

**UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH**

Faculty of Medicine and  
Dentistry

**Peninsula Dental School**

**Programme Specification**

**MSc Minor Oral Surgery (Part Time) (4644)**

**January 2019**

**1. MSc Minor Oral Surgery****Final award title:** MSc Minor Oral Surgery**Intermediate award titles:** Postgraduate Diploma Minor Oral Surgery  
Postgraduate Certificate Minor Oral Surgery**UCAS code:** N/A**JACS code:** A400 Clinical Dentistry**2. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth**Teaching institution(s):** University of Plymouth  
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry**3. Accrediting body(ies)**

Summary of specific conditions/regulations: N/A

Date of re-accreditation: N/A

**4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

Oral Surgery is a branch of dentistry that concerns the diagnosis and treatment of oral conditions requiring surgical intervention. Minor oral surgery (MOS) covers a spectrum of these procedure and can be carried out by a General Dental Practitioner (GDP) in a primary care setting under local anaesthetic with conscious sedation if required.

Minor oral surgery is an area of clinical dental practice that many dentists, particularly recent graduates, appear to lack confidence to perform. While both undergraduate and foundation dental training appear to deliver sound theoretical and simulated training there are large variations throughout the UK in clinical training and surgical experience at this level.

The lack of practical experience, particularly in surgical extractions, is linked with these low practitioner confidence levels<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Macluskey,M et al (2012) 'A national survey of UK final year student opinion of undergraduate oral surgery teaching' *European Journal of Dental education*,16:205-212 Macluskey ,M and Durham,J. (2009) 'Oral surgery undergraduate teaching and experience in the United kingdom : a national survey' *European Journal of Dental Education*, 13:52-57

This programme is designed to address these issues directly by providing a large element of practical simulated and clinical training supervised by oral surgery Consultants and Specialists to enable students to develop their confidence and competence in practical clinical skills as well as augmenting their theoretical knowledge.

The Guide for commissioning Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine services produced by NHS England in September 2015 (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/guid-comms-oral.pdf>) describes the procedures and conditions that General Dental practitioners are expected to deliver as part of their NHS contract (Level 1) (see Appendix 3).

Due to the relative ease of referral of simple MOS cases prior to the commissioning documents release and variations in GDPs experience, competence and confidence levels there are GDPs who may not feel they can fulfil these criteria at present and wish to gain further training to comply with both the commissioning guidance and the General Dental Council's Standards for the Dental Team 2013 (<https://standards.gdc-uk.org/>) (see Appendix 3).

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate stage of the programme graduates should have developed the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a General Dental Practitioner to deliver safe and effective minor oral surgery in a primary care setting (Level 1) and to have developed both in confidence and competence in minor oral surgery to be able to delivery MOS in their own practice setting.

The commissioning document also describes that there are GDPs who are not specialists in oral surgery but with enhanced skills, competence and experience who will be able to manage more complex oral surgery procedures and conditions (Level

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Cabot,I.and Patel,H.(2007) 'aspects of dental vocational training experience in the South east of England', *British Dental Journal* ,202:1-6 Cottrell ,D .et al (2007) 'referral patterns of general dental practitioners for oral surgery procedures', *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*,65:686-690

2). The Diploma in Minor Oral Surgery builds on the certificate stage and also delivers enhanced training so that a diploma graduate will have the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a dentist wishing to be considered as a Dentist with Enhanced Skills (DES) in oral surgery (Level 2).

The Minor Oral Surgery programme is designed not only to develop a GDP's knowledge and skills in oral surgery but also to produce a clinician who is evidence based and reflective in their daily practice through taught elements in reflective practice, critical appraisal of the literature and evidence based practice during all modules of the programme.

An ageing population means that patients requiring oral surgery have more complex medical histories as well as requiring more complex minor oral surgical procedures and this programme delivers training to enable graduates to manage these patients and any medical emergencies they may develop appropriately and effectively. The nationally recognised UK Resuscitation Council's Immediate Life Support Qualification (ILS) is gained during the Diploma stage of the programme.

