

Dental Student FAQs updated on 01 04 20

This Dental Student FAQ document supplements the Queen's University FAQ document:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/coronavirus-fags/information-for-students/>

The body that represents all the UK's Dental Schools, the Dental Schools Council, has also published a FAQ document for dental students and a statement on assessments:

<https://www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk/news/>

I am worried that because of personal exposure or illness, I may have COVID-19. What should I do?

You should refer to the [Public Health Agency website](#) for the latest health advice.

I require pastoral support/advice. How can I receive support or advice from the Dental School and University at this time?

We recognise that this is a stressful time and you may need some additional support. We are also aware that that you may have concerns regarding your well-being that are unrelated to COVID-19. Dr Orlagh Hunt, from the Centre for Dentistry is available for pastoral support, and can be contacted in the first instance by email (o.hunt@qub.ac.uk) to arrange to speak with you by phone.

In addition, the University's Student Wellbeing Service can offer support and guidance. Please contact the Student Wellbeing Service by emailing studentwellbeing@qub.ac.uk. A member of staff will get in touch with you directly.

I have heard that the GDC have released a statement to all UK dental students. Where can I find this statement?

The GDC has published its statement to UK dental students at the following link:

<https://www.gdc-uk.org/news-blogs/news/detail/2020/03/23/arrangements-for-dental-and-dental-care-professional-students-and-recent-graduates-to-control-the-spread-of-covid-19>

How will the Dental School communicate with dental students during the shutdown period?

We will communicate with you using your QUB email account and/or via Canvas.

When will dental student clinics recommence?

We do not know when dental student clinics will recommence. The Dental Senior Management team are working on the basis that student clinics are unlikely to recommence before the end of the academic year. We will need to reschedule some of your missed clinical placements during your next academic year (e.g. Outreach observational attachments).

Will any of the Clinical Techniques Laboratory courses or lectures take place?

In line with Government requirements, as well as instructions from the University, we are not able to hold face-to-face teaching in the School of Dentistry or other University buildings. Teaching staff are ensuring that where possible, lectures or other learning materials are placed online on Canvas. However, due to the workload with this, there may be some delays with producing new material or modifying existing material.

Students in the clinical years will have missed the final weeks of their clinical training this semester. Will this affect their academic progression?

As most students will only be part way through their clinical procedures, we understand that there will be concern about not being able to complete all of the clinical procedural targets.

We will use the clinical data collected from your already completed clinical sessions (LiftUpp and other sources), to demonstrate whether you have met the relevant learning outcomes expected at each stage of the BDS course.

For students in 3rd year and 4th year there will be the opportunity to undergo catch-up training when teaching clinics recommence.

For final year students it needs to be demonstrated that you are a safe beginner to start foundation training having met the GDC defined learning outcomes prior to graduation. Some students will be short of their clinical targets for Part III finals and we understand that it is not possible for you to achieve these due to the current situation. We will be looking closely at all the information we have regarding your clinical progress to date to inform our decisions, determining what further focused development you may require, and if this can then be taken forward into your dental foundation training programme.

What will happen if I have not completed all the Compulsory Elements for my modules?

We realise that you may have not been able to complete all the compulsory elements for every module. In many cases, the relevant learning outcomes will be

met and assessed in other ways (e.g. using LiftUpp data). However, some courses or assessments (e.g. Clinical Techniques Courses) can be completed in the subsequent academic year. The relevant Board of Examiners will be aware of the nature of the disruption that has taken place during the final semester and will take account of this when considering module results.

I have an intervention plan in place – will I be prevented from progressing because of this?

Where possible we will try to carry out any remedial teaching online so that the intervention plan can be signed off as satisfactorily completed. If this is not possible, for students in 1st- 4th year, the IP will be carried over into the next academic year. For final year students, this information will help to determine what further focused development you may require, and if this can then be taken forward into your dental foundation training programme.

What will happen with the patients I have been treating as a dental student?

The dental clinical staff are applying the nationally agreed NHS protocols for all our dental patients, including the patients who were under the care of our dental students. Consistent with the situation across the UK, all routine dental appointments have been cancelled and our registered dental staff will deal with any genuine dental emergencies appropriately. We have communicated with all the dental student patients; therefore, there is no need for dental students to communicate directly with their patients at this time. If a patient contacts a dental student, the query should be forwarded to the staff in the Appointments Office at the School of Dentistry (02890639300).

Can I come into the School of Dentistry to pick up my belongings in my locker?

For patient and staff safety reasons the Dental School is in lockdown to reduce the footfall in the building. Only registered clinical staff dealing with patient emergencies are permitted in the SOD building.

I have received a message from the Dental School that all assessments will now take place online and I have been informed of the dates of my online assessments. However, I have not received any further details about my forthcoming online assessments. When will I receive more details about these online assessments?

As reported in the above GDC statement to UK dental students, all UK dental schools are now moving their assessments to an online format. All UK dental schools are also required to confirm these details with the GDC. The dental teaching staff are currently working at transferring our assessments to an online model and

we will provide further details when these arrangements have been finalised. You will be given the opportunity to see examples of the online format prior to the assessment taking place.

I am an international dental student and have returned home. I am currently living in a different time zone from the UK. How will this affect my completion of the online assessments?

We will ensure that when we finalise our assessments, consideration will be given to the fact that some of our dental students are now residing in a different time zone.