



Licence in Dental Surgery

Examination Regulations



Royal College
of Surgeons

FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY

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1. Introduction

1.1 Aim of assessment

- 1.1.1 The examination is offered by the Faculty of Dental Surgery to assess the competencies set out in the Learning Outcomes and Examination Syllabus document which is the Examination Matrix or Framework (Appendix 1) for the License in Dental Surgery.
- 1.1.2 The assessment is not limited to recent graduates.

2. Eligibility for the award of the LDS

Eligibility for entrance to the examination

To be eligible to enter each part of the examination all candidates must:

- 2.1 If registered on a course of study at a UK undergraduate dental school, produce evidence that they have satisfactorily completed a five-year curriculum as described and recognised by the General Dental Council (GDC) and have passed the dental school's final examinations, and are registered with the GDC.
- 2.2 If in possession of a qualification awarded by an EEA university or licensing body that is recognised by the GDC for purposes of full registration in the UK, produce evidence of qualification, certificates of the courses of study attended and examinations passed for such a qualification.
- 2.3 If holding a qualification awarded by an overseas university or licensing body that is NOT recognised by the GDC for purposes of full registration in the UK, produce evidence of qualification and a NARIC certificate. In addition, it is necessary to provide certificates showing that the studies and courses undertaken were in line with the standards described in Preparing for Practice (General Dental Council, revised edition 2015). A NARIC certificate is required unless temporary registration with the GDC is current and can be verified.
- 2.4 Produce evidence of having had no fewer than 1600 hours clinical experience where they have personally treated patients in the dental chair. The number of hours of this clinical experience will either be hours spent undertaking appropriate investigations and administering dental treatment during the dental degree, during post-qualification experience, or a combination of the two and must have occurred during the period immediately prior to sitting Part 2 of the examination.
- 2.5 Demonstrate their linguistic competence by means of the Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The LDS will be held only in English and insufficient command of English will not be accepted as an excuse for poor performance in any part of the examination. Exemptions only apply to EEA nationals, those who have indefinite leave to remain in the UK or undertook their undergrad or postgrad dental degree in a UK institution. Original or certified copy of degree must be submitted to prove exemption.
- 2.6 Produce a Certificate or Letter of Good Standing

- 2.6.1 This is a certificate or letter issued by the dental authority of the country in which the candidate was last working, which states that s/he is legally entitled to practice dentistry in that country and that s/he has not been suspended, disqualified or prohibited from working as a dentist. This document cannot be more than three months old at the time of application. The original certificate or certified copy.
- 2.6.2 The candidate must also produce a Certificate or Letter of Good Standing from the dental authority in the country in which s/he qualified if this is different to the country in which s/he last worked or is currently working.
- 2.6.3 If a candidate cannot obtain this document, an affidavit or affirmation witnessed by a solicitor or other legal professional can be submitted in its place. This is only acceptable if it is not possible to obtain a Certificate or Letter of Good Standing. The candidate must be prepared to swear under oath in the affidavit/affirmation that s/he cannot obtain the Certificate or Letter of Good Standing despite having tried to. In the affidavit/affirmation the candidate must state that s/he has the right to practice dentistry in the relevant country and has not been suspended or prohibited from practicing as a dentist. Reasons For being unable to obtain a Letter or Certificate of Good Standing must be included. The Royal College of Surgeons of England may also seek confirmation from the relevant authority.
- 2.6.4 A registration certificate or an annual practicing certificate or a reference from a candidate's university will not be accepted as a Letter or Certificate of Good Standing. The Letter or Certificate of Good Standing must be issued by the registration authority for dentists in that country.
- 2.7 Produce a current (within 3 months (before or after) passing part 2 of the examination) certificate of competence in Basic Life Support (BLS) from a recognized center in the UK.
- 2.8 Submit authenticated within 3 months (before or after) passing Part 2, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV certificates from an accredited UK laboratory, which shows a full serological status. No one with evidence of an infective risk to patients will be permitted to enter the examination.
- 2.9 Candidates will also be required to sign a health declaration, which states:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge I am not suffering from, nor am I a carrier of, any infectious disease, blood borne virus or other transmissible disease, which might jeopardise the well-being of patients. I further declare that I have no reason to believe that Such infectious or transmissible diseases may be present. I understand that before the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS) can award the LDS and inform the General Dental that I have passed the LDS and am eligible to apply for the UK Dental Register, I must provide:

- » Original Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV certificate, which have been authenticated from an accredited UK Laboratory to show my full serological status.
- » The certificates must be no more than 3 months old and be presented to the RCS Examinations Department within 3 months (before or after) of sitting the LDS Part 2 examination.