In summary:

- The programme is led by a team of Consultants and Specialists in Oral Surgery and complemented by respected visiting clinicians and educators.
- The programme is structured to allow participants to continue their current working commitments while studying at an appropriate pace.
- Each module at certificate and diploma stages include hands on consultant/specialist led supervision and clinical time to facilitate the demonstration, assimilation and practice of taught surgical techniques. 8 clinical sessions modules 2 and 4, 6 clinical sessions modules 1 and 3).
- The course allows diagnosis, treatment planning, patient management and practical surgical techniques to be learnt, underpinned by a rigorous appraisal of the evidence base, so that participants gain the skills to practice critically and effectively in their own dental practices.
- As well as seminars, tutorials and self-directed learning in context, the programme also includes practical hands on teaching in our state of the art clinical facilities and simulated dental learning environment.
- The programme will allow enhanced skills, knowledge, and critical thinking to be developed in; oral surgery – diagnosis, treatment planning and surgical skills, management of the medically compromised patient undergoing minor

oral surgery including medical emergencies, conscious sedation techniques and oral medicine.

Three possible levels of exit qualification are available for the programme – namely Certificate, Diploma and Masters.

## 5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

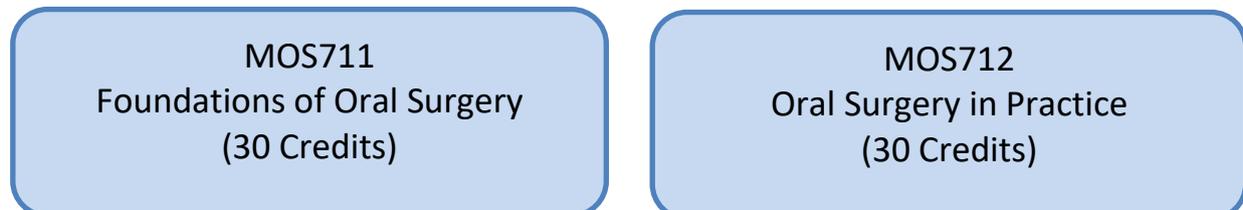
The programme has been developed with reference to the relevant policies and procedures related to the University of Plymouth and external agencies such as the Quality Assurance Agency.

Although there is no specific QAA Subject Benchmark for Minor Oral Surgery, reference has been made to the Subject Benchmark for Dentistry and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7: Master's degree.

## 6. Programme Structure

Students will study on a part time basis with each stage of the programme normally completed within one year. All modules are at FHEQ Level 7.

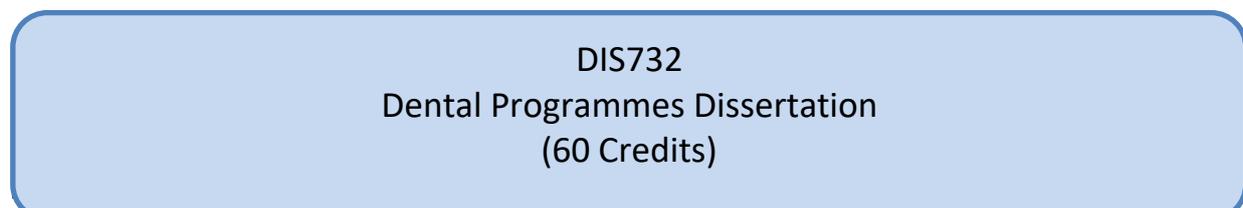
### Postgraduate Certificate stage modules:



### Postgraduate Diploma stage modules:



### Masters Stage



credits. In order to complete the MSc in Minor Oral Surgery, students will need to satisfy the academic standards for the required modules as outlined in the Module Records. The modules are described below:

### **Module 1 - MOS711 Foundations of Oral Surgery**

This module covers key concepts underpinning the delivery of minor oral surgery enabling learners to develop their understanding and knowledge of the subject including relevant basic sciences, diagnosis, treatment planning, patient management and issues associated with consent, local anaesthetic and exodontia skills. Teaching is delivered as seminars, demonstrations and practical training in the Simulated Dental Environment (SDLE) and in the clinical setting

