

ORDINANCE 47(B): Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery – (applicable to students who commenced their studies prior to 2019-20)

1. The University shall offer a programme of study leading to the award of the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), as follows:
 - a) BDS Five-Year Programme (A200);
 - b) BDS Graduate Entry Pathway (A201).
2. The University may award the degree of BDS to students who have pursued the approved programme of studies, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The programme specification for the programme shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, subjects of study and the assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme. Further details, including the dates of examinations and re-sits, shall be provided in the programme handbook. The subjects of study for the BDS programmes shall be as required by the appropriate regulatory/validating body.
3. Candidates for the degree of BDS shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University.
4. The University may recognise the programmes of study and examinations for other degrees in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, or programmes of study and examinations of other approved universities and institutions as, in part, qualifying a student for the award of the degree of BDS.
5. Before admission to the degree of BDS students shall have pursued studies full-time for not less than five years, as detailed in the programme specification. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degree of BDS, including any periods of suspension of study and repeated year of study, shall normally be eight years for students on the Five-Year Programme and seven years for students on the Four-Year Graduate Entry Pathway¹. Where a student enters directly into Year 2 or Year 3 of the programme, the maximum period of registration shall be adjusted accordingly.
6. Students shall be required to attend the compulsory components of the programme as specified in the relevant programme specification and the programme handbooks. The Board of Examiners, or a Progress Panel acting on behalf of the Board of Examiners and University, shall be empowered to exclude from an examination any student who has not attended, to the satisfaction of the Dean of the

¹ These maximum periods of registration are not applicable to students who commenced their studies prior to 2015-16.

School of Dentistry, the approved programme of study or who has not properly completed written or other work, including clinical work.

7. All assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the programme specification for the degree. The assessments shall include written, practical and clinical examinations, as detailed in the programme specification and the programme handbook.
8. Students who fail in the year assessments shall normally be allowed, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, to re-submit work or to present themselves again for examination in the specific element(s) identified by the Board of Examiners on one further occasion. The re-sit examinations will normally be held at an appropriate time following the first diet, before the commencement of the next academic year. Students may not proceed to the next year of the programme until they have passed all parts of the year assessments. Students who fail to satisfy the Examiners at the second attempt may have their studies terminated.
9. Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, a student may be allowed to repeat a year of the programme, provided that, normally, a student may repeat no more than one year² within the whole of the programme.
10. Before presenting themselves for the final year examinations candidates must have satisfactorily met such clinical requirements and satisfactorily passed such clinical assessments as shall be determined by the Board of Studies and published in the programme specification.
11. The rules governing the calculation of final marks and the award of the degree of BDS and BDS with Honours shall be as set out in the programme specification for the degree.
12. Where a student's studies are terminated or they otherwise fail or withdraw from the programme, they may be entitled to an exit award of either the degree of Bachelor of Science Health Sciences, the degree of Bachelor of Science Dental Therapy or a Diploma in Higher Education, or a Certificate in Higher Education. The BSc in Health Sciences and the BSc Dental Therapy, with or without Honours, will be awarded when students have successfully completed the first three years of their programme, in accordance with the Ordinances governing the degrees of BSc Health Sciences and BSc Dental Therapy. The criteria for the award of the degree with and without Honours shall be specified in the BDS programme specification. A Diploma in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first two years of their programme. A Certificate in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first year of their programme.

² For students admitted prior to 2015-16, no more than two years within the whole of the programme may be repeated.

13. Subject to any overriding considerations of patient safety in relation to clinical assessments, the Board of Examiners shall be empowered to take account of extenuating circumstances affecting students' performance in determining the conditions relating to re-assessments (and, in the case of the exit award of BSc Health Sciences or BSc Dental Therapy, in determining their final results), in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
14. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Dean of the School of Dentistry, has the right to require any student to withdraw from a clinical placement with immediate effect if the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor considers that the student's presence is against the interest of patients or of the establishment concerned. The student will be suspended for a specific period of time pending full consideration of the circumstances by the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor has the right to extend the period of suspension if they consider that action to be justified.

The Code of Practice on Assessment (including the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/code-ofpractice-on-assessment/>

The Fitness to Practise Policy can be found at:
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/studentadministration/policies-procedures/fitness-to-practise/>

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 47(B)

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendments approved on behalf of Senate and Council in June 2019 to:
 - Remove the reference in clause 2 to commencement of the programme at Level 0.
 - Remove the reference in clause 5 to an EU Directive.
 - Remove references in clause 10 to specific examinations that had to be passed before a student could sit the Final Examination. These have been replaced with a more generic requirement for students to meet clinical requirements and to satisfactorily pass assessments as determined by the Board of Studies and as published in the programme specification.
 - Add in clause 12 the BSc Dental Therapy as a possible exit award from the BDS.
 - Replace references to 'mitigating' circumstances with 'extenuating' circumstances, in accordance with the most recent Code of Practice on Assessment terminology.
 - Replace 'Head' of School with 'Dean' of School.
3. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate and Council August/September 2022 to reflect revised terminology.