

**The Royal College of  
Surgeons  
of Edinburgh**



**The Royal College of  
Physicians and Surgeons  
of Glasgow**



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

## **Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS)**

### **Regulations**

**Updated July 2019**

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## **1 Introduction**

This document contains the Regulations for the Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, managed jointly by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Further information can be obtained from the Examinations Section/Unit of either of the two Royal Colleges.

Examinations Section  
The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh  
Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh EH8 9DW  
Phone +44 0131 527 1600  
mfds.exams@rcsed.ac.uk  
[www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk)

Examinations and Assessment Unit  
The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow  
232-242 St Vincent Street  
Glasgow G2 5RJ  
Phone +44 0141 221 6072  
Fax +44 0141 241 6222  
mfds@rcpsg.ac.uk  
[www.rcpsg.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk)

## **2 Purpose of the MFDS examination**

- 2.1** The MFDS examination is intended to provide evidence of knowledge, understanding and clinical competence beyond that recognised by the primary dental qualification.
- 2.2** Award of the Diploma will indicate that the candidate has enhanced his/her knowledge and understanding to a standard equivalent to that expected of an individual with two years' postgraduate experience. This will be demonstrated by the ability to display clinical judgement by the efficient and effective assimilation of the essential problems relevant to the clinical case and to the patient. It will further be demonstrated by the ability to explain and make discriminating recommendations regarding the clinical findings and treatment requirements to a patient in a manner the patient can understand.

- 2.3** The curriculum for the MFDS examination is defined in *A Curriculum for UK Dental Foundation Programme Training* published by the UK Departments of Health and which is available via College websites: [www.rcpsg.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk) and [www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk) .

### **3 The MFDS examination**

- 3.1** The MFDS examination has two parts, Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 is bi-collegiate and is organised jointly by the two Colleges. It is the same examination wherever it is held. Part 2 is collegiate and, although organised by each College separately, the format is normally identical wherever it is held.

#### **3.2 Part 1**

- a) This examination will be held at least twice a year in the UK. Overseas diets will be held according to demand.
- b) This examination consists of one written paper of three hours' duration.
- c) The paper consists of 180 multiple choice questions (single best answer type).
- d) Candidates will be awarded a pass or a fail.

#### **3.3 Part 2**

- a) Candidates must have written confirmation of a pass in Part 1 before they may apply to sit Part 2.
- b) This examination will be held at least twice a year in the UK. Overseas diets will be held according to demand.
- c) This examination consists of an objective structured clinical examination normally totalling a minimum of two hours' duration.
- d) Candidates will be awarded a pass or a fail.

## **4 Entrance requirements**

To be eligible to enter for the Diploma examination all candidates **must** provide evidence of:

### **4.1 Part 1**

- a) possession of a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Councils of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

### **4.2 Part 2**

- a) written confirmation of a pass in Part 1 in either the MFDS (Edinburgh, Glasgow), or other examinations accepted by and detailed on the websites of the two Royal Colleges;
- b) completion of 12 months' full-time postgraduate experience in clinical dentistry before the closing date for entry to Part 2. Normally, equivalent part-time experience will be acceptable if gained within a period of four years.

It is important to note that experience must be postgraduate and, therefore, must have been gained after the date of conferment on the BDS certificate.

### **4.3 Number of Attempts**

- a) Candidates are allowed up to six attempts at the MFDS Part 1 (with effect from April 2017).
- b) Candidates are allowed up to four attempts at MFDS Part 2 (OSCE) (with effect from April 2017).
- c) One additional attempt may be granted under the Additional Attempt Policy.
- d) An attempt is defined as an occasion when a candidate commences, but does not necessarily complete, the MFDS Part 1 or MFDS Part 2 (OSCE).

## **5 Eligibility for the award of the Diploma**

To be eligible for the award of the Diploma all candidates **must** provide evidence of:

- a) possession of a primary dental qualification that is acceptable to the Councils of the Royal Colleges;

- b) having passed Part 2 of the MFDS Diploma examination;
- c) having complied with all the parts of the Regulations.

## **6 Application for admission to the examination**

- 6.1** Applicants may enter each part of the examination through either College, but **may only enter through one College at each sitting**. Any candidate who has entered an examination through more than one College at the same sitting will forfeit the fee for each additional application.
- 6.2** Applications for each part of the examination must be received by the closing date specified in the examinations calendar. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed.
- 6.3** Applications for admission to the examination must be fully completed and accompanied by the full amount of the fee payable for the examination. Further information can be obtained from the Examinations Section/Unit of each College at:

Examinations Section  
RCS Edinburgh  
*Nicolson Street*  
*Edinburgh EH8 9DW*  
Phone +44 0131 527 1600  
[mfds.exams@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:mfds.exams@rcsed.ac.uk)  
[www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk)

