

Doctor in Special Care Dentistry (DrSCDent)

Course Description

1. The Doctor in Special Care Dentistry (DrSCDent) is a three-year full-time programme designed for dental graduates who wish to pursue specialist training in Special Care Dentistry (SCD). The programme aims to produce specialists in the discipline of SCD who are knowledgeable, clinically and technically competent to practice 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. 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.
2. There is 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 clinical practice and clinical attachments at recognised centres and from various activities related to research and/or clinical audits.**
 - c) **The programme develops analytical thinking skills through critically appraising of 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 them for lifelong learning through regular participation in journal club activities and organising and participating in scientific conferences, seminars and workshops.**
 - f) **The programme trains students to become trainers through teaching and demonstrations for undergraduates.**
3. The programme includes modules of dental management of human diseases of medically compromised patients, people with disabilities, legal, ethical, public health and social aspects underpinning SCD.

4. A cornerstone of SCD is a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. Understanding the background of the special needs patients who have physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability, the management of this group of patients involve parties such as the health allied and medical professionals, NGOs, care guardians and other dental specialties. The programme structure encourages multi-disciplinary approaches through a variety of activities to enhance the personal and professional development of the candidate.
5. Besides learning experience within the course, the students will be able to participate in the following activities;
 - a) **Combined clinics of other disciplines in order to facilitate provision of multi-disciplinary care such as Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine, Prosthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics. In terms of research work, co-supervision across disciplines will be arranged and encouraged where appropriate.**
 - b) **A hospital service for patients requiring special care has been established with links to other departments at University Malaya Medical Centre including Emergency Department, Oncology, Haematology and Anaesthesiology department.**
 - c) **The programme also involves community engagement activities with visits to homes and centres managed by NGOs that enrich trainees' experiences and foster their personal and professional development. A home dental visit will be available for providing domiciliary dental services in the community setting.**
 - d) **Through the specialty attachment in the programme, the trainees will have a close link with the SCD specialists in the Ministry of Health. A few international SCD teaching centres such as in Singapore, Otago, Melbourne and Dublin have been identified for potential collaborative participation.**
6. 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.
7. 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. 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 SCD. They will be able to independently conduct research work in accordance with ethics and moral in research.