

Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences

Blended learning postgraduate programmes frequently asked questions and the answers.

If you have a question not adequately answered here, please contact us by email at distancedentistry@kcl.ac.uk



Application process

1. How to apply

Please apply online through our admissions portal, [King's Apply](#). You will be required to provide details of an academic referee. A professional reference will be accepted if you have completed your qualifications over five years ago. You should describe how the degree will fit into your career plan and demonstrate your focused interest in your chosen programme in the personal statement section of your application form.

The Admissions Office will review your application to see if you meet the entry requirements for the course, undertake checks on your qualifications and contact you if anything is still required before your application can be considered. If the Admissions Office need to get in touch with you, they will send you a message through the admissions portal, so keep checking regularly.

The programme director and staff will then review your application. The Admissions Office will then notify you through the portal of their decision. If you are offered a place and you accept this, you would start in the next intake (January).

Upon acceptance on the course, you will be asked to pay a 1,000 GBP non-refundable deposit to hold your place on the course, which is deducted from your course tuition fee. The remainder of your course tuition fee is due in two instalments, at the end of January and at the end of April each year.

2. When to apply

Applications are open from Spring until the end of October for entry the following January. Applications are assessed throughout the year and it can take time for all of the initial necessary checks to be carried out, so we recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible, particularly if your application may result in a conditional offer (for example, because you are awaiting English language test results). Any conditions must be met by the deadline set in the offer letter.

If a course becomes full before the deadline, a waiting list will be created in case places become available at a later date. Applications will remain open if places are available after the first deadline and programmes will be closed as soon as they are full.

Please do not hesitate to contact distancedentistry@kcl.ac.uk if you want to discuss any programme in more detail. Our programme directors will be pleased to email you or call you to discuss any questions as we want you to embark on the best programme for you.

Entry requirements

1. What are the entry requirements?

The entry requirements can be found in the online prospectus for each course.

[MSc Aesthetic Dentistry](#)

[MSc Endodontics](#)

[MClintDent Fixed & Removable Prosthodontics](#)

[MSc Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation](#)

2. What is the English language entry requirement?

To study at King's, it is essential that you can communicate in English effectively in an academic environment. You are usually required to provide certification of your competence in English before starting your studies.

Please refer to **Band D** at our [Postgraduate English language entry requirements web page](#) for all accepted English language proficiency tests.

As an example, our IELTS Academic test requirement is 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in each skill.

You can submit your application without your test results. Offers of places may be conditional on providing your test results. All English language test results must be sent via [King's Apply](#) **before the deadline given in your offer letter**. Please send a message with a scanned copy of your official test report or certificate attached. We cannot accept results submitted via post.

3. What if I do not meet the English language requirements?

You can undertake further training in English and re-take your English language test.

If you are based overseas, you may wish to find a course in your own country. The [British Council website](#) is a good source of information about IELTS tests.

King's offers pre-sessional online programmes that equip students with the academic and language skills needed to succeed. Taught by highly qualified King's tutors, our courses are an alternative to taking an external English test. Visit the [Pre-sessional English website](#) for more information on our courses.

4. Do I have to be a registered dentist in my home country to apply?

Please check the individual entry requirements for the programme that you wish to apply for. Most of our master's programmes require you to be a practicing dental surgeon with access to patients to enable you to complete the clinical requirements of your chosen course.

5. Will there be an interview before I can be offered a place on the programme?

Applications are considered on merit with reference to entry requirements and the personal statement. We reserve the right to interview candidates for clarification of aspects from their online application.

6. What is the minimum computer specification?

To ensure that you are able to fully access the course and participate in the interactive elements, all of our programmes have a minimum computing specification. You should mention in your personal statement that you meet this specification. If you do not meet this specification, you will experience technical difficulties during the course.

The minimum computing specification can be found under 'entry requirements' at the course pages.

Programmes - general information

1. What is blended learning?

Blended learning is a well-established combination of e-learning, clinical practice and face-to-face teaching. Many studies have shown that the blended learning approach results in higher assessment scores and improved understanding for students than either traditional learning (lectures, seminars, face-to-face) or e-learning (online content) alone.