Examinations and Assessment Unit  
RCPS Glasgow  
*232-242 St Vincent Street*  
*Glasgow G2 5RJ*  
Phone +44 0141 221 6072  
Fax +44 0141 241 6222  
[mfds@rcpsg.ac.uk](mailto:mfds@rcpsg.ac.uk)  
[www.rcpsg.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk)

## **7 Proof of Identity**

- 7.1** Candidates must bring proof of identity to each examination. Proof of identity must be an official document, such as a current passport or driver's licence that includes the candidate's name, signature and photograph.
- 7.2** For the purposes of visual identification, any candidate sitting any examination will be required to remove any clothing and/or other item which covers all, or part of, the candidate's face. The colleges will observe sensitivity and, in specific circumstances privacy in the visual identification of candidates.

## **8 Results**

Results will be posted on the College websites and distributed by post.

## **9 Feedback**

Candidates will be given written feedback on their performance as appropriate.

## **10 Time Restriction**

Candidates must normally pass Part 2 within five years of passing Part 1. Candidates are eligible to apply for Part 2, provided that the Part 2 closing date is within five years of having passed Part 1. Otherwise, candidates must re-enter and pass Part 1 prior to a further attempt at Part 2.

## **11 Recommendations and Advice**

**11.1** Candidates should have achieved a minimum standard of English language competency of IELTS Level 7.5, or equivalent, prior to entering the Part 1 examination.

**11.2** Candidates for MFDS Part 2 are advised to wear appropriate professional attire whilst attending the examination. Further guidance is available in the Guidance to Candidates document available on College websites.

## **12 Infringement of the Regulations**

**12.1** The Colleges may refuse to admit to the examination, or may not allow to proceed with the examination, any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination. Examples of such infringements are as follows:

- a) Entry to the examination being attempted by making false claims about eligibility or falsifying entry documentation;
- b) Unfair advantage being sought or obtained: by possession of material during an examination that might give advantage (including electronic communication devices); by communicating or attempting to communicate with another candidate once the examination has commenced; or by refusing to follow instructions given by examiners or examinations staff regarding the conduct and procedure of the examination;
- c) Removal of, or an attempt to remove from the examination room, any confidential examination material;

- d) Any attempt to obtain confidential information relating to the examination from an examiner or examination officials;
- e) Passing confidential information on the content of the examination to a third party.

**12.2** This list is not exhaustive. Further information can be obtained from the guidelines on suspected malpractice available on each College's Website.

### **13 Representations**

Candidates who wish to make representations with regard to a) their eligibility for the examination, or b) acceptance of training for award of the Diploma must address them to the Examinations Section/Unit of the College of entry within 60 days of the initial decision. Representations will then be dealt with according to the policy agreed by the Colleges. Details of the representations process and fees charged may be obtained from the appropriate College.

### **14 Appeals**

Candidates who wish to submit an appeal about the conduct of their examination must address it to the Examinations Section/Unit of the College of entry within 30 days of publication of the results. Appeals will be considered that allege maladministration or bias, or impropriety of some kind, whether in the conduct of or in the determination of the result for the examination. Appeals against the academic judgement of examiners will not be allowed. Candidates should not approach an examiner in any circumstances. Appeals will be dealt with according to the policy agreed by the Colleges. Details of the appeals process and fees charged may be obtained from the appropriate College.

### **15 Withdrawal from the examination**

**15.1** Candidates who wish to withdraw an application for admission to any part of the examination must submit a request in writing to the College of entry. A refund of the fee paid may be made (less an administrative fee of 20%), provided that notice of an intention to withdraw is received by the Examinations Section/Unit before the closing date by which applications are due, as shown in the examinations calendar. Refunds are not normally made to any candidate who withdraws after the closing date.

**15.2** Candidates who wish to withdraw an application for admission to any part of the examination on medical grounds and request a refund must submit a request in writing to the College of entry, accompanied by a medical certificate. An application for consideration of a refund on compassionate grounds should be supported by full details, plus a supporting letter from an appropriate professional. Each such application must be submitted to the Examinations Section/Unit within 28 days following the date of the candidate's programmed examination date.

**15.3** The Colleges reserve the right to review admission to the examination on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances.

## **16 Special Requirements**

Candidates with special requirements should advise the Examinations Section/Unit at the time of application of the nature of their needs and any assistance that they require. Each request should be supported by medical evidence (an educational psychologist's report is required for requests for extra time because of dyslexia).

## **17 Exemptions**

Candidates who have gained a pass in an equivalent examination acceptable to the two Royal Colleges are exempt from Part 1 of the MFDS. Details of acceptable examinations will be listed on College websites.

## **18 Application for election to a Faculty of Dental Surgery and award of a Diploma**

Candidates must affiliate to the College through which they pass Part 2 before using the Diploma or registering the Diploma with their regulatory body. Candidates may affiliate to both Colleges if desired. Further details are available in Appendix A.

