



# Orthodontic Specialty Training in the UK

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**BOS**

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## Specialty Training Registrar in Orthodontics

There are a number of Orthodontic Specialty Training Registrar (StR) posts throughout the UK. If you are a UK/EU applicant, entry is competitive to these salaried posts and once accepted, you are allocated a unique National Training Number (NTN). StRs are paid monthly at the rates outlined in the national terms and conditions of service for hospital medical and dental staff and doctors in Public Health Medicine and the Community Health Service (England and Wales). Essential criteria for application include holding of a dental degree registered with the GDC and completion of a period of dental foundation/vocational training or the general professional training (GPT) scheme demonstrating experience in a range of dental specialties. It is advisable for applicants to hold a postgraduate qualification (MFDS/MJDF/MFD), as is undertaking audit, presentations and publications. The training programme is monitored by the Postgraduate Deaneries and the Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC).

## What does the programme entail?

The full-time programme is 3 years long and involves undertaking a university postgraduate degree: the degree can be at the Masters (MSc, MClintDent, MPhil) or Doctorate (DDS) level. The training programme is also open to those who may, from the outset or subsequently, want to train flexibly or job share: in this instance, Deanery approval must be given prior to interview and is dependent on the availability of such a training post. Training takes place within hospital departments linked to recognised university dental schools and is assessed through the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) over the three years. Upon successful completion of the programme, the StR is eligible to sit the Membership in Orthodontics (MOrth) examination of the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS). Although some universities offer a 2 year M-level programme, it does not give

eligibility to sit the MOrth examination. The MOrth and Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) allow for orthodontic specialist registration with the General Dental Council (GDC).

For non-EU trainees trained in the UK and who are successful in the MOrth examination, there is no automatic entitlement to specialist recognition. For registration to take place, non-EU trainees will have to apply for entry to the GDC orthodontic specialist list through equivalence demonstrating that the training undertaken is very similar to UK/EU trainees. There is no guarantee of acceptance onto the specialist list via this route.

### **What are the costs?**

The trainee is required to pay academic fees to the university and these fees, comprising of bench and course fees, will vary between universities and between UK/EU and non-EU trainees. They are also subject to change, therefore, it is best to check with the individual schools when applying. There will also be additional costs during the training period, such as the purchase of computer and photography equipment, travel costs, printing and photocopying.

### **As an orthodontic specialist, where can I work?**

As an orthodontic specialist, you can provide orthodontic care within the primary care setting (specialist or general practice and within the Community Service). If you want to work in the hospital orthodontic service as a consultant, you will be required to undertake a further 2 years of higher training as a Post-CCST trainee; training includes the management of more complex interdisciplinary orthodontic cases and experience of hospital management. To become an academic consultant based within the university, there is also the requirement to undertake research towards the award of a PhD.

### **How do I apply?**

Deanery approved posts are affiliated to the following universities and their associated dental schools and hospitals: Belfast, Birmingham,

Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, King's College London, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Queen Mary (University of London), Sheffield, UCL Eastman Dental Institute. The posts are advertised either annually or every three years in the British Dental Journal, and the exact number of posts can vary. It is imperative that you investigate the courses on offer, because they will all have their advantages and limitations.

COPDEND and the London Deanery together co-ordinate National Recruitment for Orthodontics StR training posts in England, Wales and Scotland. Application is online via the London Deanery website and there are a number of online documents available that give specific and detailed information on the application process and person specification. In addition, there are links to the individual programmes. The interviews are usually held in May during which the shortlisted applicants are ranked. Thereafter, applicants are allowed to visit the different programmes or attend an open day for more information. The opportunity to visit enables applicants to decide on their preferences, which need to be registered in early July. Dependent on the MOrth results and consequently the number of free posts available, successful applicants will be given a single offer for their highest available preference in early July and have 48 hours to accept or reject the offer. In April 2012, the UK Border Agency closed the Tier 1 immigration route, which has been used by non-EU doctors who have graduated from a UK dental school and have completed their Foundation Programme. For further information on eligibility for specialty training for non-EU applicants, the relevant deanery should be contacted. Those applying for overseas posts are required to apply through the individual universities.

