



**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**
Faculty of Health

Peninsula Dental School

Programme Specification

MSc Oral Surgery

2022-23 Academic Year

Date Approved From: July 2021
Date of Implementation: Jan 2022
Date of First Award: 2025

Internal Programme Code	Award Title	Site	Mode of Study
4644	MSc Oral Surgery	Plymouth	PT

Reviewed Date	Amended following review Yes/No	Sections amended
25 th April 2022	Yes	4,6,8

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1. MSc Oral Surgery

Final award title: MSc Oral Surgery

Intermediate award title(s): Postgraduate Diploma Oral Surgery
Postgraduate Certificate Oral Surgery

UCAS code: N/A
JACS code: A400 Clinical Dentistry
HECOS code: 100266

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): Faculty of Health

3. Accrediting body(ies)

Royal College of Surgeons of England (re-accreditation due February 2024)

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

Oral Surgery is a branch of dentistry that concerns the diagnosis and treatment of oral conditions requiring surgical intervention. Oral surgery covers a spectrum of these procedures and can be carried out by a General Dental Practitioner (GDP) in a primary care setting under local anaesthetic with conscious sedation if required.

Oral surgery is an area of clinical dental practice that many dentists, particularly recent graduates, appear to lack confidence to perform. While both undergraduate and foundation dental training appear to deliver sound theoretical and simulated training, there are large variations throughout the UK in clinical training and surgical experience at this level.

The lack of practical experience, particularly in surgical extractions, is linked with these low practitioner confidence levels¹.

This programme is designed to address these issues directly by providing a large element of practical simulated and clinical training supervised by oral surgery Consultants and Specialists to enable students to develop their confidence and competence in practical clinical skills as well as augmenting their theoretical knowledge.

The Guide for commissioning Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine services produced by NHS England in September 2015 (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/guid-comms-oral.pdf>) describes the procedures and conditions that General Dental practitioners are expected to deliver as part of their NHS contract (Level 1) (see Appendix 3).

Due to the relative ease of referral of simple oral surgery cases prior to the commissioning documents release and variations in GDPs experience, competence and confidence levels, there are GDPs who may not feel they can fulfil these criteria at present and wish to gain further training to comply with both the commissioning guidance and the General Dental Council's Standards for the Dental Team 2013 (<https://standards.gdc-uk.org/>) (see Appendix 3).

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate stage of the programme graduates should have developed the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a General Dental Practitioner to deliver safe and effective oral surgery in a primary care setting (Level 1) and to have developed both in confidence and competence to be able to delivery oral surgery in their own practice setting.

The commissioning document also describes that there are GDPs who are not specialists in oral surgery but with enhanced skills, competence and experience who will be able to manage more complex oral surgery procedures and conditions (Level 2). The Diploma in Oral Surgery builds on the certificate stage and also delivers enhanced training so that a diploma graduate should have the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a dentist wishing to be considered as a Dentist with Enhanced Skills (DES) in oral surgery (Level 2).

The Oral Surgery programme is designed not only to develop a GDP's knowledge and skills in oral surgery but also to produce a clinician who is evidence based and reflective in their daily practice through taught elements in reflective practice, critical appraisal of the literature and evidence-based practice during all modules of the programme.

An ageing population means that patients requiring oral surgery have more complex medical histories as well as requiring more complex oral surgical procedures and this programme delivers training to enable graduates to manage these patients, and any medical emergencies they may develop, appropriately and effectively. The nationally recognised UK Resuscitation Council's Immediate Life Support Qualification (ILS) is gained during the Diploma stage of the programme.

Completion of the Masters project component, leading to the award of a Master's degree in Oral Surgery will give practitioners skills in question formulation, evidence-searching, critical appraisal and academic writing.

In summary:

- The programme is led by a team of Consultants and Specialists in Oral Surgery and complemented by respected visiting clinicians and educators.
- The programme is structured to allow participants to continue their current working commitments while studying at an appropriate pace.
- Each module at certificate and diploma stages includes hands on consultant/specialist led supervision and clinical time to facilitate the demonstration, assimilation and practice of taught surgical techniques. (8 clinical days modules 3 and 4, 5 clinical days modules 1 and 2).
- The course allows diagnosis, treatment planning, patient management and practical surgical techniques to be learnt, underpinned by a rigorous appraisal of the evidence base, so that participants gain the skills to practice critically and effectively in their own dental practices.
- As well as seminars, tutorials and self-directed learning in context, the programme also includes practical hands-on teaching in our state-of-the-art clinical facilities and simulated dental learning environment.
- The programme will allow enhanced skills, knowledge, and critical thinking to be developed in: oral surgery – diagnosis, treatment planning and surgical skills, management of the medically compromised patient undergoing oral surgery including medical emergencies, conscious sedation techniques and oral medicine.