## **19 Curriculum**

The curriculum for the MFDS examination is defined in *A Curriculum for UK Dental Foundation Programme Training* published by the UK Departments of Health and which is available via College websites: [www.rcpsg.ac.uk](http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk) and [www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk) .

## **20 MFDS Syllabus**

- 20.1** The syllabus below has been devised with reference to the Curriculum and lists the main subjects that may be assessed in the MFDS examination.
- 20.2** The list is intended not to be prescriptive but to give candidates a guide to the topics that may be included. Furthermore, because the MFDS examination is an external assessment of the knowledge and understanding that underpins direct patient care, there are certain competencies in the Curriculum which are **not** covered by the syllabus (please see the note at the end of the Syllabus). Some competencies (e.g. removal of carious tooth structure) relate to a manual skill and their acquisition can be demonstrated only in the workplace. Other competencies (e.g. practice management) are not clinically related. Legislation that impacts on dentistry is also excluded from the syllabus on the grounds that it varies across different jurisdictions within the UK. In particular, candidates should note that the *Management and Leadership* domain of the Curriculum includes many competencies that will not be assessed in the MFDS examination. Because there are many of them, they are listed as a footnote to the *Management and Leadership* section of the syllabus.
- 20.3** It is important, furthermore, to remember that the MFDS is not a specialist examination and that the level of knowledge expected in any area of the syllabus will not exceed that which would be expected of a dentist who has two years' experience of clinical dental practice.
- 20.4** Successful candidates will be able to recognise and deal safely with the non-specialist problems that may be met in the routine practice of any branch of dentistry, treat dental trauma and acute dental pain and accurately diagnose and plan treatment of a wide variety of routine dental conditions with reference to new and emerging technologies in dentistry.
- 20.5** Candidates will be expected to have a sound basic knowledge and understanding of applied anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry sufficient to interpret the effects of common dental diseases and injuries on the systems of the body especially, but not exclusively, in the head and neck. They are expected to have an understanding of cell biology and applied histology which enables them to understand the normal and disordered function of dentally important tissues and organs. A detailed knowledge of embryology is not required but the pathogenesis of common developmental abnormalities important in dentistry may be examined. A working knowledge of the therapeutic actions and toxic effects of drugs commonly used, in particular in the treatment of dental conditions, will also be required. Candidates must have an understanding of those aspects of pathology, immunology and microbiology that are relevant to dental practice.

## **Patient examination and diagnosis**

- History taking
  - Dental History
  - Medical history
    - Systemic diseases and other disabilities
  - Social, cultural, nutritional, psychological and genetic factors
- Clinical Examination
  - Skull and jaws
    - Mandible, maxilla and temporomandibular joints
    - Control of jaw position and movement
    - Muscles of mastication and facial expression
    - Sensory and motor function of mouth and jaws
  - Oral cavity
    - Mucosal, periodontal, dental and pulpal health and disease
    - Saliva and salivary glands in health and disease
    - Dental arch alignment and occlusal relationships
    - Dental plaque formation, and composition
- Special investigations in relation to dentistry
  - Radiology and other imaging techniques
  - Pathology and histopathology
  - Microbiology
  - Immunology
  - Haematology
  - Biochemistry

## **Treatment planning and patient management**

- Consent
- Preventive management
- Treatment options
- Prognoses, outcomes and follow-up

## **Health promotion and disease prevention**

- Concepts of prevention of oral and dental disease
- Risk factors for oral and dental disease
- Epidemiology of dental and oral disease
- Patient and population level health management
- Applied pharmacology and therapeutics
  - Prescribing and monitoring

## **Medical and dental emergencies**

- Dentofacial trauma
- Circulatory collapse
- Life support
- Drug interactions

## **Anaesthesia, sedation, pain and anxiety control**

- Local and general anaesthesia
- Conscious sedation
- Anxiety management

## **Periodontal therapy and management of soft tissues**

- Periodontal diseases
- Rationale for periodontal treatment
- Tooth hypermobility and its management
- Pathological interactions of the pulp and periodontium, and their management
- Chemical antimicrobial therapy: basic pharmacology and antimicrobial profile of drugs in common use
- Healing processes and outcomes in the periodontium
- The aetiology and conservative management of gingival recession

## **Surgical and non-surgical management of the hard and soft tissues of the head and neck**

- Pathology of neoplastic and non-neoplastic disease of the head and neck
- Oral medicine
  - Diagnosis and management of common oral mucosal, salivary gland, bone, connective tissue and joint disorders
  - Craniofacial pain
- Oral surgery
  - Exodontia and dentoalveolar surgery
  - Diagnosis and management of ectopic teeth
  - Minor soft tissue and salivary gland surgery
  - Periradicular surgery
  - Recognition and management of complications
  - Diagnosis and management of odontogenic infections
- Oral and facial trauma
  - Classification and presentation of facial fractures
  - Basic management of jaw fractures
- Therapeutics in relation to oral surgery and oral medicine

