

Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

The degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) is conferred in accordance with Resolution No 258 of 2008, which was approved by the University Court on 24 June 2008. Amendments to these regulations shall come into force on the day on which they are passed by the University Court.

Candidates subject to UK immigration law may be subject to a regulatory framework implemented by the UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI). Where these regulations are more stringent than those stipulated within the University's own regulations, those of the UKVI will take priority.

1. The degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) may be conferred by the University of Aberdeen.
2. (i) Every candidate for the degree is required to comply with the requirements of admission to the graduate degree programme. Possession of these qualifications does not of itself guarantee admission. In addition to satisfying any academic and Occupational Health requirements for admission, all candidates must satisfactorily complete a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check and, if they are not UK residents, receive police clearance from their home country, and attend for interview if required. In the rare circumstance that an applicant has a notifiable health condition, relevant Occupational Health Service advice will be followed.

(ii) Applicants must also meet the requirements of the General Dental Council for fitness to practise including screening for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV infection. Admission to the School will not be possible for those who may pose a risk of blood borne virus infection to patients.
3. The curriculum for the degree can be undertaken by full-time study only.
4. The courses for the degree shall cover four years. The curriculum to be followed and the degree assessments shall be as prescribed in the Programme Specifications listed in [the University Calendar](#).
5. (i) Candidates shall not normally be permitted to present themselves for an end of course assessment unless they have appropriately undertaken all required instruction and activities in that academic year, and subsequently obtained a class certificate. The validity of a class certificate shall be limited to the academic year in which it is awarded. Any candidate who has been subject to attendance monitoring and warned of being 'at risk' of losing their class certificate) may lose their class certificate with no further warning if this behaviour is repeated for the course concerned.

(ii) The Student Progress Committee (SPC), on behalf of the Senate, may exceptionally determine the conditions under which a candidate, who has previously achieved the attendance requirements for the award of a class certificate or successfully completed a course, may be exempted in whole or in part from instruction and/or assessment in any component for the degrees.

(iii) The SPC, on behalf of the Senate, may terminate, at any time, the studies of a candidate who persistently fails to meet the minimum attendance requirements or perform the required work of the courses, for which they are registered.

6. (i) In any academic year a candidate shall not normally be afforded, in any course, more than two opportunities of summative assessment, including continuous assessment, clinical and/or written examinations, as appropriate. This applies except where there is an exempting examination, for which there is a specific standard operating procedure in place. Only results obtained at the first available opportunity of assessment in any academic year shall contribute towards Distinctions, Honours and Commendations, and/or class grading.
 - (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of University regulations which permit candidates to present themselves for assessment in the same subject at two diets of assessment in any one session, candidates may be required to undertake an additional period of clinical study or a repeat period of study, specified by the Examiners, before being permitted to present themselves at a second diet of assessment in that subject. Further notwithstanding the provisions of University regulations which permit candidates to present themselves for assessment in the same subject in total three times, candidates may be required to undertake an additional period of clinical study or a repeat period of study, specified by the Examiners, before being permitted to present themselves at a second diet of assessment in that subject. This would be subject to 7 (ii).
 - (iii) Where a candidate successfully completes a course on more than one occasion, only the credit points obtained at first sitting may be counted toward the requirements necessary for progression and graduation.
 - (iv) Where a candidate is undertaking a repeat year, or undertaking assessment as an external candidate, a maximum of three opportunities of degree assessment for any course is permitted, including those taken in previous years.
7. (i) Candidates shall not be permitted to progress to the next programme year unless they have successfully achieved all summative assessments in one academic year. Any student required to resit a programme year must achieve all degree assessments within that academic year.
 - (ii) Candidates who fail to achieve all summative assessments within one academic year, and/or have not met the level of performance required, shall normally be entitled to a maximum of one repeat year across the BDS Programme. The applies to all programme years, with the exception of the final year where a candidate shall be entitled to an automatic repeat year, regardless of whether a repeat year has previously been undertaken.
 - (iii) Candidates must normally satisfy all requirements for the award of the degree within a maximum of five calendar years of the date of their first registration. This excludes where a candidate has been unable to complete a full academic year,s or has taken a full gap year, for health, personal or other reasons and has had this absence approved by the University.
 - (iv) Unless regulation 6(ii) applies, candidates who are required to undertake a resit, must do so within the same academic year. Candidates who fail to achieve the requirements of a repeat year, or any subsequent year shall be required to discontinue their studies for the degrees and be excluded from further assessment.