Three possible levels of exit qualification are available for the programme – namely Certificate, Diploma and Masters.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The programme has been developed with reference to the relevant policies and procedures related to the University of Plymouth and external agencies such as the Quality Assurance Agency.

Although there is no specific QAA Subject Benchmark for Oral Surgery, reference has been made to the Subject Benchmark for Dentistry and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7: Master's degree.

6. Programme Structure

Students will study on a part time basis with each stage of the programme normally completed within one year. All modules are at FHEQ Level 7.

Postgraduate Certificate stage modules:

MOS711
Foundations of Oral Surgery
(30 Credits)

MOS713
Oral Surgery in Practice
(30 Credits)

Postgraduate Diploma stage modules:

MOS723
Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1
(30 Credits)

MOS724
Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 2
(30 Credits)

Masters Stage

DIS734
Dental Programmes Masters Project
(60 Credits)

Module 1 - MOS711 Foundations of Oral Surgery

This module covers key concepts underpinning the delivery of oral surgery enabling learners to develop their understanding and knowledge of the subject including relevant basic sciences, diagnosis, treatment planning, patient management and issues associated with consent, local anaesthetic and exodontia skills. Teaching is delivered as seminars, demonstrations and practical training in the Simulated Dental Environment (SDLE) and in the clinical setting

Module 2 – MOS713 Oral Surgery in Practice

This module enables students to develop their skills and knowledge in oral surgery as well as introducing the further concepts of surgical extractions and the management of surgical complications, management of the medically compromised patient, and provides an introduction to dentoalveolar trauma and oral mucosal disease diagnosis and management. Teaching of consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

Module 3 - MOS723 Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1

This module builds on existing knowledge and newly acquired skills from modules 1 and 2 and introduces more complex oral surgery treatment options including the management of unerupted teeth and soft tissue surgery. Students will be introduced to the management options available for the anxious patient undergoing oral surgery. They will also develop an understanding of the diagnosis and management of facial pain. Teaching consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

Module 4 – MOS724 Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 2

This module augments knowledge and newly acquired skills from previous modules and applies this knowledge and skill in more complex clinical situations. This module introduces further specialised procedures including periradicular surgery, implant placement and oral surgery related to orthodontic treatment. This module also aims to develop the learners ability in critically appraising evidence and clinical question formulation in relation to research and project design. Teaching consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

Module 5 – DIS734 Masters Project

In this module, students will design, plan and undertake a review of the evidence relevant to Oral Surgery. They will specify a research question related to oral surgery, make methodological decisions and synthesise the available literature.

7. Programme Aims

1. Develop a deep and systematic understanding of the key concepts and evidence-base relating to the diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment of patients undergoing oral surgical procedures.
2. Critically analyse and evaluate the available evidence that supports oral surgery diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment modalities including patient management skills, applying it where appropriate and recognising where alternative approaches are required.
3. Using critical reflection and synthesis of knowledge gained through the course learning outcomes and previous clinical experience to safely and proficiently demonstrate effective treatment techniques relating to oral surgery within the learners own practice setting.
4. Demonstrate the ability to design, conduct, evaluate and write up a project that is of relevance to professional practice as a GDP with enhanced skills in oral surgery and should result in direct benefit through improved care for patient(s). Demonstrate self-direction, originality and an ability to respond to constructive feedback and to act autonomously in the planning and implementation of project skills at an advanced professional level.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for participants to develop and demonstrate the general outcomes listed below. The learning outcomes are referenced to institutional Masters level 7 descriptors (SEEC, 2010). These will be contextualised within each participant's coursework.

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) A deeper and more systematic understanding of the nature of oral surgery and its relationship with other relevant disciplines.
- 2) An in depth understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to the management of a patient who may require oral surgery.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice in oral surgery.
- 2) Develop critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggests and assesses new concepts or approaches in oral surgery effectively using reflective practice.
- 3) Apply evidence based developments at a high level of abstraction within the clinical context.
- 4) Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, synthesises ideas or information in innovative ways, and generate transformative solutions demonstrating evidence acquisition, evaluation and synthesis within the clinical context.
- 5) Undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence/data and judge the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used. Recognise and argue for alternative approaches using critical reflection and appraisal of the evidence in relation to oral surgery.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) After completion of the first 2 modules (Certificate level) the learner will possess the qualities and transferable skills to solve problems while exercising personal responsibility. They will be able to consider different

approaches to clinical problems commonly encountered in this area, and act autonomously and responsibly.