### **Module 2 – MOS712 Oral Surgery in Practice**

This module enables students to develop their skills and knowledge in minor oral surgery as well as introducing the further concepts of surgical extractions and the management of surgical complications, management of the medically compromised patient, and provides an introduction to dentoalveolar trauma and oral mucosal disease diagnosis and management. Teaching consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

### **Module 3 - MOS721 Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1**

This module builds on existing knowledge and newly acquired skills from modules 1 and 2 and introduces more complex minor oral surgery treatment options including the management of unerupted teeth and soft tissue surgery. Students will be introduced to the management options available for the anxious patient undergoing MOS. They will also develop an understanding of the diagnosis and management of facial pain. Teaching consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

### **Module 4 – MOS722 Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 2**

This module augments knowledge and newly acquired skills from previous modules and applies this knowledge and skill in more complex clinical situations. This module introduces further specialised procedures including periradicular surgery, implant placement and MOS related to orthodontic treatment. This module also aims to develop the learners ability in critically appraising evidence and clinical question formulation in relation to research and project design. Teaching consists of seminars, demonstrations and practical training both in SDLE and the clinical setting.

### **Module 5 – MOS731 Dissertation**

This module is designed to enable students to produce a project dissertation under supervision and to demonstrate; clinical question formulation, evidence acquisition, evidence evaluation, evidence synthesis within a clinical context, clinical decision making and critical reflection skills related to oral surgery.

## **7. Programme Aims**

1. Develop a deep and systematic understanding of the key concepts and evidence-base relating to the diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment of patients undergoing minor oral surgical procedures.
2. Critically analyse and evaluate the available evidence that supports minor oral surgery diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment modalities including patient management skills, applying it where appropriate and recognising where alternative approaches are required.
3. Using critical reflection and synthesis of knowledge gained through the course learning outcomes and previous clinical experience to safely and proficiently demonstrate effective treatment techniques relating to oral surgery within the learners own practice setting.
4. Demonstrate the ability to design, conduct, evaluate and write up a project that is of relevance to professional practice as a GDP with enhanced skills in oral surgery and will result in direct benefit through improved care for patient(s). Demonstrate self-direction, originality and an ability to respond to constructive feedback and to act autonomously in the planning and implementation of project skills at an advanced professional level.

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for participants to develop and demonstrate the general outcomes listed below. The learning outcomes are referenced to institutional Masters level 7 descriptors (SEEC, 2010). These will be contextualised within each participant's coursework.

### **8.1 Setting**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- Operate in complex and specialised contexts (including clinical areas), requiring selection and application from a wide range of techniques and information sources relating to minor oral surgery.

- Acts with initiative in decision-making and accessing support within the context of minor oral surgery, encompassing professional or given guidelines, accepting full accountability for outcomes.

## **8.2 Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- a deeper and more systematic understanding of the nature of oral surgery and its relationship with other relevant disciplines.
- an in depth understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to the management of a patient who may require oral surgery.

## **8.3. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice in minor oral surgery.
- Develop critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggests and assesses new concepts or approaches in minor oral surgery effectively using reflective practice.
- Apply evidence based developments at a high level of abstraction within the clinical context.
- Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, synthesises ideas or information in innovative ways, and generates transformative solutions demonstrating evidence acquisition, evaluation and synthesis within the clinical context.
- Undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence/data and judges the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used. Recognises and argues for alternative approaches using critical reflection and appraisal of the evidence in relation to minor oral surgery.

## **8.4. Performance and practice**

On successful completion, graduates should have developed the ability to:

- Autonomously implement and evaluate improvements to performance within clinical practice, drawing on innovative or sectoral best practice.
- Incorporate a critical ethical dimension to their clinical practice, managing the implications of ethical dilemmas and works proactively with others to formulate solutions.
- Work effectively with multiple teams within the clinical environment as leader or member. Clarifies tasks and makes appropriate use of the capacities of team members resolving likely conflict situations before they arise.