3. Assessment Structure

3.1 The Content and Format of the Examination

The examination is in two parts, the scope of which is outlined in the Learning Outcomes document. Candidates are permitted a maximum of four attempts at each part: Four is the maximum number of attempts permitted and not the minimum number of attempts guaranteed. Places are allocated on a first-come, first served basis, and you may be unable to secure four Part 2 places in five years. Candidates are advised to prepare well for the examination and aim to pass on the first or second attempt.

3.1.1 Part 1

This examination is comprised of two papers (paper A and paper B), each of up to three hours' duration. The papers assess the relevant competencies as outlined in the Learning Outcomes document available on the RCSEng website. The format of the papers is Single Best Answer (SBA) and Extended Matching (EMQ) questions centred on knowledge and its application to:

- A. Clinically applied dental science and clinically applied human disease.
- B. Aspects of clinical dentistry, law and ethics, and health and safety.

3.1.2 In order to progress to Part 2, both Part 1 papers will need to be passed at one sitting. If either paper is failed candidates will be required to re-sit all of Part 1.

3.1.3 The Part 1 LDS examination is held at least once per year in the UK and/or in designated overseas centres.

3.1.4 Part 2

Candidates will be required to pass Part 1 before submitting an application for Part 2. Candidates will not be permitted to apply for both sections of the examination at the same time.

3.1.5 The examination will test knowledge application and clinical skills (including management of medical emergencies) across the range of major competencies outlined in the Learning Outcomes document and will employ the following formats:

- a. An objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) of up to two hours duration.
- b. The 'Unseen Case' [based on an objective structured long examination (OSLE) model] - an examination designed to test the candidates' diagnosis, treatment planning and clinical reasoning of approximately one - two hour's duration.
- c. An operative test on a dental manikin of up to three hours duration.

3.1.6 This examination will be conducted over one or two or three days at least twice per year in the UK.

3.1.7 Part 2 must be passed within five years of obtaining Part 1. Four attempts are allowed for Part 1 and four attempts for Part 2.

4. Overview of LDS Syllabus

4.1 The syllabus (in the form of an examination matrix) outlined below has been devised with reference to competence, knowledge and familiarity in different aspects of dentistry as outlined in the GDC's Preparing for Practice as well as to the profile agreed by the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) .

4.2 A successful LDS candidate will:

- » have had a broad academic and dental education and be able to function in all areas of clinical dentistry;
- » be trained in biomedical science;
- » be able to work together with other dental and health care professionals in the health care system;
- » have good communication skills;
- » be prepared to undertake continuing professional development supporting the concept of life-long learning; and
- » be able to practice evidence-based dentistry based through a problem solving approach, using basic theoretical and practical skills.

4.3 Below is an outline of the major competencies/learning outcomes, related to the above profile that may be assessed. These represent broad categories of professional activity and concerns that occur in the general practice of dentistry and are interdisciplinary in orientation and must embrace an element of critical thinking. They may apply in differing ways to patients of all ages, including children, adolescents, adults and the elderly.

4.3.1 Professionalism

- a. Professional attitude and behaviour
- b. Ethics and jurisprudence

4.3.2 Interpersonal, Communication and Social Skills

- a. Communication

4.3.3 Knowledge Base, Information and Information literacy

- a. Application of basic biological, medical, technical and clinical sciences
- b. Acquiring and using information

4.3.4 Clinical Information Gathering

- a. Obtaining and recording a comprehensive history of the patient's medical, oral and dental state

4.3.5 Diagnosis and Treatment Planning

- a. Decision-making, clinical reasoning and judgment
- b. Education of patients and management of comprehensive primary care
- c. Oral medicine management
- d. Periodontal management

- e. Caries and endodontic management
- f. Surgical procedures
- g. Pain and anxiety management
- h. Restorative/prosthodontics management
- i. Orthodontic management
- j. Emergency treatment

4.3.6 Health Promotion

- a. Improving the oral health of individuals, families and groups in the community
- 4.4 These major competencies are underpinned by sub-sets of more detailed supporting skills, understanding and professional values. The detail, along with associated assessment methods are can be found on the RCS web site in Learning Outcomes and Examination Syllabus Document.
- 4.5 Candidates will not be assessed on their familiarity with the National Health Service (NHS) or British culture other than the ways in which this might affect how patients are treated.