2) After completion of the first 4 modules (Diploma level) the learner will be able to exercise initiative in the management of a wide range of clinical situations and make evidence-based clinical decisions for patients requiring complex care.

3) Completion of the masters project module will equip students with the ability to self-direct and show initiative when faced with complex problems. They will be able to act autonomously and responsibly and identify and develop their skills during their future career.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1) The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a General Dental Practitioner to deliver safe and effective oral surgery in a primary care setting (Level 1 service DoH Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine commissioning document 2015).

2) The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes associated with a Dentist wishing to be considered as a Dentist with enhanced skills (DES) in oral surgery (Level 2 service DoH Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine commissioning document 2015).

3) Completion of the Masters project module demonstrates a students ability to formulate a clinical question, critically reflect and produce an oral surgery related review evidencing skills in knowledge acquisition, evaluation and synthesis.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1) At the Certificate stage, the ability to diagnose, assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including; safe extraction of teeth and an ability to deal with complications that arise may arise, managing the medically compromised patient and medical emergencies and an ability to appropriately diagnose and manage oral mucosal disease and dentoalveolar trauma. The skills to acquire,

evaluate and critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills.

2) At the Diploma stage, the ability to assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage more complex oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including: ectopic and unerupted teeth, periradicular surgery, soft tissue and implant surgery dealing with complications that may arise. The ability to appropriately manage the anxious patient undergoing oral surgery procedures including experience of conscious sedation techniques. The ability to diagnose and manage facial pain appropriately including referral. The skills to acquire, evaluate and critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills including research design.

3) At Masters level the ability to produce a Masters project review under supervision demonstrating clinical question formulation, evidence acquisition, evaluation and synthesis within a clinical context and an ability in decision making and critical reflection skills in relation to a clinical scenario in oral surgery.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above.

Entry Requirements for MSc Oral Surgery	
BDS	<p>Graduates should be in practice (Dentistry) in the UK whilst undertaking the programme and hold full GDC registration as a dental practitioner, they should also have full professional indemnity and normally at least 2 years of clinical experience (full time equivalent).</p> <p>Applicants that meet the above entry requirements will be required to attend an interview.</p> <p>Places will then be allocated to successful candidates on a first come first served basis.</p>
Language Requirements	<p>Candidates will be required to be competent in English. Candidates whose first language is not English require IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each element) or equivalent in a secure English language test. If the candidate's English language does not meet the above standard, they will be given the opportunity to complete one of the University's pre-sessional English language courses.</p>

There are no progression routes from other postgraduate programmes. Claims for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be considered in line with the University of Plymouth policy

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations>

The School welcomes applications from students with disability and support is discussed extensively during the admissions process, normally with the help of Disability Services (DS) and Occupational Health and Well-Being. Dialogue continues between tutors, academic staff, DS and Occupational Health practitioners throughout all stages of study and the Health and Conduct Group monitors any on-going issues as engagement with patients and the ability to maintain the health and safety of self and others is an important area of major concern.

10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

For further information, please refer to the Academic Regulations, available at:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/academic-regulations>

11. Non Standard Regulations

The following are exceptions to the normal University regulations and apply to the MSc Endodontics programme:

- Students are required to pass all elements of a module assessment at 40% and achieve an overall module mark of 50% in order to pass the module.

12. Transitional Arrangements

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

Tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Module	Credits	C core E elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)															Compensation Y/N	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical					
			Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills					Key & transferable skills			Employment related skills			Practical skills								
			1	2	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2			3				
MOS711	30	C	x	x	x	x				x					x							N	C1 50% P1 50%	
MOS713	30	C	x	x	x	x				x					x								N	C1 100% A1 P/F
Learning Outcomes 60 credits																								
MOS723	30	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x							N	C1 60% P1 40%
MOS724	30	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x								N	C1 30% P1 70% A1 P/F
Learning Outcomes 120 credits																								
DIS734	60	C		x	x	x	x	x									x						N	C1 100%
Learning Outcomes 180 credits																								
Confirmed Award Los																								