## **The developing dentition**

- Development of the face, palate and tongue
  - Common malformations e.g. cleft lip and palate
- Growth of the jaws
- Development of the dentition
  - Developmental disorders of the teeth
- Establishment of the occlusion
  - Biology of tooth movement
- Oral habits
- Interceptive orthodontic treatment
  - Space maintenance
- Removable appliance therapy
- Orthodontic Indices

## Malocclusion

- Assessment methods
- Orthodontic management
- Restorative management
- Principles of surgical management
- Principles of the management of orthognathic deformity

## **Restoration and replacement of teeth**

- Applied dental materials
- Dental caries and toothwear
  - Risk factors
  - Preventive and restorative management
- Endodontics
  - Assessment and management of pulpal and periradicular lesions
  - Preparation and obturation techniques
  - Restoration of the non-vital tooth
- Fixed and removable prosthodontics
  - Prosthesis design
  - Clinical and laboratory stages of prosthesis manufacture
- Dental implants
  - Principles of assessment, provision and restoration
- Dental trauma
  - Classification and presentation of dental trauma
  - Management of dental trauma

## **Communication**

- Explanation of treatment options and procedures
- Motivation of patients to change oral health
- Communication of bad news
- Management of difficult situations
- Management of patients with special needs

## **Professionalism and ethics**

- Ethical and medico-legal aspects of dentistry
  - Consent, confidentiality, data protection, disclosure, negligence and equality issues
- Professional knowledge
  - Basic statistical concepts
  - Concepts in evidence-based dentistry
  - Principles of clinical trial design and analysis
  - Evaluation of research findings
- Standards of personal conduct
- Management of complaints
- Effective and ethical decision making
- Health and Safety issues
  - Infection control
- Use of guidelines

**Management and Leadership**

- Record keeping
- Risk assessment
- Use of research data and evidence-based knowledge
- Principles of health and safety and infection control
- Safety issues in dental radiography

***IMPORTANT NOTE***

This examination is an assessment of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of matters relating to direct patient care. However, the Curriculum domain 'Management and Leadership' includes many competencies that relate specifically to the business of running a practice in the National Health Service. Candidates will not be examined in this part of the Curriculum. Thus, there will not be questions about practice management, contractual arrangements, selection and maintenance of equipment, remuneration systems, employment legislation, the legal issues relating to health & safety, the structure, rules and regulations of the NHS, financial matters or business planning. The only topics from this domain that may be included in the examination are those listed in the syllabus above.

## Appendix A



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW  
DENTISTRY

### **THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW**

1. The list of successful candidates for the Diploma of Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery will be confirmed by the Head of Examinations, on behalf of the President, the date of signature on the list being the date of election to the College.
2. The successful candidates will be invited to proceed to admission to the College and will be sent the appropriate documentation.
3. Each candidate for admission must pay an admission fee, the amount to be determined from time to time by the Council.
4. Upon receipt of the completed admission documentation and payment of admission fee, a Diploma of Membership and Welcome Pack will be issued to each new Member. All Diplomas of Membership are dispatched on a monthly basis by recorded post.
5. All new Members will be given the opportunity to attend an Admission Ceremony – details of this will be sent at the time of admission.
6. In order to retain membership and the use of postnominals, each Member must pay the appropriate annual subscription fee as determined from time to time by the Council.



## THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

1. The candidate, after having passed all parts of the examination for the Diploma of Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, shall lodge with the Secretary to the College a Petition that his/her name be placed before the Dental Council who shall bring it to the Council of the College for election as a Member. He/she shall pay such election fee as the College shall from time to time determine and, in the case of those who hold the Diploma of Licentiate in Dental Surgery of the College, half the election fee shall be remitted in consideration of the fees already paid.
2. Petitions of candidates who have passed the examination shall be laid before the Council of the College. These petitions shall include the name and qualifications of each candidate and the date the latter were obtained. Every candidate shall be informed of the result of the election and in the event of any candidate not being elected after having passed the examination his/her election fee will be returned to him/her in full.  
A successful candidate shall then receive a Diploma bearing the Seal of the College and the Diploma shall state that such Member has been admitted after examination. The form of the Diploma is as follows:  
“The President and Fellows of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh hereby admit to the Diploma of Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the College .....who has completed the required form of training and passed the necessary examinations. He/she is hereby entitled to share all the honours and privileges enjoyed by the Members of the said College”.  
Every Member shall pay each year such annual subscription as may be determined from time to time by the Council with the concurrence of the College.