- (v) Where a candidate (due to medical reasons or other proven good cause) has taken the resit examinations as a first diet, and/or for these same reasons been unable to take the resit examinations at the prescribed time, the candidate will be eligible to sit at the next available sitting, which is normally in the following academic year.
 - (vi) Where candidates withdraw from the programme for a period covering more than one academic year, the SPC on behalf of Senate may require the candidate to repeat any previously achieved year of study, including the requirement to pass any assessments on conclusion of that repeat year.
 - (vii) If a student has approval for a period of withdrawal from the programme then the student will be required to rejoin the programme year from which they suspended at the start of the next academic year. The student will be required to complete agreed points of contact during the period of time that they are off from their studies. In exceptional circumstances a second withdrawal year could be allowed however in this circumstance it may be recommended / necessary that the student will be required to go back a year to allow for missed practical time with patients and for patient safety concerns. If the student requires more than two years suspension from studies, they will be required to re-start the BDS programme.
8. (i) The University's [Policy and Procedures on Student Absence](#) provides a framework through which a candidate can report absence and/or establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by medical circumstances or other good cause.
- (ii) It is expected that a student who undertakes to sit an exam or submit an assignment, is fit to do so and there are no known extenuating/mitigating circumstances.
- (iii) Acute illness and/or other personal circumstances which affect a candidate's performance at examination must be notified in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the Extenuating Circumstances for review. However, the decision to waive the regulation on discontinuation following failure of a repeat year shall lie with SPC on behalf of Senate.
9. The examiners for the degrees shall be the academic staff and health and social care professionals who are involved in the delivery of courses qualifying for the degrees, and such external examiners as may be appointed by the University Court.
10. The degrees shall not be conferred on candidates who have not passed all the degree assessments prescribed by Regulation 4, by the end of the period allowed.
11. The degree may be awarded with Honours or with Commendation, according to candidates meeting the predetermined **academic** standards for these awards.
12. (i) Candidates for the degree who *either*:
- a. have failed to complete the requirements for those degree within five calendar years of the date of their first matriculation, or any extended time allowed by SPC on behalf of the Senate *or*:
 - b. can no longer complete the requirements for the degree, *or*:
 - c. have indicated in writing to the SPC on behalf of the Senate that they no longer wish to pursue the degree.

But who (in each case) have obtained, while registered at the University of Aberdeen, not fewer than 120 credits at SCQF level 7 or above, 240 credits including 90 at SCQF level 8, or 360 credits including 60 at SCQF level 9, shall be eligible for the award of an Undergraduate Certificate in Higher Education (Dentistry), an Undergraduate Diploma in Higher Education (Dentistry), or the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Science (B Dent Sci), respectively.

- (ii) A candidate who receives the awards described in 12(i) may not subsequently be a candidate for the degree of BDS.
 - (iii) The awards listed in 12 (i) do not entitle the candidate to register with the General Dental Council of the United Kingdom.
13. (i) Any health, conduct, behaviour or other issue that could give rise to the question of whether or not a candidate's fitness to practise is impaired will be considered and determined through the School of Medicine, Medical Science and Nutrition's Fitness to Practise Processes. Senate, on the recommendation of the Fitness to Practise Committee (Medicine & Dentistry), may suspend or terminate the studies of candidates for the degree who, following Fitness to Practise Processes, are judged to have fitness to practise impairment. In exceptional circumstances only, the Head of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition or the Director of the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences may suspend the matriculation of, or exclude from specified programme activities, any candidate in respect of whom there is a question of whether or not their fitness to practise is impaired, pending further process. If candidates are pre-registered with GDC the University is obliged to inform it of any such process since it may impact on registration. In this Regulation, any reference to impaired fitness to practise is to be taken as a reference to that concept as defined in s.27 of the Dentists Act 1984, and as explained in the General Dental Council's current published guidance.
- (ii) The above will apply during any time away from the BDS programme if it is the candidate's intention to return to programme and ultimately seek graduation.