

Doctor in Orthodontics (DrOrth)

Course Description

- 1) The Doctor in Orthodontics (DrOrth) is a three-year full-time programme designed for dental graduates who wish to pursue specialist training in Orthodontics. The programme is designed to facilitate the advanced development of clinical, academic and research skills necessary for a student to further a career in academia, research or specialty practice. The goals of this programme is to produce recognised specialists in the discipline of orthodontics who are knowledgeable, clinically and technically competent to practice orthodontics at an advanced level, socially responsible and are able to function effectively as members of the healthcare delivery system and who adhere to the highest standards of professional ethics and conduct.

- 2) The clinical component comprises approximately 70% of this programme. Each candidate is required:
 - a) **To treat at least a total of 120 cases, of which a minimum number of 100 new cases with a good case mix including multi-disciplinary cases.**
 - b) **The students are required to treat various types of malocclusion, use various types of appliances, and employ various types of techniques and treatment mechanics.**
 - c) **To treat transfer cases as part of early exposure in student's training of the various stages in orthodontic treatment.**
 - d) **To perform any orthodontic procedure involving surgical exposure of unerupted teeth, transplantation of teeth and orthognathic surgery of their own patients at the operating theatre.**
 - e) **To participate in diagnosis, treatment planning and management of patients in all Multi-disciplinary Combined Clinics.**
 - f) **To undergo clinical attachment or clinical observerships for about 8 to 9 weeks at recognized orthodontic centres abroad such as the United Kingdom in the second semester of 2nd year.**

- 3) There are a variety of academic activities to attain the learning outcomes and to ensure that candidates take responsibility for their learning. These include the following:

- a) **The programme promotes critical enquiry through student-centred seminars, assignments, clinical case studies, presentations and managing research projects.**
 - b) **The programme develops problem-solving, decision-making and clinical skills through laboratory simulation, clinical practice and clinical attachments at recognised local and oversea centres and from various activities related to research and/or clinical audits.**
 - c) **The programme develops analytical thinking skills through critically appraising the relevant literature for research and student-centred seminars.**
 - d) **The programme encourages students to take active responsibility for their learning through student centred seminars, assignments, clinical case studies, presentations and managing research projects.**
 - e) **The programme prepares the students for lifelong learning through regular participation in journal club activities, organizing and participating in scientific conferences, seminars and workshops.**
- 4) This programme encompasses all aspects of research from development of a research proposal to submission of a research write-up in the form of dissertation/report. An experienced supervisor in research will supervise the trainee in the specialty of Orthodontics. They will be able to independently conduct research work in accordance with ethics and moral in research.
- 5) In addition, the curriculum is adapted to prepare candidates for the Specialty Membership Examinations in Orthodontics, of The Faculty of Dental Surgery of The Royal College of Surgeons of England/ Edinburgh/ Glasgow. The attainment of the learning outcomes will be assessed continuously throughout the programme. Continual monitoring of programme includes supervision of students work in the clinics, seminar and journal club presentation, and continuous assessment tests, which will be conducted every year. For the research component, there will be summative and formative assessments from the research methodology course and continual monitoring of research progress via research presentation and progress report by the appointed supervisors.

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