

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution: Queen Mary, University of London

Teaching institution (if different from above): Institute of Dentistry, Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry

Name of the final award: Graduate Certificate in Dental Technology

Duration of Study / Period of Registration: 4 months

Programme Title: Graduate Certificate in Dental Technology

Criteria for admission to the programme:

A recognised Dental Technology qualification (see below), a minimum of two years post-initial qualification experience, and the ability to demonstrate advanced technical expertise in the field. Applicants may be required to satisfy a practical trade test prescribed by SMD.

- A recognised qualification in Dental Technology through assessments, including a written examination of a standard comparable to the Higher National Certificate in Dental Technology or the Dental Technicians Advanced Certificate of City and Guilds of London Institute.

A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (or an equivalent alternative qualification) is also required for overseas students where English is not the first language. Students will be required to complete the Graduate Certificate to progress to the postgraduate Diploma/MSc.

Aims of the programme:

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

- 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 dentist and professionals complementary to dentistry.

The general objectives of the taught postgraduate courses are to provide students with the skills to:

- Conduct literature searches, and evaluate original published research.
- Design and execute a supervised project, analyse and report findings supported by references.
- Demonstrate a range of transferable and specialised skills.

The specific course objectives for the Certificate in dental technology are to enable students to:

- To augment the current rather limited Dental Technology educational opportunities by providing a graduate certificate in Dental Technology and related disciplines as a means of achieving access to M-level education.
- To stimulate interest amongst dental technicians and related disciplines in advancing knowledge within this area of health care delivery.
- To improve the scientific base involved in teaching Dental Technology or related disciplines.

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies:

Teaching and learning:

The programme aims to promote teaching and learning enriched by original scholarship and 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. Assessment procedures are outlined below. Assessment procedures will be managed internally by the teaching faculty and externally through an intercollegiate University of London examination board and an external examiner who will moderate achievement within and between different courses.

In addition to the formal seminar programme, time is set aside for particular readings and reviews and discussion for student projects, for practical exercises, and for feedback and evaluation of the course itself. Students will receive a course reading list at the start of teaching. The course aims to offer a high teacher/student ratio so that access to advice and ease of communication can be assured.

Assessment

In order to be awarded the Certificate students must be examined and complete the in-course assessment:

- 12 critical/essays

The examination has three parts:

- Two written papers: Papers I and II consist of five questions per paper of which 4 must be answered (Previous papers are available that provide an idea of the types of questions).
- Project report: A project report must be submitted by the 1st September of the academic year of completing the course. Each students must write a Project Report on a set topic not normally exceeding 20,000 words.
- An oral examination of the report will be carried out and the student must present a ten minute power point presentation at the start of the oral examination.

The written papers and the oral examination of the project will be in September of each academic year.

Students must pass all parts to gain an overall pass. At the discretion of the examiners and providing the examination regulations allow, a student may be given credit for one part of the examination and asked to redo the others. In extreme circumstances, where medical circumstances may have adversely affected examination performance, a medical certificate should be presented to the Course Organiser.

Formative assessment exercises are carried out during the course. Formative assessment and feedback will take place on a modular basis during the course. This will take the form of setting and marking essays and feedback. Students will also keep a reflective practice log book for the practical work and will receive weekly feedback. 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 Project Report.

Course structure

The programme will begin in June of each year with an induction programme organised in collaboration with the other taught postgraduate courses in the Institute of Dentistry. Teaching is organised on a term system. Most teaching takes place in the first two terms, allowing the third term primarily for revision and completion of project reports.

A termly timetable will be distributed before the start of each term. Each term's teaching focuses on particular topics or modules. Module details, together with a package of essential core readings, will be given to students.

Module titles are outlined below.

Module 1 – Basic Science I

Module 2 – Basic Science II

Module 3 – Technical practice

Module 4 - Project