Master in Clinical Dentistry in Surgical Dentistry Programme Specification

Awarding Body Institution: Queen Mary’s University of London

Teaching Institute: The Institute of Dentistry, Barts and The London Queen Mary’s School of Medicine and Dentistry

Name of the Final Award: Master of Clinical Dentistry (Surgical Dentistry)

Programme Title: MClinDent Surgical Dentistry

Duration of Programme: 2 years full time, 3 years part time

Criteria of Admission to the Programme

A recognised dental degree or equivalent. Fulfilment of English language requirements for QMUL currently TOEFL score of 610 (paper) and 253 computer, IELTS score of 7 of finally an A or higher B in the Cambridge exam.

Aims of the Programme

The general aims of the taught postgraduate courses offered in the Institute of Dentistry are:

- Provide full time and part time opportunities for those wishing to develop their skills and understanding in oral health related sciences.
- Develop the research and service careers of dentists and professionals complementary to dentistry.

The general objectives of the taught postgraduate courses are to provide students with the skills to conduct literature searches, evaluate published research, design new research protocol, analyse and report findings supported by references and demonstrate a range of transferable and specialised skills.

The specific course objectives are to enable students to:

- A deep knowledge of surgical dentistry
- Communication skills in relation to surgical dentistry
- Develop self motivation in the capacity to learn and think critically and analytically
- The ability to analyse and evaluate scientific evidence
- An understanding of the broad ranges of research methods
- Skills to participate in dental research
- Proficiency in surgical dentistry in the context of a broad range of clinical skill
- A good understanding of how other areas of dentistry interrelate and the ability to take account of this in planning treatment.

Teaching and Learning

The programme aims to promote teaching and learning enriched by original scholarship and dental research 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 surgical dentistry and become familiar with the issues of study design, data and answers and critical thought. Assessments will be as outlined below.

These assessments will be managed internally by the teaching faculty and externally through intercollegiate University of London examination board and an external examiner who will moderate achievement within and between different courses.

The course aims to offer a high teacher/student ratio so that access to advice and ease of communication will be ensured. One staff member will supervise each student research project.
Assessment

The examinations take place over two years for full time students and three years for part time.

Year 1 - MClinDent Part 1

This will examine the students knowledge and understanding of the scientific basis of surgical dentistry. They will be examined in June of the first year of the course, progression to the second year of the course is dependent upon passing part 1. This exam will consist of one 3 hour written paper on the scientific basis of surgical dentistry and a 20 minute oral exam on the scientific basis for surgical dentistry.

Year 2 - MClinDent Part 2

This will examine the students knowledge and understanding of surgical dentistry together with a practical ability to provide surgical dentistry care. The examination will include:

1. Two written papers of 3 hours duration on surgical dentistry combined with other surgical and medical therapies.
2. A diagnostic and treatment planning clinical examination after the student has assessed a patient whom they have never seen before.
3. A practical examination in which an operative procedure is undertaken on a patient selected by the student and observed by two independent assessors.
4. Presentation of two patients of whom the student has provided whole patient surgical dentistry care for whom documented case reports need to be submitted in advance.

MClinDent Part 3 requires the student to complete and defend a dissertation based upon a research project. This is normally submitted before 31st August of the academic year of completing the course. Each student must write a dissertation on the research they have conducted, not normally exceeding 15,000-20,000 words. For part time students MClinDent Part 3 is normally taken at the end of the third year. The written papers, clinical examinations and oral examinations will begin in the middle of June of each academic year. Students must pass all three parts to gain an overall pass. At the discretion of the examiners and providing the examination regulations allow us, students may be given credit for one pass of the examination and asked to redo others. In extreme circumstances where medical difficulties may have adversely affected an examination performance a medical certificate should be presented to the course organiser. Formative assessment exercises are carried out during the course. Students will be required to submit several short essays on a variety of topics (up to 2,000 words) to be determined by the teaching staff. Three oral presentations, each of no more than 15 minutes length, based on progress on the research project will be made. In addition students will have the opportunity of writing timed open book and unseen answers to past examination questions. 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.

Course Structure

The Course is administered by the staff in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. This will consist of 60% clinical teaching, 25% theoretical seminar based teaching and 15% research. Routine clinical sessions start at 09.30 for the morning session and 14.00 for the afternoon. Each session will last approximately three hours, exceptions that may occur are for inpatient operating lists at The Royal London Hospital, the clinic sessions in the specialist practice in Harley Street/Northwood Oral Surgery Centre and also for inpatient work at Whipps Cross Hospital. Lecture and seminar sessions may be held at any time during this period. The programme will begin in October of each year with an induction programme organising collaboration with the other taught postgraduate courses in the Institute of Dentistry. Teaching is organised on a term system. Most our teaching will take place in the first year although the second year for developing advanced clinical skills and completing the research project. The period after the part 2 examination is for completion of project reports.

Year 1 will consist of three terms:

Term 1 is October to December
Term 2 is January to March*
Term 3 is April to July
Year 2 will consist of three terms:

Term 1 is October to December
Term 2 is January to March*
Term 3 is April to September

*A short break to include Easter bank holidays

A termly time pad will be distributed before the start of each term. Each term's teaching focuses on particular topics. Module details together with a package of essential core reading will be given to students. Module titles are outlined below.

Module 1 - Introductory module
Module 2 - Scientific basis of surgical dentistry
Module 3 - The relationship of surgical dentistry to other dental specialties
Module 4 - Clinical log book and audit
Module 5 - Research project and report