PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (Taught Postgraduate)	

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	Master of Science
4	**Programme Title**	Master of Science in Oral Sciences
5	**Programme Code**	5528F
6	**Programme Accreditation**	n/a
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	n/a
8	**FHEQ Level**	7
9	**Date written**	May 2026

10 Programme Aims

The aim of this programme is to enable students from a wide range of backgrounds to acquire specialist knowledge and skills aligned to the discipline of oral science. The programme provides a broad overview of various aspects of oral science, with a key focus on the research skills and technologies that have allowed us to develop our current understanding of the field and will help advance the subject of dentistry over the coming years. Furthermore, a major focus will be on how our understanding of various aspects of oral science informs the clinical practice of dentistry, from latest diagnostics and therapeutics to informing policy about the delivery of oral healthcare. The programme also allows the student to develop a specialist interest in an area of oral science and develop this furthermore with a specific body of research aligned to that area.

Specifically, the aims are:

To provide a systematic understanding of the evidence base and theoretical principles which underpin aspects of oral science and how these aid the provision of oral and dental care in practice.

To provide a systematic understanding in the latest research theories and technologies which are advancing the field of oral science and how these will shape the future of the delivery of oral and dental care.

To provide a research experience allowing students to demonstrate they can deliver a research project aligned to the field of oral science, advancing knowledge in that field.

11 Learning Outcomes

This programme will provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills, and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and understanding

On completing the programme students will be able to:

A1 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge within and directly related to oral science and have a critical awareness of the impacts of these on the provision of oral and dental care now and in the future.

A2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of some of the latest research techniques and theories in the field and how these have helped developed the provision of oral and dental care to date, and how they will continue to do so in the future.

A3. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of oral health for general health and the impact of oral conditions on the global community from a healthcare, socioeconomic and cultural perspective.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching strategy

Outcome A1 will mainly be met through engagement with small group teaching. Each teaching event has a structured reading materials list and associated audiovisual materials which are prioritised where necessary into essential and recommended. These lists are reviewed annually.

Outcomes A2 will again be met through engagement with small group teaching and associated practical classes, and the final dissertation project.

Outcome A3 will be developed throughout the course through the variety of teaching and learning modalities, including small group teaching, self-directed learning, and practical sessions.

Learning strategy

Students are expected to have engaged with the prior reading and audiovisual materials before each teaching event and to participate in group discussions. Each student has a dedicated research project allocated to provide opportunities for gaining vital research experience and skills, as well as associated soft skills to a level consummate to a master's degree.

Assessment Strategy

A breadth of assessment strategies will be employed across the programme and will be module specific. In general, outcomes A1 – A3 will be assessed by open book essays, laboratory reports, multiple-choice, short answer papers, oral presentations, and the dissertation project.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1 Evaluate critically current research allied to the field.

B2 Evaluate research methodologies and theories and critically analyse them and where appropriate develop new hypotheses.

B3 Synthesise research findings to interpret their impact on oral and dental health.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Intellectual skills B1 - B3 will be developed through the same learning and teaching as described for outcomes A1 - A3 above.

Assessment Strategy

A breadth of assessment strategies will be employed across the programme and will be module specific. In general, outcomes B1 – B3 will be assessed by open book essays, laboratory reports, multiple-choice, short answer papers, oral presentations, and the dissertation project.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Perform practical and theoretical experiments, allied to the subject matter, in an effective, safe, and ethical manner.

C2 Communicate scientific ideas and concepts to a wide range of audiences, in both a written and verbal format.

C3 Apply critical appraisal tools and use statistical packages for data analysis.

C4 Work effectively in a variety of environments with consideration for the legislative and safety regulations as appropriate.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Practical skills C1 - C3 will be developed through the same learning and teaching as described for outcomes A1 - A3 above. C4 will be developed through integration in the School of Dental Sciences and their relative policies around workplace regulations in a variety of academic and laboratory settings. This will include undertaking the various regulatory and health and safety courses provided by the University and/or the NHS.

Assessment Strategy

A breadth of assessment strategies will be employed across the programme and will be module specific. In general, outcomes C1 – C3 will be assessed by open book essays, laboratory reports, multiple-choice, short answer papers, and the dissertation project. C4 will be assessed by competency assessments and relevant quizzes at the end of online training packages. All students are required to satisfactorily complete these before being allowed to conduct independent research.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1 Demonstrate the use of appropriate IT skills for data analysis and documentation.

D2 Demonstrate the use of library and other information retrieval systems.

D3 Demonstrate effective laboratory working in line with health and safety regulations.

D4 Demonstrate effective record keeping, both in the form of revision notes and laboratory workbooks or diaries.

D5 Demonstrate that academic skills need to be constantly reviewed, challenged, and updated through continuing professional development in which the student should play an active part in both receipt and delivery.

D6 Demonstrate effective teamworking, in harmony with peers, support staff and teachers, to facilitate a collegiate and ethical scientific community.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Most transferable/key skills will be developed through the same learning and teaching as described for outcomes A1 - A3 above. However, D5 and D6 will be developed through their lifetime on the course and be required for effective completion.

Assessment Strategy

A breadth of assessment strategies will be employed across the programme and will be module specific. In general, outcomes D1 – D4 will be assessed by open book essays, laboratory reports, multiple-choice, short answer papers, oral presentations and the dissertation project. D5 and D6 will not be directly assessed but both are key skills that will be required for successful completion of the course in its entirety.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

This taught programme is at Postgraduate Masters level in full-time mode. The Postgraduate Masters consists of 180 credits comprising six 20 credit modules and one 60 credit research module. The programmes consist of a formal taught component and directed self-study. The curriculum is taught using a range of methods including lectures, seminars, practicals and self-directed learning.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The programme has a key focus on research methods allied to oral biology and how the latest technologies and theories have developed our understanding in line with advancing oral and dental healthcare. A distinctive feature of this course is a focus on immunology and microbiology (areas where Newcastle is a recognised global leader within dentistry) which may appeal to both clinical and non-clinical graduates.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

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13 Support for Student Learning
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. General Information

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. General Information

15 Regulation of assessment
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. General Information

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:
The University Prospectus: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/ The School Website (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/dental/) Degree Programme and University Regulations: University Regulations

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

Annex

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

		Intended Learning Outcomes			
Module	**Type**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**
MPH8002 Research Methods for Public Health	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
MCD8001 Applied Dental Materials Sciences	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
MMB8053 Enabling Technologies & Methodologies for Biomedical Research	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
MMB8051 Oral and Dental Sciences	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5
MOS8001 Oral Microbiology	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5
MOS8002 The Immune Response in Oral Health and Disease	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5
MOS8099 Oral Sciences Dissertation	Compulsory/ Core	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5,6

Learning outcomes are addressed to varying degrees in different modules. It is expected that they will be fully achieved by the end of the programme.