2. How will I gain practical clinical skills when learning online?

The programmes are designed to blend both academic rigour and advanced clinical skills that you can apply in your workplace during the course. The compulsory blocks of face-to-face teaching focus on clinical skills. The length and frequency of the clinical face to face teaching vary by programme - please check the course page for the details for your chosen course. Students will be expected to submit evidence of clinical work, appropriate to the course, undertaken in their own practices. If you have any concerns regarding the clinical component, we will be happy to discuss these with you in more detail.

You will also be asked to report about your own clinical work in assignments. You will not be able to perform treatment on patients at King's College London during the face-to-face teaching blocks but you will be required to submit a portfolio of the clinical work that you carry out in your own workplace throughout the course.

Please bear in mind that the programmes will require you to access suitable patients in your own practice setting.

3. Does the degree certificate state 'distance learning'?

No. The degree certificate is the same that would be received by a student studying on-campus (e.g. 'Aesthetic Dentistry MSc'). King's does not make distinctions between different modes of study. We believe in educating our students with the best methods available, and a combination of online, face-to-face and self-directed learning has proven to be both successful and popular.

4. Is it compulsory to attend the face-to-face teaching blocks?

Yes, these are compulsory in order to progress in the course and gain the credits.

The face-to-face component is very intensive with lectures and training all day and during some evenings. Most often, the face-to-face element takes place at our specialist dental postgraduate education and clinical training centre (LonDEC) at our London Waterloo campus. Students are responsible for finding their own accommodation and we recommend that you stay close by.

If you are offered a place on one of our programmes, we will send you full details about the venues, timetables and accommodation options.

5. What is the difference between MSc and MClinDent programmes?

MClinDent = 4 years vs. MSc = 3 years

In terms of credit value, you need to earn 360 EU Level 7 credits (equivalent to 180 ECTS credits - European Credit Transfer System) to be awarded a MClinDent degree. For the degree of MSc, you are required to obtain 180 EU Level 7 credits (90 ECTS credits). Each EU credit represents approximately 10 hours of study time, so there is a more intensive workload with the MClinDent programme. This is because the subject area is much broader.

6. Which programme is right for me?

The individual course pages describe the content for each programme and you can also seek advice from our programme directors.

All of our programmes provide intensive training in one particular area of clinical dentistry. None lead to direct entry to a UK specialist list. The MSc programmes run over three years and the MClinDent over four years although all our programmes allow for some flexibility subject to agreement.

7. How can I interact with academics and other students on the programme if I am not on campus?

Faculty staff have the experience and expertise to support students who are based off-campus and we try to ensure that you feel part of King's as much as possible.

Our courses are delivered online through a virtual learning environment and we use a variety of tools to help students and staff to engage with each other regularly. Students participate in online tutorials and discussion groups, interacting with both tutors and fellow students. Communication happens online in real-time via live tutorials or one-on-one with a tutor wherever you are in the world. Whilst students do need to be self-motivated and independent, we also encourage you to form study groups and maintain regular contact with your peers throughout the year.

The compulsory face-to-face teaching blocks (length and frequency vary by programme - please check the course page for the details for your chosen course) are intensive and hands-on, providing a continuous period of direct contact with tutors and peers.

8. Can I study full-time at King's for these programmes?

We offer a range of full-time postgraduate campus programmes. [Please see our postgraduate subject page for details.](#)

9. I am comparing the King's College London programmes to others offered in the UK, how can I decide?

Please look carefully at the amount of hands-on training provided, the names and experience of the teachers, and the content offered including online lectures, supporting tutorials, face-to-face teaching, alongside the support offered through clinical staff, mentors and supervisors.

You may wish to take into account the heritage and track record of the institution. At King's College London, you will be a postgraduate student at an internationally-renowned Russell Group university. You will benefit from our experience gained over decades of teaching students advanced skills.

10. Can I contact a current student?

Should you wish to ask one of our current students some questions about the course, we would be pleased to pass on your queries to them.

