

Specialist Training and Registration

This document sets out the Dental Council's obligations and procedures regarding the specialist training and registration.

Statutory Provisions governing Specialist Training

1. The Dental Council (the Council) has recognised the following bodies for the purposes of dental specialist training under the provisions of Section 34(c) of the Dentists Act, 1985 (the Act):

- a) University of Dublin
- b) National University of Ireland, Cork
- c) Royal College of Surgeons

Under this provision the Council has an obligation to satisfy itself as to the adequacy and suitability of postgraduate education provided by these bodies.

2. Under the provisions of Section 37(1) of the Act the Council has determined, with the consent of the Minister, that it shall recognise the following specialties for the purposes of specialist registration under the Act:

- a) Orthodontics
- b) Oral Surgery

3. Under the provisions of Section 37(2) of the Act the Council has specified, in relation to each specialty recognised by it, that it will recognise the following titles and designations of qualifications in specialised dentistry granted in the State to enable a person secure registration in the Register of Dental Specialists:

- a) Doctor of Dental Surgery – D.Ch.Dent (University of Dublin)
- b) Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry – D.Clin.Dent (National University of Ireland)
- c) Master of Dental Surgery – M.Ch.Dent (University of Dublin - awarded to 2008)

4. The Council has recognised the Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry as a body which it recognises under the provisions of Section 37(3) of the Act for the purpose of granting evidence of satisfactory completion of specialist training. Under this section the Council may recognise one or more bodies to provide this evidence.

5. Section 89 of the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007 defines "dental training bodies" as those recognised under the provisions of Section 37(3) of the Dentists Act, 1985. Under this section the Health Service Executive (HSE) shall:

- a) promote the development of specialist dental education and training and co-ordinate such developments in co-operation with the Dental Council and the dental training bodies
- b) in co-operation with the dental training bodies and after consultation with the Higher Education Authority, undertake appropriate dental practitioner workforce planning for the purpose of meeting specialist dental staffing and training needs of the health service on an ongoing basis
- c) advise the Minister, after consultation with the dental training bodies and with such other bodies as it may consider appropriate, on dental education and on all other matters, including financial matters, relating to the development and co-ordination of specialist dental education and training
- d) carry out such functions, other than functions assigned to it by this Act, as may be assigned to it from time to time by the Minister following consultation with it in relation to dental education and training.

Eligibility to be registered in the Register of Dental Specialists

1. Section 30(1) of the Act describes the persons entitled to be registered in the Register of Dental Specialists, subject to that person complying with requirement to be registered in the register of dentists, properly completing the Dental Council Application Form for Registration in the Register of Dental Specialists, and paying the appropriate registration fee. The application form is available on the Council website and the registration fee is currently €150.
2. The Dental Council has established the Specialist Training and Registration Committee under the provisions of Section 13(1) of the Act to consider applications for specialist registration under the provisions of Section 30(1) of the Act. These provisions are set out below with information on how the Council will consider applications under each section.

(a) "Every registered dentist who prior to the establishment of the Register [of Dental Specialists], has, in the opinion of the Council, completed his/her training in a recognised specialty."

The Register was established in September 1999 and the Council had established rules for the consideration of applications under this provision. The Council considered that all such potential applicants have applied and decided to remove its rules for considering such applications with effect from December 2012. Any person applying after this date will have their application assessed by the Council's Specialist Training and Registration Committee on a case by case basis. Persons who completed specialist training before September 1999 and who wish to avail of this provision are obliged to provide detailed evidence of the training

programme undertaken and evidence that the training undertaken was approved by the appropriate training authority.

- (b) *“Every registered dentist who, following the establishment of the Register, is granted evidence of satisfactory completion of specialist training in a recognised specialty by a body recognised by the Council under Section 37 of the Act.”*

The Council has approved one body to date (Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry – ICSTD) to provide this evidence. The ICSTD submit a certificate of completion of specialist training (CCST) to the Council once training has been completed. Such specialist training shall be a minimum duration of three years full time and lead to a recognised specialist qualification. The Council has recognised the “Doctor of Dental Surgery” awarded by both the University of Dublin and the National University of Ireland as qualifications to enable a person secure registration in the Register of Dental Specialists. The Council requires that both copy of the recognised University degree and the CCST be submitted during the registration process.

- (c) *“Every registered dentist who being a national of a Member State has been awarded in a Member State a qualification in a dental specialty recognised by the Council which pursuant to the provisions of any Directive adopted by the Council of the European Communities the State is obliged to recognise.”*

Persons who have been awarded a specialist qualification obtained within the European Economic Area (EEA) may be entitled to avail of the provisions of EU Directive 2005/36/EC. Under Article 35 such courses leading to the award of the qualification must be for a minimum duration of three years in a full time capacity, or equivalent. Candidates wishing to register under the provisions of the Directive are obliged to provide the evidence set out in Annex 5.3.3 of the Directive.

- (d) *“Any registered dentist who satisfies the Council that he/she has completed a programme of training in specialised dentistry of a standard considered by the Council to be adequate.”*

The Specialist Training and Registration Committee will consider applications under this provision from persons who have completed their training programme after September 1999 and who can provide evidence of satisfactory completion of a recognised three year full time structured programme of specialist training leading to the award of a recognised specialist qualification. The Committee will not consider qualifications where the training programme was of a shorter duration.

Key dates regarding specialist training and registration

1. December 1997: Council recognised oral surgery and orthodontics as specialties under Section 37(1) of the Act
2. September 1999: Consent of the Minister to Council recognition of oral surgery and orthodontics as specialties under Section 37(1) of the Act
3. January 2001: Council recognised ICSTD as a body to provide evidence of satisfactory completion of specialised training to the Council under Section 37(3) of the Act
4. Feb 2004: Three training bodies recognised for the purpose of dental specialist training under the provisions of Section 34(c)