrar (StR) post with an NTN (National Training Number). These candidates will only be accepted for FT study under postgraduate training arrangements agreed with the Deanery.

Proposed programme structure (overview)

*Please include a diagram if helpful*

All programme proposals must demonstrate how they will meet the requirements of the QMUL 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 three components of the programme are:

- A programme of seminars, practical classes and other didactic sessions 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 a number of complex treatments.
- A research investigation 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Number</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - DIN7823</td>
<td>Core Knowledge and Clinical skills in Periodontology</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>PGT</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - DIN8301</td>
<td>Research I – Research Project progression report I + Clinical Portfolio initial report.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>PGR</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - DIN8302</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Skill and Science in Periodontology</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>PGT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - DIN8303</td>
<td>Research II - Research Project progression report II + Clinical Portfolio and Service Evaluation preliminary reports.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>PGR</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Number</td>
<td>Module</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>FHEQ Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>PGT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - DIN8304</td>
<td>Consolidated Clinical Skill and Science in Periodontology</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>PGT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>330</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Modules and assessment**

Please ensure that you identify the core modules that will be necessary for progression on to subsequent years (including credit levels if known). 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.

*Points to cover include:*
  - Summative Assessment Methods and Procedure
  - Grading Criteria for Summative Assessments
  - Appointment of external examiners
  - Marking and Moderating
  - Feedback to Students
  - Extensions and Deferrals
  - Extenuating Circumstances
  - Supervision: Academic and Clinical

The programme aims to promote teaching, 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 skills in periodontology and implant dentistry 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 specific targeted reading and reviews, discussion and problem solving for each student research projects, for innovative practical exercises, clinical audit and for feedback and
evaluation of the course itself. Some time is spent working alongside other hospital trainees (Speciality Registrars, postgraduate trainees in Periodontics and Foundation trainees). Students will receive a course booklet 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 specialty registered experienced clinical academics and NHS staff. Two staff members will supervise each student’s research project.

**Assessment**

Assessments are managed through the QMUL examination board and an external examiner (appointed according to QMUL regulations). The assessments take place over three years for full time students. Assessment procedures will be managed internally by the teaching faculty and externally through external examiners. The assessment structures are in the following table.

All the modules are core and students must pass all modules to gain an overall pass. At the discretion of the examiners and providing the examination regulations allow, a student may be given credit for one part of the examination and asked to redo the others. In extreme circumstances, where medical circumstances may have adversely affected examination performance, a medical certificate should be presented to the Course Organiser. Any other extenuating circumstance must be submitted to the Subject Examination Board for consideration according to the QMUL regulations.

Formative assessment exercises are carried out during the course. Students will have to carry out clinical work base assessments. They may be required to submit several short essays (up to 2000 words) on a variety of topics to be determined by teaching staff. The students will have opportunity to give oral presentations based on progress in the research projects, clinical audits and clinical works.

Students will be required to make clear declarations as to the originality of the work submitted for the in-course assessment and the project dissertation.

Students with disability will be offered assistance by QMUL Disability And Dyslexia Service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DIN7823 - Core Knowledge and Clinical skills in Periodontology</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Written examination – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DIN8301 - Research I</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Progression Assessment on Research Project – 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Progression Assessment on Clinical Portfolio – 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DIN8302 - Advanced Clinical Skill and Science and in Periodontology</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Written examination – 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral examination (Diagnostic) – 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DIN8303 - Research II - Research Project progression report II + Clinical Portfolio and Service</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Progression Assessment on Research Project – 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Progression Assessment on Clinical Portfolio – 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation preliminary reports.  

Progression Assessment on Service Evaluation – 30%

| 5 | DIN8304 - Consolidated Clinical Skill and Science in Periodontology | 120 | Written examination – 50%  
Oral examination (Diagnostic) – 50% |
|---|---|---|---|
Dissertation on Clinical Portfolio – 40%  
Dissertation on Service Evaluation – 20% |

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. It is composed of three parts:
1. Clinical portfolio – the candidates are to produce a portfolio of 4 clinical cases covering the full breadth and depth of Periodontology of patients whom they have treated during their training. The portfolio must include detail documentation of the treatments that they have provide, a critical appraisal, including evidence base analysis, of the treatments, the novelty of the treatments, evaluation of its success and proposal of future follow-up.
2. Clinical audit – the candidates are to produce a clinical audit that they have designed and carried out. This report must include aims, methods, results and discussion with proposal for future audit and research in the field.
3. Research Dissertation – the candidates are to produce a traditional research thesis to demonstrate they can critical review scientific literature and carry out a hypothesis base 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.
Links with external partners

We will wish to apply for the ‘Memorandum of Agreement’ with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh for the third year examination for module ‘consolidated clinical skills and Science in Periodontology and Restorative Dentistry’ to be recognised by them as a ‘Conjoint Examination’ and as such the students will also be awarded the Membership in Periodontology of that College without further examination.

If the above is in place and puts our course into a very competitive position within London, Nationally and Internationally.

Links to college policies

The programme should be designed and administered with reference to the following documents:

Academic Regulations
http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy/index.html

Code of Practice for Research Degree Students –
http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/research-degrees/research-degree-students/index.html

Research Development Framework –
http://capd.qmul.ac.uk/what-we-offer/researcher-development/

Support for students with disabilities, SpLD and mental health issues -
http://www.dds.qmul.ac.uk/

Student Appeals and Complaints Policy
http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/student-appeals/index.html
and
http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/student-appeals/

| Person completing programme specification | Mrs. Lorraine Low  
|  | Senior Quality Assurance Administrator |
| Person responsible for management of research degree programme | Dr Dominiki Chatzopoulou |
| Date programme specification produced/amended by School/Institute/Lead Department | 16/01/2019 |
| Date programme specification approved by Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board | 2015 |