PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution: Queen Mary, University of London

Teaching institution (if different from above):

If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit and approximate date of next visit:

Name of the final award: Postgraduate Diploma in Dental Clinical Sciences

Programme Title: Dental Clinical Sciences

Programme Organisers: Professor Farida Fortune and Professor St. John Crean

UCAS Code:

Criteria for admission to the programme:

Degree in Dentistry from an approved University

Academic rationale and philosophy:

Postgraduate students from abroad need to attend courses in the UK and Ireland to be able to qualify for entry to the MFDS which is the postgraduate professional certification by the Royal Colleges of England, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Ireland. Many overseas countries use this qualification for appointment to clinical academic posts. However, overseas postgraduates are disadvantaged as entry is dependent on their having recognised training which may only be provided in the United Kingdom and Ireland. For the last 4 years King’s College and the Eastman Dental Institute have offered similar diploma courses for dental postgraduates who wish to obtain the necessary requirement which will allow them to be able to qualify for entry to the MFDS. Both courses have been over-subscribed with overseas students actively searching for placements.

In today’s financial climate, this course aims to attract mainly overseas graduates. Overseas dental postgraduates are usually funded for 3 years by their governments or institutions. (They will pay clinical fee of approximately £20,000 per student per annum). It also makes sense after completion of the diploma course to offer the best students from the course the opportunity to proceed to one of the MSc or PhD courses within our own Institution.

There is, therefore, a need for QMUL to offer these dental graduates from overseas a Diploma course in Dental Clinical Sciences. Within the Dental School we have the resources, both human and infrastructural, to introduce the students to a solid background and excellent practice of the application of the basic sciences to the art and practice of clinical dentistry.
Aims of the programme:

The course will provide an in-depth approach for exploring current concepts in human and mammalian oral biology. It will develop the students’ interest in, and critical appraisal of, current research practices in oral biology. The students will develop the ability to write a coherent account of a specific research area of interest.

The programme will contributed to/enhance the student’s career options by allowing them access to current thinking/concepts of oral biology and research in this field. Having undertaken a major research project as part of the degree, it will give students the insight to explore further their interest in research at a post-graduate level.

Learning outcomes for the programme:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. discuss current concepts in Clinical Dentistry and Applied Dental Science
2. obtain and assimilate up-to-date information on specific subjects of Dentistry
3. discuss how Basic Science has been applied to Clinical Dentistry
4. select and read Dental literature, critically assess the problem addressed; understand the basis of the methods used to investigate the problem and the significance of the results;
5. use and retrieve IT-based materials, and write cogent and coherent accounts of current Dental topics;
6. use clinical skills and demonstrate safe practice of dentistry in specific areas including medical emergencies
7. present scientific and clinical data in varying formats to peers and teachers.

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies:

- Course contains formal 2hr seminars/lectures/clinic attendance.
- Self-directed learning.
- Seminars will be given by experts in their field on topics relevant to the study of dentistry.
- A number of tutorials (arranged on a personal basis) to be made with the students and the course organisers to discuss progress in assignments and assessments.
- Student’s progress will be monitored through the course units by writing a series of 2 essays and 3 multiple short-answer questions. They will also have one practice clinical. The purpose of the formative assessments is to give them practice in the examination format of the summative exam and also the national MFDS examination.
- Assessments:
One unseen MCQ and MSA (*Multiple Short Answer*) of 3 hours in total and an OSCE examination. The formative assessment will contribute 20%, the summative 80%.

Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and courses

- Basic Sciences (2 units)
- Applied Basic Science (2 units)
- MSA and MCQ
  - 40%
  - Dental Clinical Science
  - Clinical Skills in Dentistry (2 units)
  - OSCE
  - 40%
  - Clinical Dentistry (2 units)
  - continual assessment
  - 20%