

Programme Regulations: 2021/22

Programme Title: Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Code: A206

Notes

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Taught Programme Regulations.*
- (ii) *The BDS is a non-modular programme leading to a professional qualification. The degree is equivalent to Level 7 on the University Qualification and Credit Framework.*
- (iii) *As the dental degree, BDS is a qualification leading to professional registration, the University has an overriding duty of care to ensure that all students graduating from the programme not only meet the academic requirements of the course, but also are physically and mentally fit to practice and are of good character. The case of any student whose fitness for professional practice is a matter for concern shall be considered under the University's Fitness to Practise Procedure.*
- (iv) *Students will be required to undergo appropriate DBS and Healthcare checks as stipulated in University and School policies.*
- (v) *Students will be required to fulfil all requirements for clinical access as dictated by the relevant NHS Trust.*
- (vi) ***In order to make up any deficit in clinical teaching, clinical attachments will be extended to 22 July 2022 and additional evening sessions may be provided.***

1. Programme Structure

- (a) The programme is available for study in full-time mode.
- (b) The period of study for full-time mode shall be five years starting in September.
- (c) The programme covers the study of biomedical and behavioural sciences, oral biology, human diseases, clinical dental studies and applied dental sciences.
- (d) Candidates for the degree of BDS are required to attend clinical dental practice and to undertake other clinically related studies throughout the programme of study.
- (e) All candidates shall take the following compulsory courses of work:

Stage 1

Orientation and Study Skills
Anatomy of the Head and Neck
Cell Biology
Interpersonal Skills and Shadowing
Introduction to Dentistry
Neurobiology
Dental Physiology
Metabolism & Homeostasis

Stage 2

Craniofacial and Tooth Biology
Behavioural and Social Science for Dentists
Basic Pharmacology
Dental Materials Science
Microbiology for Dentistry
Immunology and Healthcare

Nutrition and Diet
Key Clinical Skills

Stage 3

Clinical Introduction Course
Applied Anatomy
Dental Materials Science
Dental Public Health
Human Diseases
Oral Diseases
Clinical Skills courses in Restorative Dentistry, and Orthodontics
Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach (Oral Health Education), Oral Surgery, Dental Emergency Clinic and Radiology

Stage 4

Dental Public Health
Dental Sedation
Human Diseases
Oral Diseases
Clinical Skills courses in Restorative Dentistry and Oral Surgery
Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry (inc Interprofessional Clinic), Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach and Oral Surgery

Stage 5

Current Opinion in Dentistry
Dental Public Health
Gerodontology
Oral Diseases
Clinical attachments with associated lectures and seminars in Restorative Dentistry, Paediatric Dentistry, Primary Care Outreach, Dental Emergency Clinic and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Stages 1- 5

A vertically integrated course on Professionalism and Personal & Professional Development runs through all stages of the programme.

2. Assessment Methods

- (a) A full description of the assessment process is provided in the BDS Degree Programme Assessment Guide. Different methods of assessment are used to assess acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriately matched to the learning outcomes of the Stage of study:

Knowledge and learning

- (b) Written and online examinations are used to assess retained factual knowledge, understanding and analysis and provide an opportunity to demonstrate learning beyond the core material. They are also used to assess the ability to apply knowledge, solve problems and test clinical reasoning. Objective Structured Practical Examinations (OSPEs) are used to assess retained factual knowledge and understanding together with observational skills.

- (c) Examinations, each of which includes elements of in-course assessment, shall be held as follows:

Stage 1	Biomedical and Biomolecular Sciences
Stage 2 Part 1	Oral Biology and Dental Sciences
Stage 2 Part 2	Key Clinical Skills
Stage 3	Clinical Dental Subjects and Human Diseases
Stage 4	Clinical Dental Subjects and Human Diseases
Stage 5	Clinical and Applied Dental Sciences (Final BDS Examination)

Skills

- (d) Objective Structured Practical Examinations (OSPEs), Simulated Clinical Assessments, Clinical Assessments, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and Multiple Observed Structured Long Examinations (MOSLER) are used to assess practical and clinical skills and other tasks.

A wide variety of written assignments, group work, project reports, case reports and portfolios, case based discussions and oral presentations are used to assess the critical skills of retrieval, organization and analysis of information, reasoning, deduction and critical evaluation of evidence, written and oral communication, and attitudinal objectives. Structured clinical assessments determine ability to perform a variety of clinical and technical procedures.

Clinical examinations assess skills in communication, application of knowledge, diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment and patient management.

Professionalism

- (e) A candidates' overall performance in all forms of assessment, attendance record, feedback from their tutor and their approach to clinical work including time-keeping, dress, personal hygiene, rapport with patients and members of staff provide the School with information relevant to a candidate's progress and about their overall professionalism.

3. Assessment and Progression

- (a) The programme's marking scheme is based on four grades for all academic and clinical work:

M – Merit (Pass)
S – Satisfactory (Pass)
B – Borderline (Fail)
U – Unsatisfactory (Fail)

- (b) In all objective modes of assessment (e.g. SBA, OSPE, OSCE, MOSLER), progress is measured according to threshold marks specified for each grade.
- (c) Candidates must demonstrate competence in both the knowledge and skills elements of the programme and be in good standing professionally in order to progress from one stage to another and to be awarded the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery. The criteria for passing individual assessments, stages and the award can be found in the individual stage examination regulations.
- (d) Progression from one stage to another is dependent on the candidate passing each Stage examination.
- (e) Candidates who are unsuccessful in an examination at the first attempt are automatically permitted a second attempt (resit). If the second attempt is also failed then the candidate's studies will be

terminated.

