

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Master of Science in General Dental Practice



Our MSc in General Dental Practice is designed to meet the needs of primary dental care providers and its primary objective is to enhance the quality of patient care.

**College of Medical and Dental Sciences**  
School of Dentistry

# Welcome



The University of Birmingham has long been an integral part of life in the City and the region. We maintain a respect for our heritage whilst forging a clear vision for the future of our University in the twenty-first century.

Today, Birmingham is one of the most popular and broadly-based institutions in the country, offering a wide range of subjects across a spectrum of disciplines from Anthropology to Urban and Regional Studies.

Granted a Royal Charter in 1900 as a result of the drive and imagination of statesman Joseph Chamberlain, this University has always been a pioneer. We were the first in England to incorporate a medical school and the first to establish a faculty of commerce. It was also natural, given the nature of the City's industry, that we should teach the major scientific and engineering disciplines from the outset with the aim of training the next generation of business leaders for the region and the world.

This combination of tradition and innovation is reflected in the architecture of the University's magnificent campus in Edgbaston where redbrick Victorian grandeur is complemented by the innovative modern buildings of west campus. Whilst here, visitors can admire striking sculptures by eminent artists Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and Barbara Hepworth amongst others, each set against the backdrop of the University's 243-acre parkland campus. The University of Birmingham has something to interest and intrigue everybody – be they students, parents, or visitors.

The University of Birmingham:

- Is the leading University in the West Midlands
- Is well-established as a world-class University
- Teaches and undertakes research in all the major disciplines
- Has its own art gallery, botanic garden and railway station
- Has some of the most outstanding sports facilities of any university in the country

# Message from the Programme Director

This programme offers General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) the opportunity to study for the MSc in General Dental Practice at the University of Birmingham.



It is designed specifically in a modular structure with the needs of Primary Dental Care providers in mind. In this respect, students attend the University of Birmingham School of Dentistry for one five-hour session per week. Students will complete their degree in a maximum of five years, but it is possible to complete the programme in approximately three years, depending on the amount of time that you are able, or prepared to, spend on your studies.

We welcome applications from GDPs, dentists working in the Community Dental Service, Armed Forces and Personal Dental Services. You will need to be working in a practice or clinic where you will be seeing sufficient numbers of patients to enable you to write the case reports on which some of the assessments are based. For the first three years of the programme it will be necessary to come to the University of Birmingham's School of Dentistry in the City centre for one five-hour afternoon session per week for thirty-seven weeks per year. Students will be expected to devote additional time for study on top of this. In addition, students will have access to the School of Dentistry's award-winning e-course.

Throughout the programme, students will be provided with a wide range of study materials and the teaching will be carried out in small groups in an interactive style. The majority of the teaching will be carried out by staff from the School of Dentistry, although some modules will include teaching from acknowledged experts in the field from outside the University. I am sure that the enthusiasm and experience of all involved, allied with my background of twenty years in general dental practice, makes this programme, which is relevant to the primary care dentist, a rewarding and stimulating experience. The degree is registerable with the UK General Dental Council.

All enquires to Professor Burke or the Programme Secretary, Mrs Lynda Malthouse.

F J Trevor Burke

## Learn more

F J Trevor Burke  
Tel: 0044 121 237 2767  
f.j.t.burke@bham.ac.uk  
or  
Lynda Malthouse  
Tel: 0044 121 237 2768  
l.malthouse@bham.ac.uk



# Aim of the Programme

The aim of the programme is to provide general dental practitioners with the opportunity to enhance their clinical knowledge and expertise in areas of direct relevance to their practice, thus enabling them to:

- Improve the quality of care provided to patients
- Increase their insight and understanding, resulting in greater awareness of the management of patients
- Provide a base for personal professional development

Additionally, the programme will provide contact between different dentists who are engaged in work in a similar field, sometimes working as a group.

### Who is the Programme for?

This part-time programme caters for general dental practitioners and primary care dentists working in other fields, wishing to enhance their clinical skills and knowledge. Entry to the programme will be limited to those dentists who are working in a clinical environment, as six of the modules require the presentation of a case report.

### Programme structure

The modular structure (Fig.1) includes compulsory core modules covering areas such as contemporary dental practice, new dental technologies and clinical update, which leads to a certificate. Students can then select from a series of clinically- focused optional modules

'A great balance of academic stimulation and practical advice. A career move you will not regret.'

