

**THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY OF  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
IN IRELAND**

**Regulations for the Specialist Fellowship Diploma  
of the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons  
in Ireland, in Oral Medicine**

**FFDRCSI (Oral Med)**

**August 2008**



## **INTRODUCTION**

**This booklet contains the Regulations relating  
to the Specialist Fellowship Diploma of the Faculty of Dentistry  
of The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in Oral Medicine.**

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## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

1. The Specialist Fellowship Diploma of the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in Oral Medicine - FFDRCSI (Oral Medicine) - may be granted to those who possess a dental qualification registrable in the Register of Dentists for Ireland and to graduates or diplomates in Dental Science of those universities and other licensing bodies recognised for the purpose (i.e. those that admit candidates to Temporary Registration in Ireland and UK) and who comply with the Regulations.
2. The requirements to present for the examination in the Specialist Fellowship, FFDRCSI (Oral Medicine) are:
  - a. FDS, MFD/MFDS or equivalent.
  - b. Evidence of satisfactory completion of three years full-time (or part-time equivalent not normally exceeding six years) recognised specialty training in an institution recognised by the Faculty. Training would normally be expected to be undertaken within one approved programme. Candidates are required to submit certified, documented evidence of their training, including their training number if applicable. It is anticipated that this examination would normally be taken close to the date of completion of training.
3. The dates of the examination and the fees payable for admission to the examination are set out in the examination calendars, which are published annually by the College and are available on the Faculty of Dentistry website. [[www.rcsi.ie](http://www.rcsi.ie)]. The examination is conducted in the English language.

4. Applications must be addressed to the Education Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and must be accompanied by certificates showing the date and place of obtaining a dental qualification (as per paragraph 1) and particulars of subsequent experience (as per paragraph 2). Training supervisors by signing the application form are verifying that the candidate has satisfactorily completed the required training and is, to the best of their knowledge, eligible to sit the examination. The final arbiter of eligibility to sit the examination is the Board of the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
5. Every candidate shall give notice of intention to present him/herself for examination no later than the closing date as indicated on the examination calendar.
6. The required certificates and the full amount of the fee payable for the examination must accompany applications for admission to an examination.
7. Candidates withdrawing from an examination must do so in writing before the closing date. The entrance fee will be returned less a 20% administrative charge. Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date or who fail to attend the examination for which they have been accepted will not normally be entitled to any refund of the fee. Refusal of the employing authority to allow leave to attend the examination will not be accepted as qualifying for any refund after the closing date. A refund on medical grounds, even if there is a medical certificate, is not normally allowed. Applications for consideration on medical or compassionate grounds must be supported by the Consultant or Dean responsible for training and must be submitted to the College with any accompanying evidence within 28 days of commencement of the examination.

8. The College may refuse to admit to the examination (or to proceed with the examination of) any candidate who infringes any of the regulations or who is considered by the examiners to be guilty of behaviour prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of any examination.
9. Candidates who desire to make representation with regard to the conduct of the examination must address them to the Examinations Office of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland within 1 month of the examination and not in any circumstances to an examiner. Representation will then be dealt with according to the policy agreed by the College.
10. The Specialist Fellowship Diploma in Oral Medicine of the Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI is registrable in the Register of Dentists for Ireland as an additional qualification provided that the name of the holder already appears in that Register. Details regarding the registration of the diploma may be obtained from the Registrar, Irish Dental Council, 57 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.
11. Candidates who consider that their experience is equivalent to the training set out above, but who do not comply exactly with these rules, may apply for special consideration by submitting full details in writing at least three months before the closing date of the examination to the Education Committee, Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. A final decision will rest with the Board of the Faculty of Dentistry (as per paragraph 4).
12. Candidates must be able to demonstrate experience in research methodology and normally this will be illustrated by possession of a recognised masters degree (or equivalent) awarded by a university in Ireland or the U.K. [see paragraphs 15 Part B a) & e)].