- (f) Candidates who fail a year (stage) at first attempt are permitted one resit attempt. Resit opportunities will normally be held within the academic year, however depending on the assessment failed and stage of the programme candidates may be required/ by the Board of Examiners to resit assessments as an external candidate or resit the year with attendance. Candidates who are permitted to resit as an external candidate will be advised which aspects of the Stage Examination they are required to resit. Candidates undertaking a full year of resit with attendance, e.g. following failure of the OSCE in Stage 3 or Stage 4 or as recommended by the Board of Examiners for any other Stage, will be required to complete all aspects of the Stage Examination including academic in-course assessments. A maximum of two additional resit years with attendance is permitted across the programme as a whole. Assessments undertaken externally or in attendance are classified as resits and as such the overall outcome will be capped at the Satisfactory grade.
- (g) Merits and Distinctions are awarded in order to recognise excellence in Stage Examinations and can only be awarded on the first attempt at an examination. In any Stage Examination, a Distinction is equivalent to 3 points and a Merit to 1 point.
- (h) Candidates may be awarded BDS with Honours if they achieve the following criteria;
 - (i) *Achieve* 6 points in total across all Stage examinations with at least ONE merit in BOTH the knowledge and clinical sections of Final (Stage 5) BDS.
 - Or
 - (ii) *Achieve* 10 points in total across all Stage examinations with at least ONE merit grade in ONE section of Final (Stage 5) BDS.
- (j) Candidates who wish to withdraw from study may be considered for the one of the following exit awards
 - (i) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners for the Stage 1 BDS examination but who wish to permanently discontinue their dental studies may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, be awarded without further examination, a Higher Education Certificate in Dental Studies.
 - (ii) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners for Stages 1 and 2 BDS examinations but who wish to permanently discontinue their dental studies may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, be awarded without further examination, a Higher Education Diploma in Dental Studies.
 - (iii) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners for Stages 1, 2 and 3 BDS examinations but who wish to permanently discontinue their dental studies may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, be awarded without further examination, a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Dental Studies.
 - (iv) Candidates who have satisfied the examiners for Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 BDS examinations but who wish to permanently discontinue their dental studies may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, be awarded without further examination, a Pass or Honours degree of Bachelor of Science in Dental Studies*.

* A formula for determining the appropriate degree / classification can be found in the BDS

- (k) Candidates exiting with the above awards will not be permitted to resume their studies for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery. None of the exit awards listed above are registrable qualifications with the GDC.

4. Transfer

- (a) The majority of students who withdraw or transfer from the programme do so in the first two years, mainly as a result of reassessing their commitment to a dental career. Those who, following counselling, genuinely find dentistry an inappropriate career are assisted with finding routes to alternative programmes of study.
- (b) A student in good standing considering a withdrawal or transfer from the course for whatever reason should seek advice and counsel from the Stage Director for Stage 1 or 2 or from the Degree Programme Director. Such counselling is essential in order to ensure that the student reaches a valid judgement based on sound information and the implications of the decision considered thoroughly.

5. Intercalation

- (a) During the BDS programme there are several opportunities for students to step aside from the mainstream programme to intercalate a period of additional study. Students will be allowed to intercalate as appropriate for their level of achievement and in accordance with the University's Qualifications and Credit Framework.

6. Exemptions to the University's Taught Programme Regulations

- (a) Due to the integrated nature and requirements of the award, the following variations to the University Regulations have been approved:

Non-modular structure

The programme does not operate a modular credit based system, and instead uses an integrated approach to teaching, learning and assessment. Programme regulations therefore appear different in style and substance from other programmes of study. Regulatory requirements in relation to module and credit are not applicable.

Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Section D 48 – Return of Marks

Use of an Alternative marking scheme / Use of Standard Setting

BDS uses an alternative method of marking assessments. Each component of assessment does not necessarily carry a percentage mark and assessments are not weighted.

Standard setting, used to determine the required passing threshold needed to judge a student to have reached the level of a 'Safe Beginner*' with respect to knowledge or skill or professionalism, is used for a number of assessments. The passing threshold for such assessments will vary depending on the individual assessment.

Taught Programme Regulations Section I – Principles of Discretion

Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) Section D 49 - 50 Progression from One Stage to Another

Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) Section D 56 - 61a The Award and Classification of Degrees and Use of Discretion

Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) Section D 51 – 55 Principles of Compensation

In order to meet professional standards and ensure attainment of all learning outcomes students must pass all Stage Examinations. To meet these requirements discretion and compensation are not used by the Board of Examiners.

Each component of assessment does not necessarily carry a percentage mark and assessments are not weighted therefore progression and award requirements are individual to the programme. The overall Stage mark is recorded as pass or fail, however students may be awarded Merit or Distinction for Stage Examinations. Classified honours are not standard on the programme, however the Board of Examiners can award the BDS with honours.

Taught Programme Regulations Section J - Reassessment

Resit arrangements for this programme may vary and where candidates have failed clinical aspects of the programme they may be required to resit these assessments with attendance.

- (b) In the event of any inconsistency between the programme and University regulations in relation to the above section, the programme regulations take precedence over the University regulations. Further guidance is provided in Programme and Year handbooks which are available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

* GDC Preparation for practice - [https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/quality-assurance/preparing-for-practice-\(revised-2015\).pdf?sfvrsn=81d58c49_2](https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/quality-assurance/preparing-for-practice-(revised-2015).pdf?sfvrsn=81d58c49_2)