## **Where can I find out more?**

The following sources provide useful information if you are considering specialisation in the field of orthodontics:

- [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)
- [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)
- [www.bda.org](http://www.bda.org)
- <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/fds/jcptd/higher-specialist-training/higher-specialist-training>
- <http://www.mjdf.org.uk/> (Royal College of Surgeons England)
- <http://www.rcsed.ac.uk> (Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh)
- <http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk/Examinations/Dental/> (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow)
- <http://www.rcsi.ie> (Royal College of Surgeons Ireland)
- [http://www.copdend.org/content.aspx?Group=foundation&Page=foundation\\_specialty%20training](http://www.copdend.org/content.aspx?Group=foundation&Page=foundation_specialty%20training)
- <http://www.londondeanery.ac.uk/var/recruitment/dental-recruitment/national-orthodontic-str-recruitment>
- The Training Grades Group of the British Orthodontic Society organise an annual study day for those qualified dentists considering specialisation in the field of orthodontics.
- The individual programme webpages

## **Dentists with Special Interest in Orthodontics**

### **What is a Dentist with Special Interest in Orthodontics?**

A DwSI in Orthodontics is essentially a primary care dentist who has a special interest in the field of orthodontics, but is not a specialist. They will have gained additional experience and training in orthodontics. DwSIs in Orthodontics can be formally recognised by the commissioners of orthodontic care, however, they are not eligible for specialist list registration with the General Dental Council.

### **Is there a need for DwSIs in Orthodontics?**

There is a need in certain geographical areas where there is a shortage of orthodontic specialists. In these areas, some primary care dentists are providing the bulk of orthodontic treatment and there is a need for this to be managed and recognised appropriately.

## **What is the role of the DwSI in Orthodontics within the clinical network?**

The DwSI in Orthodontics is expected to treat patients within their competence and refer complex cases not within their competence to a specialist orthodontist or local hospital service as part of the locally managed clinical network. The orthodontic clinical network is defined as a group of orthodontic practitioners, including orthodontic consultants, specialist orthodontic practitioners, and DwSIs and GDPs, who provide orthodontic care. The balance will depend on the workforce available in different geographical areas. The network will ensure that needs are met, the service is developed appropriately and that high standards and outcomes of care are maintained at all times.

The DwSI in Orthodontics would be expected to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to ensuring that an agreed minimum level of competency in orthodontics is maintained. Furthermore, the standard of care provided should be equivalent to that expected of orthodontic specialists in a practice that has the additional facilities and equipment for the provision of orthodontic treatment. The DwSI in Orthodontics would be expected to undertake continuing professional development (CPD) and education in their special area of interest and core generalist areas.

The following are sources of evidence of ongoing commitment by the DwSI in Orthodontics:

- Peer review, such as mentoring arrangements
- Verifiable relevant CPD and attendance at orthodontic courses
- Be a member of the appropriate orthodontic study groups and societies
- Satisfactory completion of cases as indicated by PAR outcomes
- Participate in structured training as part of the local orthodontic clinical network

## **How can I be recognised as a DwSI in Orthodontics?**

The DwSI in Orthodontics needs to provide evidence of generalist primary dental care competencies. The presentation of a portfolio should provide evidence of training and experience in generalist skills,

including areas such as infection control, radiography and medical emergencies. The MFGDP (UK) examination run by the FGDP (UK) covers a number of topics in the form of modules; the Key Skills assessment provides a portfolio approach to the validation of general fitness to practise.

Evidence of the required orthodontic competencies may be provided in the form of formal qualifications, or for some applicants, other experience-based evidence may be acceptable as judged by a local accreditation panel. The Diploma in Primary Care Orthodontics (DPCO) is a three-year part-time course leading to the DPCO (RCS) exam. The course is led by the British Orthodontic Society and FGDP (UK). It is not a specialist orthodontic programme and does not lead to the MOrth. Dentists registered in EU countries and who apply for DwSI positions need to demonstrate the competencies through equivalence.

In summary, the DwSI in Orthodontics will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Understand occlusion and its development
- Know how to diagnose and recognise malocclusion and when to intervene
- Know when to refer or provide treatment within their level of competency
- Understand the limitations of appliance therapy and demonstrate the appropriate clinical skills

### **Where can I find out more?**

- The 'Guidelines for the Appointment of Dentists with Special Interest (DwSI) in Orthodontics' is a framework document developed by the Department of Health and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP, UK) and includes the level of competencies expected and thus the scope of treatment that may be provided by DwSIs in Orthodontics, and contract specification. This document has been written with input from the British Orthodontic Society and representatives of the orthodontic clinical network.
- Other information may be found on the Department of Health website ([www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)) and the FGDP (UK) website ([www.fgdp.org.uk](http://www.fgdp.org.uk)).

Revised April 2013

British Orthodontic Society  
12 Bridewell Place London EC4V 6AP  
Email: [ann.wright@bos.org.uk](mailto:ann.wright@bos.org.uk) [www.bos.org.uk](http://www.bos.org.uk) Telephone: 020 7353 8680 Fax: 020 7353 8682  
*Registered Charity No: 1073464*