



FACULTY OF
**DENTAL
SURGERY**



The RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery Launches New Suite of Diploma Examinations.

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The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) has launched a new and innovative suite of examinations designed to formally assess and recognise dental practitioners who have gained enhanced skills and expertise in a defined area of dental practice.

While the pathway, assessment and recognition of dentists who have undertaken specialty training is long established, many dentists develop an interest in one or more branches of dentistry which they pursue through academic endeavour, attending meetings and conferences, or undertaking short training courses and university programs. This professional commitment generally goes unrecognised, and the aim of the Diploma examinations is to provide evidence and bench-marking of this self-development.

The level and curriculum of these new Diploma examinations is based on the skills required for providers of Tier 2 Complexity of Care as defined by NHS England, or that of a dentist with a special interest.

The first Dental Diploma Examinations to go live in 2025 will be Dental Sedation, Paediatric Dentistry, and the Restorative single specialty examinations, namely Endodontics, Periodontics and Prosthodontics. Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine Diploma Examinations will follow later.

Each examination will comprise single best answer and clinical case questions. The RCSEd quality assurance standards mean that question writing, blueprinting, standard setting, examiner calibration and psychometrics will continue to be part of the process. These provide reassurance that the holder of one of the Dental Diplomas has reached a pivotal point in their career where their commitment has been recognised by one of the world's most respected awarding bodies.



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The Diploma exams are a summative assessment of the knowledge base, planning, clinical judgement, communication and practical skills that underpin independent clinical practice. They test the candidate's ability to apply the above skills at a level expected of a safe, well informed general dental practitioner with a particular interest in a specialty area. They are set at an enhanced GDP level but are not intended to assess competency or the detailed knowledge of more advanced procedures for specialist listing.

Each exam comprises a written paper with single best answer questions, followed by a series of clinical case questions.

“With our long history of quality assured assessments for the whole dental profession, these new Diplomas provide an opportunity for dentists, both from the UK and countries across the world, to test their learning and understanding in one or more areas of dental practice, and evidence their achievements to themselves and their patients.”



Professor Grant McIntyre, Dean of the Dental Faculty at the RCSEd.

Successful completion of a Diploma examination allows successful candidates to become an Associate of the Faculty and to use the post nominals DipRCSEd.

Q&A about the Diploma Examinations.

Personal Achievement

- *What are the benefits of undertaking the Diploma and how can this bolster my career?*

Undertaking the Diploma examination allows you to evidence learning achieved through various routes such as webinars, training courses, conferences and self-study. These endeavours largely go unrecognised and success in the Diploma acknowledges and demonstrates your achievements.

Accreditation & Recognition

- *Is the Diploma accredited by a recognised dental association or educational authority?*

The Diploma is not recognised as a specialist qualification. It signifies an interest and commitment to a subject in a format that is recognised by both dental associations and your patients. The Diploma is backed by the reputation of RCS Edinburgh as an organisation at the forefront of dental education and assessment.

- *Is it recognised internationally, or is it specific to certain countries?*

The Diploma is an international qualification open to any professional with a dental qualification recognised by their country's licensing authority. RCS Edinburgh's qualifications are recognised world-wide.

Prerequisites and Requirements

- *Are there specific qualifications needed to enrol?*

The Diploma examination is open access, no formal training pathway is necessary. We would suggest that for success in the examination an interest or involvement of around two years in your chosen subject would be advisable.

- *Are there any exams or certifications required before or after completing the program?*

We require candidates to self-certify that they are dentally qualified and in good standing with their relevant licensing authority.

Duration and Time Commitment

- *How long does the program take to complete, and what is the weekly time commitment?*

There is no formal program prior to undertaking a Diploma examination. You can enter the examination whenever you feel that you are appropriately prepared. You should be familiar with the topics published in Diploma curriculum, available on the examinations section of the College website.

- *Is it a full-time or part-time program?*

The Diploma formats are open access. Individuals who take this route often rely on their accumulated experience and self-directed learning. This pathway recognises that practical experience and self-study can be as valuable as formal education.

Learning Format

- *Is the examination offered online, on-campus, or in a hybrid format?*

Initial diets may be on-campus, although the College is working towards enabling the Diplomas to be an online examination where possible, making it accessible to all without the need for distant travel, reducing expense and environmental impact.

- *Are there clinical or hands-on training requirements?*

No, there are no requirements for training. Learning is self-directed and can take many and varied formats. To avoid disappointment, you should ensure that your experience matches the published curriculum.

Faculty and Resources

- *What resources (like libraries, labs, and clinics) are available?*

Affiliates, members, and fellows of the College can make use of our library services. The College has a variety of educational resources such as webinars, see the website or app for details. We will run Diploma familiarisation sessions to help you prepare for the examination.

Cost

- *What is the total cost of the Diploma, including materials and additional fees?*

Diploma examinations are currently £1200 per sitting. As with all College examinations there is an annual fee for successful candidates to become an Associate, of the College and use the College post-nominals Dip RCSEd.



The individual Diplomas can be found directly on the RCSEd website by clicking the following:

- [RCSEd Diploma in Endodontics](#)
- [RCSEd Diploma in Paediatric Dentistry](#)
- [RCSEd Diploma in Periodontics](#)
- [RCSEd Diploma in Prosthodontics](#)

For more information and details of the new Diploma examinations, visit the Examinations section of the website, search for the Diploma examinations on the RCSEd app, or click the links on our social media posts.

Or follow the below QR code:



▶ Endodontics



▶ Paediatric Dentistry



▶ Periodontics



▶ Prosthodontics