5. Process for Application

- 5.1 Application forms, and further essential information published in “Information for Candidates”, are available from the Examinations and Assessment Department of the RCSEng, and can be accessed [online](#).
- 5.1.1 Examinations will normally be held at least twice per year on the dates decided by the Faculty Examination Board.
 - 5.1.2 Application for Part 1 is made through online application. The application date will be advertised on the [website](#).
 - 5.1.3 Applications for the Part 2 examination are made by application form only and must reach the Examinations and Assessment Department by the closing date specified on the website. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed.
 - 5.1.4 Applications for admission to the examination either online or by application form must be fully completed, accompanied by any supporting information specified either online or in the application form and the full fee payable. Applications must be supported by references. ** If an application online or by application form is found to be incomplete, the application will not be accepted. In the case of Part 2 paper application the form will be returned to the applicant.
- ** Before a candidate is allowed to sit Part 2 of the LDS examination, RCSEng will contact the clinical referees to check the candidate’s references. Only when the referees have responded by contacting RCSEng to verify the references, will the candidate be invited to sit Part 2.
- 5.2 Candidates will need to pass Part 1 before sitting Part 2. Applicants are not permitted to enter both Part 1 and Part 2 examinations in the same diet.

- 5.3 When a candidate submits a completed application form and all of the required documents, they will be invited to enter for the LDS.
- 5.4 Candidates applying for the LDS are expected to be ready and committed to sit the examination.

6. Examination Fees

- 6.1 Fees for the examination are determined by the Faculty Board and are subject to change from time to time. Currently, they are:

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| 6.1.1 | Part 1 written papers | £850 |
| 6.1.2 | Part 2 clinical sections | £2940 |

7. Time restrictions on completing the LDS and number of attempts allowed

Candidates have five years to complete after passing Part 1. The examination is in two parts: candidates are permitted a maximum of four attempts at each part.

8. Infringement of the regulations

- 8.1 Any candidate who infringes the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behavior prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination may be refused admission to the assessment or to proceed with assessment. A copy of the College policy relating to Malpractice can be found on the [RCSEng website](#).
- 8.2 No electronic equipment, bound or unbound materials, or unauthorized writing instruments are allowed into the examination room. Candidates in breach of this rule will have the items confiscated and will be ejected from the examination and the application fee will be forfeited. Candidates who are ejected from a Part 1 examination will not be allowed to take Part 2.

9. Plagiarism

Cases of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with according to the College policy on Malpractice.

10. Appeals

- 10.1 Appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the College procedure relating to appeals.
- 10.2 Candidates who wish to make representations with regard to their eligibility for the examination must address them to the Examination and Assessment Office in accordance with arrangements set out in the appeals procedure and within one month of the initial decision.

- 10.3 Candidates who wish to make representations with regard to the conduct of their assessment must address them to the Royal College Examinations and Assessment Office in accordance With arrangements set out in the appeals procedure, and not in any circumstances to the assessors. Representations must be made as specified in the appeals procedure within 28 days of the announcement of the result.

11. Withdrawals from the examination

- 11.1 Candidates wishing to withdraw an application for admission to an examination must do so in writing, and will be refunded the fee less a 20% administrative charge provided that the withdrawal is received before the closing date of the examination.
- 11.2 Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date, or who fail to attend the examination, for which the candidate has been accepted, will not normally be entitled to any refund of fee. The transfer of examination fees to future diets will only be granted under exceptional circumstances, such as on medical or compassionate grounds or other similar event beyond the candidate's control. Request for transfer of fees must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the candidate's general medical practitioner, postgraduate dental dean or a local tutor in order to be considered.
- 11.3 Requests for a refund under exceptional circumstances, such as medical or compassionate grounds or other similar events beyond the candidate's control must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the candidate's general medical practitioner, postgraduate dental dean or local tutor in order to be considered.
- 11.4 Failure to comply with the condition of the regulations, or failure to meet the eligibility requirements, will not be sufficient grounds for a refund.
- 11.5 Candidates are permitted FOUR attempts to pass Part 1. Success at Part 1 is required before proceeding to Part 2.
- 11.6 The Examination and Assessment Office reserve the right to review admission to the examination on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances.

12. Exemptions

There are no exemptions. All candidates must pass Part 1 and Part 2 in order to pass the LDS examination.

13. Appointment of examiners

The appointment of examiners will be carried out in accordance with the College policy on recruitment, selection and training of examiners.

14. Feedback to candidates

Feedback will be provided to all unsuccessful candidates with the result letter or in a separate letter following the result letter.

15. Procedure for applying to the Faculty of Dental Surgery for enrolled membership

Successful LDS candidates will be eligible to apply to The Royal College of Surgeons of England's Membership Office for enrolled membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery. Following each LDS Part 2 diet, an application form for enrolled membership will be posted to all successful candidates.

16. Procedure for registration of the LDS with the General Dental Council UK

The successful candidate's name will be added to the list sent to the General Dental Council UK for registration of the candidate's LDS.

17. Disability and equal opportunities

Regulations relating to disability and equal opportunities are detailed in the College's policy statement.