PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution: Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL)

Teaching institution (if different from above): QMUL, together with Barts and The London NHS Trust

If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit and approximate date of next visit: Not applicable

Duration of study / Period of Registration: 24 months

Name of the final award: Postgraduate Diploma in Endodontic Practice

Programme Title: Endodontic Practice

UCAS Code: N/A QAA Benchmark Group: N/A

Criteria for admission to the programme:

BDS or equivalent, with registration with the General Dental Council UK, and a minimum 2 years’ relevant post-qualification experience.

Aims of the programme:

The programme will provide an in-depth approach for exploring current concepts in clinical Endodontics. It will deepen knowledge and understanding of Endodontics, improve clinical skills and lead to increased job satisfaction. It will also facilitate the exposure of each dentist to other practitioners, and thereby encourage an exchange of ideas and experience.

The programme will contribute to/enhance participants’ career options by allowing them access to current thinking/concepts of Endodontics and research in this field. It can be part of a dentist’s Personal Development Plan, thereby earning them partial credit towards a higher postgraduate qualification.

The students may exit the Diploma course at the end of the first academic year, either due to personal reasons or if they fail to pass the hurdle test. At this point, they would have completed 55% of Modules 1 & 2 and all of Module 3 (total contact hours 168 & 432 hours of self-directed learning). They would at this stage be eligible to be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Endodontic Practice.

This programme can also provide a foundation for interested dentists to enter a Masters programme in due course.

Learning outcomes for the programme:

At the end of the programme, students will be able to:
• Appreciate the role of endodontics in restorative dentistry, including appropriate case selection and treatment planning
• Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of clinical Endodontics as described later, and apply such knowledge to clinical practice.
• Access relevant literature on the subject, and critically evaluate published evidence with a view to establishing an evidence-based practice in clinical Endodontics.
• Value the need for continually updating one’s knowledge and skills in clinical Endodontics

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies:

Teaching and learning:

• Formal 3-3.5 hour seminars given by experts in their field on topics relevant to the study of Endodontics
• Pre-clinical laboratory practice sessions: demonstration, “hands-on” practical exercises, discussion of outcomes
• Clinical practice sessions: treating patients under supervision, discussion of outcomes
• Self-directed learning: critical review of at least two scientific papers nominated by the programme organisers, and at least two more papers selected by the students themselves
• One-to-one tutorials with those students needing additional guidance.
• Case presentations: what has been done, how it has been done, why it has been done, reflecting on shortcomings and how it could be done better next time.

Assessment

There will be informal assessment and feedback during each teaching session, be it classroom, practical or clinical session. The written assignments will also be assessed and feedback given.

In-course assessment will be undertaken in each module as outlined below. Marks gained during this summative coursework will contribute to the final mark.

Final examinations will be held at the conclusion of the programme.

Methods of Assessment:

Formative

The purpose of the formative assessments is to give the students feedback and also to introduce them to the format of the summative examinations. Formative assessment and feedback will take place on a session-by-session basis as referred to previously. This will take the form of marking essays, practicals and clinical work and appropriate feedback.

Hurdle (‘Gateway Test’):

There will be a competency-based Practical Test at the end of the Pre-clinical Laboratory-based Practice Module. The student must pass this “Gateway Test”
before being allowed to progress to the Clinical Practice sessions treating patients. Those who fail will be required to undertake additional practical sessions before taking the “Gateway Test” again.

**Summative**

1. **In-course Assessment**

This will be carried out by assessing:

- Ten critical reviews / essays based on selected topics submitted
- Pre-clinical laboratory-based practical work
- Clinical work

These assessments will be carried out using agreed marking guidelines.

2. **At the end of the programme, the students will be examined as follows:**

- Written paper of 3 hours’ duration, with 4 out of 5 questions to be answered.
- Two clinical case-reports of not more than 2000 words each, properly illustrated and referenced.
- Oral examination of 30 minutes based on the 2 clinical case-reports submitted.

**Distribution of marks:**

This will be as follows:

- **In-course assessment:**
  - Module 1 (5 critical reviews/essays) 10%  
  - Module 2 (5 critical reviews/essays) 10%  } 40%  
  - Practical 10%  
  - Clinical 10%

- **Final (end-of-programme) assessment:**
  - Two clinical case-reports with oral examination:  
    - Case Report 1 15%  
    - Case Report 2 15% } 40%  
    - Oral examination 10% } 60%  
  - Written examination 20%

Students must attain at least half of the available marks in the summative coursework (i.e. 20 out of 40) before they will be entered for the final assessment.

**Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and courses**

**Structure:**

The programme will consist of four modules listed below:

- Modules 1 & 2: 38 seminars, each of 4 hours’ duration  
- Module 3: 22 pre-clinical laboratory practice sessions of 3 hours each on simulators, and  
- Module 4: 24 clinical practice sessions of 3 hours each, treating patients
Requirements

- All sessions are compulsory, and the student must attend at least 80% of the course.
- Students will need to read and critically review at least 5 essential research papers and 5 additional papers of relevance, as suggested by the course organisers.
- Students need to demonstrate a satisfactory level of ability by passing a practical test of competence (Gateway Test) before being allowed to do clinical practice.
- During clinical sessions, the student should have treated 5 – 7 patients in total, to a satisfactory standard.

Levels:

The programme will be at Level M throughout.

Courses / modules

The following modules will form the basis of the programme:

**The scientific basis of Endodontics I**

- Understanding the scientific basis of clinical Endodontics, including current thinking and recent research developments

**The scientific basis of Endodontics II**

- Understanding the current trends in clinical Endodontics within a multi-disciplinary setting

**Pre-clinical laboratory-based endodontic practical sessions**

- Acquiring technical skills necessary to practise modern Endodontics

**Clinical Endodontics**

- Applying technical expertise founded on an evidence base to clinical practice

Indicators of Quality (including student support):

There will be monthly meetings of the Staff-Student Liaison Committee to give the students ample opportunity to raise issues concerning the programme. During these meetings and at other times, informal feedback will be encouraged. Formal feedback will be sought twice-yearly via questionnaires. The programme will be reviewed in the Annual Report on Teaching in Dentistry.

The two programme organisers will act as personal tutors to the students. They will report progress to the Programme Director. There will be a formal induction to the programme at the start with the programme organisers and the tutors present, to welcome the students and to introduce the various components of the programme. There will also be a tour of the facilities.
Employers’ Links:

The programme is jointly hosted by the Institute of Dentistry, Queen Mary’s School of Medicine & Dentistry, and the Dental Teaching Hospital, Barts and The London NHS Trust. The students will be Dental Practitioners working within the NHS in primary care on a full- or part-time basis. Many of these practitioners are providers of clinical service (including Endodontics) to local Primary Care Trusts on a contracted basis. This programme will enable the students to gain the advanced skills necessary to treat complex endodontic cases without having to refer them to the Dental Hospital.

There are also corporate bodies providing a range of dental services to the public for a fee. They are constantly seeking to recruit dentists with advanced endodontic skills, as the demand for endodontic services is increasing. Thus this programme will cater to this sector as well.

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<th>Person Completing Programme Specification</th>
<th>Prof DYD Samarawickrama</th>
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<tr>
<td>Person responsible for management of programme</td>
<td>Prof DYD Samarawickrama (QMUL) &amp; Dr N Polycarpou (BLT)</td>
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<td>Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee</td>
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<td>15 June 2006</td>
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<td>Date of approval by Faculty Board / EB</td>
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