Specialist Training Programmes in Prosthodontics

1. Entry to Specialist Training

Entry to specialist training should follow a period of at least two years of general professional training and should be competitive. The MFDS or equivalent would normally be the minimum entry qualification.

2. Specialist Training Programmes (Prosthodontics)

Training programmes must be for a period of three years or 4,500 hours. Flexible (part-time) training is permitted but must achieve the required hourly commitment within a maximum period of six years. In common with the programmes for the other restorative specialties, the programme for prosthodontics should include a broad based training in all aspects of restorative dentistry and clinical dental science. Clinical training should be supervised and a structured assessment of progress must be an essential part of the programme.

The following elements constitute the specialist training programme:

a) Clinical experience must be obtained within a framework of total patient care.

b) Comprehensive treatment planning must be fully understood and practised.

c) The clinical element should include, to an advanced level, clinical expertise in the presentation, diagnosis and management of problems relating to the replacement of missing teeth by means of fixed or removable prosthesis, and in the diagnosis, case selection, treatment planning, surgical and restorative aspects of oral implantology.

d) Evaluation, review and maintenance procedures.

e) A log book must be maintained, together with a record of in-training assessments.

f) The programme content should be apportioned approximately as follows:

clinical 60% academic 25% research 15%

g) Clinical audit

h) Dento-legal issues

i) The training programme should include satisfactory completion of a research project.

3. Programme Content

Training programmes in prosthodontics should include the study and practice of the following subjects to a level appropriate to a three year specialist training programme in prosthodontics:

Anatomy, physiology and pathology of the masticatory system, pulp and periodontium
Endodontics and periodontics in relation to prosthodontics
Comprehensive diagnosis and treatment planning
Management of pain/emergency dental treatment
Prevention of dental diseases
Complete dentures (including copy dentures, overdentures and immediate dentures)
Removable partial dentures
Maxillofacial prosthodontics
Combination of fixed and removable prostheses
Fixed prostheses conforming to, existing and reorganisation occlusion
Implant supported prostheses (both fixed and removable)
Identification and management of denture and crown and bridge problems
The conservation of teeth, including indications, principles and techniques for intracoronal and extracoronal restorations and adhesive techniques and materials
Theory and practice of occlusion including the uses and a working knowledge of articulators
Diagnosis and management of TMD
Management of medically/clinically compromised patients and the elderly
A good working knowledge of the interface between prosthodontics/surgical dentistry/orthodontics
Surgical aspects of prosthodontic treatment, for example, pre-prosthetic surgery, ridge augmentation, apicectomy
Experience of relevant laboratory techniques, including diagnostic laboratory work and technical aspects of fixed and removable prostheses
Biomaterials and dental materials
Imaging
Pharmacology
Epidemiology
Communication, psychology, interpersonal skills and team leadership
Research methodology and statistics
Evaluation of treatment outcomes

4. Completion of training

On completion of the training programme and satisfactory structural assessments throughout the programme, the trainee must pass the Membership in Restorative Dentistry (Prosthodontics)(MRD(Prosthodontics)), prior to the recommendation for the award of a CCST.