*Current Masters Student*

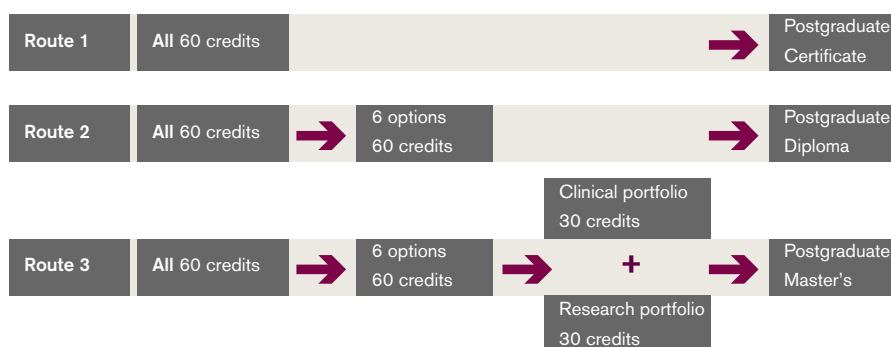


to gain a diploma and complete the Master's qualification by undertaking two clinical portfolio case studies and a research project. The programme is taken part-time over a period of up to five years.

Fig 1. Master's qualification in primary dental care

Core modules 10 credits each	Option modules 10 credits each	Projects and case studies 30 credits each
Contemporary Dental Practice The Informed and Informing Clinician Selection and Application of New Dental Technologies Clinical Update Primary Care Considerations in Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine Research Methodology	Running a Clinical Business Management of Periodontal Disease in Dental Practice Restoration of the Edentulous Space with Removable Protheses Management of Pulpal and Periradicular Disease Aesthetic Dentistry Management of the Anxious Patient Cradle to the grave (Paediatric/Gerodontic Dentistry) Restoration of the Edentulous Space with Fixed Protheses	Clinical Portfolio (Two Case studies) Research project

### Routes to awards



'The Masters has given me enormous confidence in practice. I am so much better informed now and my work is far less stressful as a result.'

*Graduate 2007*



Staff from the School of Dentistry

### Programme tutors

Although the majority of modules are taught by staff from the University's School of Dentistry, some teaching is provided by experts from other universities and dental practice, where appropriate. Above all, the teaching is designed to be exciting, interactive and challenging. There is often lively debate at coffee time, when students from the different year groups meet (Fig 2).

### Time commitment

The number of hours per week required for personal study differs from one student to another, so it is therefore difficult to estimate how many hours of study are required for your study. However, some students elect to make Wednesday their 'Master's study day' and spend time in the School of Dentistry's library. Others devote several hours for two evenings per week. To complete the programme within a five-year period, approximately ten hours of study is required per week. All teaching is carried out on a Wednesday afternoon between 2.00pm and 7.00pm for thirty-seven weeks per year.

### Method of assessment

Methods of assessment vary from module to module, but, where possible, these take the form of materials that may be used to enhance the students' practices, such as patient information leaflets. The assessments are transparent and are published in advance of the commencement of each module. Six modules include the presentation of short case reports (1500 words and six illustrations maximum) as part of their assessment.

On satisfactory completion of all twelve modules, students will present two major case reports (of up to 5000 words), similar to those used for MGDS diplomas from the Royal Colleges, and a research project to an external examiner at an oral examination.

**There are no examinations, other than a final viva voce.**



Figure 2

### Example of a Core Module and its assessment

#### Selection and application of new dental technologies and materials

This module addresses the key issue of how a practitioner can effectively identify new technologies, which will lead to improvements in patient care, with particular emphasis on current developments in dental materials and new approaches to a range of treatments.

#### Assessment by:

- A case study reviewing the potential of the new material and making a recommendation as to whether it should be adopted in the student's practice
- An essay critically assessing conventional and contemporary approaches to cavity design
- On-line viva presenting a series of clinical presentations in which the student must identify the most appropriate implant technology to use

### Example of an Optional Module and its assessment

#### Aesthetic dentistry

This module examines the principles of dental aesthetics (hard tissue and soft tissue) in light of the increasing impact of aesthetic dentistry. Aesthetic dental treatments using techniques whereby ceramic is bonded to tooth substance are examined, as too are direct placement restorations in resin composite. Methods for the achievement of good aesthetics in conventional crown and bridgework, and implants are suggested. The various forms of tooth whitening are evaluated. Phantom

'The course is an ideal opportunity to learn from eminent professors and consultants in a small group with a chance for informal discussion.'

*Current Student*

'...I have become more challenged and feel motivated to make advances in my own practice and professional development. Dentistry has become more interesting again for me.'

*Current Student*

head exercises in anterior and posterior composite placement are available. The relation of ethics and aesthetic dentistry is discussed.

#### Assessment by:

- An essay 'Identify key factors contributing to dental aesthetics, relate these to treatments which are available and discuss the ethical issues involved'
- An illustrated case report demonstrating the relationship of an aesthetic treatment to patient need
- Prepare patient information leaflets on either porcelain laminate veneers and posterior composites, or present clinical photographs of three cases

**www.bham.ac.uk**

This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.