## **8.5. Personal and enabling skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- Evidence based practice skills to make connections between known and unknown areas within clinical practice, to allow for adaptation and change.
- The skills to use personal reflection to analyse self and own actions within clinical practice.
- The skills to identify, evaluate and maintain capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in a range of complex and specialised contexts within clinical practice.

## **8.6. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- At the Certificate stage, the ability to diagnose, assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage minor oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including; safe extraction of teeth and an ability to deal with complications that arise may arise, managing the medically compromised patient and medical emergencies and an ability to appropriately diagnose and manage oral mucosal disease and dentoalveolar trauma. The skills to acquire, evaluate and critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills.
- At the Diploma stage, the ability to assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage more complex minor oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including; ectopic and unerupted teeth, periradicular surgery, soft tissue and implant surgery dealing with complications that may arise. The ability to appropriately manage the anxious patient undergoing minor oral surgery procedures including conscious sedation techniques. The ability to diagnose and manage facial pain appropriately including referral. The skills to acquire, evaluate and critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills including research design.
- At dissertation level the ability to produce a project dissertation under supervision demonstrating clinical question formulation, evidence acquisition, evaluation and synthesis within a clinical context and an ability in decision making and critical reflection skills in relation to a patient requiring oral surgery.

### 8.7. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a General Dental Practitioner to deliver safe and effective minor oral surgery in a primary care setting (Level 1 service DoH Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine commissioning document 2015).
- The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a Dentist wishing to be considered as a Dentist with enhanced skills (DES) in oral surgery (Level 2 service DoH Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine commissioning document 2015).
- Completion of the dissertation module demonstrates a students ability to formulate a clinical question, critically reflect and produce an oral surgery related dissertation evidencing skills in knowledge acquisition, evaluation and synthesis.

### 9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Services arrangements

Entry Requirements for MSc Minor Oral Surgery	
BDS	<p>Graduates should be in practice (Dentistry) in the UK whilst undertaking the programme and hold full GDC registration as a dental practitioner, they should also have full professional indemnity and normally at least 2 years of clinical experience (full time equivalent).</p> <p>Applicants that meet the above entry requirements will be required to attend an interview.</p> <p>Places will then be allocated to successful candidates on a first come first served basis.</p>
Language Requirements	<p>Candidates will be required to be competent in English. Candidates whose first language is not English require IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each element) or equivalent in a secure English language test. If the candidate's English language does not meet the above standard, they will be given the opportunity to complete one of the University's pre-sessional English language courses.</p>

There are no progression routes from other postgraduate programmes. Claims for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be considered in line with the University of Plymouth policy <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations>.

The School welcomes applications from students with disability and support is discussed extensively during the admissions process, normally with the help of Disability Services and Occupational Health and Well-Being. Dialogue continues between tutors, academic staff, Disability Services and Occupational Health practitioners throughout all stages of study and the Health and Conduct Group monitors any on-going issues as engagement with patients and the ability to maintain the health and safety of self and others is an important area of major concern.

#### **10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards**

For further information, please refer to the Academic Regulations:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/academic-regulations>

#### **11. Exceptions to Regulations**

N/A

#### **12. Transitional Arrangements**

N/A

#### **13. Mapping and Appendices**

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – ILO's against Modules Mapping**
- 13.2 Appendix 2 – Assessment against Modules Mapping**
- 13.3 Appendix 3 – Links to relevant publications**