13. The examination will normally be held once yearly in November with a further sitting in May at the discretion of the Education Committee.

## THE EXAMINATION

- 14) The FFDRCSI (Oral Med) Specialist Fellowship Diploma will test the candidate's understanding of diagnosis and management over a wide range of diseases including those of the orofacial region, orofacial manifestations of systemic disease and conditions where the patient is medically compromised.

The examination consists of the following components:

### **Part A**

Part A will consist of an examination in the **General Principles of Medicine and Surgery**.

The part A examination consists of the following components:

a) **A written paper**

The three hour written paper will consist of a combination of:

- Essay Questions
- Multiple Short Answer (MSA) Questions

b) **A simulated clinical examination.**

The simulated clinical examination will involve the taking of an observed history from at least two patients for which 10 minutes will be allowed, followed by a 10 minute oral for each patient.

Candidates who hold a medical degree eligible for registration in Ireland or the UK are exempt from Part A. Any candidate who has passed this section within the last 4 diets of the Fellowship will also be exempt.



## **Part B**

- a) A three hour written paper to encompass all aspects of the principles and practice of **Oral Medicine (aspects of Oral Surgery may also be examined).**

- 2 Essay Questions
- 6 Multiple Short Answer (MSA) Questions

Candidates who have already been awarded a recognised Masters degree by an approved university during the course of their specialty training, which includes a written paper on subjects covered by the syllabus, will be exempt from this section. **Candidates holding a Masters degree based solely on research will be expected to take this paper.**

- b) **A simulated clinical examination.**

Candidates will be required to take an observed history from at least two patients for which 10 minutes will be allowed followed by a 15 minute oral examination for each station. In addition a series of OSCE type questions will be set to examine to examine a wide range of knowledge.

- c) **Two oral examinations of 15 minutes each.**

One shall be on the subject of human disease relevant to oral medicine, the other on appropriate aspects of Oral Medicine, which will include discussion of the relevant current literature. Normally there will be two examiners present during each oral examination.

- d.) **One long case.**

The candidate will be presented with the history of a patient and will have 15 minutes before presenting their findings to the examiners. Radiographs, results of laboratory investigations and other reports may be made available by the examiners. A wide ranging discussion for 30 minutes will follow.

e.)

**Candidates unable to present evidence of research experience will be required to undergo an additional oral examination:**

This will take the form of a critical review of three scientific papers, selected by the examiners. Copies of the papers will be provided and candidates will have ninety minutes preparation prior to the oral examination. Candidates will spend up to thirty minutes discussing the papers with the examiners.

## **SYLLABUS**

By virtue of a registerable qualification in dentistry and the required post graduate dental experience, proficiency at non-specialist level is assumed in the relevant basic and clinical sciences. [See Paragraph 2.] The examination will test the candidate's understanding of the theory and practice of oral medicine in the context of total patient care.

No syllabus can be comprehensive and the list that follows is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive. Candidates are expected to be aware of recent developments in the specialist field and be familiar with the current specialist literature. The level of understanding of the following subjects should be appropriate to a three year training programme.

Anatomy, physiology and pathology of the masticatory system and related structures

Biochemistry in the context of oral disease.

Genetics and inherited disease

Immunology

Molecular biology

Oral microbiology

Pharmacology and therapeutics relevant to oral medicine

Oral pathology

Oral infections

Oral ulceration

Developmental oral conditions

Vesiculo-bullous conditions

Potentially malignant conditions

Malignant oral disease

Oral manifestations of systemic diseases

Neuralgias

Orofacial pain

Psychological disease

Salivary gland disease

Biopsy techniques and minor surgical procedures

Dental management of medically compromised patients  
Familiarity with special tests in the field of oral medicine  
Radiology and imaging  
Aspects of sociology and psychology  
Communication, interpersonal skills and team leadership  
Epidemiology and biostatistics  
Cross infection and sterilisation  
Ethics and medico-legal considerations  
Information technology  
Dental material science