<p><b>Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a deep and systematic understanding of the nature of oral surgery and its relationship with other relevant disciplines</li> <li>• Demonstrates an understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to the management of a patient who may require oral surgery.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1,2,3,4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation module</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cognitive/Intellectual Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designs and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice.</li> <li>• Develops critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices and suggests new concepts or approaches.</li> <li>• Uses ideas at a high level of abstraction.</li> <li>• Flexibly and creatively applies knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, synthesises ideas or information in innovative ways, and generates transformative solutions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1,2,3,4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation module</li> </ul>
<p><b>Performance and Practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autonomously implement and evaluate improvements to performance drawing on innovative or sectoral best practice.</li> <li>• Incorporates a critical ethical dimension to their practice, managing the implications of ethical dilemmas and works proactively with others to formulate solutions.</li> <li>• Works effectively with multiple teams as leader or member. Clarifies tasks and makes appropriate use of the capacities of team members resolving likely conflict situations before they arise.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1,2,3,4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation module</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal and Enabling Skills</b></p>	<p><b>1,2,3,4</b></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes connections between known and unknown areas, to allow for adaptation and change.</li> <li>• Uses personal reflection to analyse self and own actions.</li> <li>• Identifies, evaluates and maintains capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in a range of complex and specialised contexts.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation module</li> </ul>
<p><b>Practical Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At certificate level the ability to diagnose, assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage minor oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including; safe extraction of teeth and an ability to deal with complications that arise may arise, managing the medically compromised patient and medical emergencies and an ability to appropriately diagnose and manage oral mucosal disease and dentoalveolar trauma. The skills to acquire, evaluate and critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills.</li> <li>• At diploma level the ability to assess, treatment plan and appropriately manage more complex minor oral surgery cases in the primary care setting including ;ectopic and unerupted teeth, periradicular surgery, soft tissue and implant surgery dealing with complications that may arise. The ability to appropriately manage the anxious patient undergoing minor oral surgery procedures including conscious sedation techniques. The ability to diagnose and manage facial pain appropriately including referral. The skills to acquire, evaluate and</li> </ul>	<b>1,2,3,4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation module</li> </ul>

<p>critically appraise evidence and develop clinical decision making and critical reflection skills including research design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At dissertation level the ability to produce a project dissertation under supervision demonstrating clinical question formulation, evidence acquisition, evaluation and synthesis within a clinical context and an ability in decision making and critical reflection skills in relation to a patient requiring oral surgery.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Employment Related Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a General Dental Practitioner to deliver safe and effective minor oral surgery in a primary care setting (Level 1 service DoH oral surgery and oral medicine commissioning document 2015).</li> <li>• The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a Dentist wishing to be considered as a Dentist with enhanced skills (DES) in oral surgery (Level 2 service DoH oral surgery and oral medicine commissioning document 2015).</li> <li>• Completion of the dissertation module demonstrates a students ability to formulate a clinical question, critically reflect and produce an oral surgery related dissertation evidencing skills in knowledge acquisition, evaluation and synthesis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1,2,3,4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Oral Surgery</li> <li>• Oral Surgery in Practice</li> <li>• Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1</li> <li>• Enhance Oral Surgery in Practice 2</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> </ul>

### 13.2 Assessment against Modules Mapping

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Exam		Coursework		Practice
			E1	E2	C1	A1	P1
<b>Stage 1 (Level 7): PgCert Minor Oral Surgery</b>							
MOS711	Foundations of Oral Surgery	30			50%	P/F	50%
MOS712	Oral Surgery in Practice	30			50%		50%

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Exam		Coursework		Practice
			E1	E2	C1	A1	P1
<b>Stage 2 (Level 7): PgDip Minor Oral Surgery</b>							
MOS721	Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 1	30			60%	P/F	40%
MOS722	Enhanced Oral Surgery in Practice 2	30			30%	P/F	70%

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Exam		Coursework		Practice
			E1	E2	C1	A1	P1
<b>Stage 3 (Level 7): MSc Minor Oral Surgery</b>							
DIS732	Dental Programmes Dissertation	60			100%		

### 13.3 Appendix 3 – Links to relevant publications

- Guide for Commissioning Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine, NHS England, September 2015  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/guid-comms-oral.pdf>
- Standards for the Dental Team, General Dental Council, 2013  
<https://standards.gdc-uk.org/>
- Preparing for Practice, General Dental Council, 2015  
<https://www.gdc-uk.org/professionals/students-and-trainees/learning-outcomes>