Programmes - workload

1. How much work is required?

During each academic year, you will be expected to engage with the teaching team and other students on your course and to participate in the assignments, tutorials and activities set within the course.

Student commitment to hours spent studying varies according to the individual, their previous knowledge, their ability to source, assimilate and retain information, and how much additional background reading they carry out. The onus is on the student at postgraduate level 7 in terms of what they wish to gain from their course of study.

Guidance on the number of hours in a typical year are shown in the 'teaching and structure' section on the course web pages. As a further guide, we recommend setting aside a minimum of one day per week for an MSc, and one and a half days per week for an MClintDent programme if you wish to gain significant education and develop new clinical skills.

The amount of time will vary over the academic year which begins in January and ends with an examination at the end of September/early October.

The course is designed to be flexible and you can choose when to study in terms of time and day. However, a few elements, such as the face-to-face teaching blocks, are fixed.

2. How many sessions/tutorials are there per year?

You are expected to participate in an average of 15 online tutorials in each year except the final year. The final year is more flexible, and you will agree contact dates with your supervisor according to your report/dissertation submission schedule.

The times of the tutorials are designed to be accessible to students in different time zones. Recordings are also available for later study.

Pre-examination revision tutorials are available prior to the examinations to help students with questions.

3. Is the course only research-based?

No, the course is designed to develop your clinical skills in the appropriate academic context. The final year report/dissertation is typically a literature review although you can include an audit from your practice. Sometimes a student will choose to carry out research for this report. All our courses are strongly evidence-based as you would expect from King's College London, a research-led Russell Group university.

If you are seeking a more substantially research-based degree, such as a PhD, please [see our research pages](#) for details.

4. If I treat patients who object to showing their face for photography/filming on religious or other grounds, can I still complete the clinical casework?

If your patients are reluctant to be photographed and videoed, you could use oral stills shots of patients instead. You could present the oral stills shots that you have taken as part of the patient's records (the same as the records you keep for the medico-legal aspect of your work). You could also video the work you have undertaken using the models (by which we mean primary dental casts or working dental casts or radiographs) to show the restorations i.e. demonstrate crowns, bridges and dentures, both in place and removed from the models.

It may also be helpful to understand that this may be more difficult on the MSc Aesthetic Dentistry course. This is because the course covers work on the face, not just the mouth.

As we have students based all over the world, we recognise that there may be occasions when it is difficult to provide evidence of certain cases. If you have any concerns, we will be happy to discuss these with you.

Costs and payments

1. What are the total costs I would be expected to pay in a year?

You are responsible for paying your annual tuition fees each year. These fees cover the face-to-face teaching blocks, access to King's College London materials, and the online teaching and learning experience. You will need to factor in expenses, such as travel to the face-to-face venue and your accommodation and subsistence. Details of fees are shown in the 'Fees and funding' section of the course pages.

If you are being sponsored, you will need to provide a letter from your sponsor confirming that they are responsible for your fees when you accept a place at King's College London.

If you choose to sit your examinations overseas, you will need to pay an additional fee to King's to cover the costs of sending examination materials overseas. You may also be required to cover local examination centre costs such as invigilation.

2. Tuition fees method of payment

[All methods of payment are described at our student fees web page.](#)

Upon acceptance on the course, you will need to pay a non-refundable 1,000 GBP deposit which is deducted from your yearly course fee. The remainder of your course fee is due in two instalments, at the end of January and at the end of April each year.

3. Are tuition fees refundable?

Upon acceptance on the course, you will need to pay a 1,000 GBP deposit, which is deducted from your yearly course fee. This element is non-refundable as it secures your place on the course. After this, if you withdraw from the course at any stage during the year, the remainder of your used and unused tuition fees will be calculated and you may be entitled to claim a refund of any unused fees for the year. This is calculated on a pro-rata basis taking into account elements such as the face-to-face teaching block, course materials, assignments, tutorials and examinations. If you interrupt your studies for a year, we will review your used and unused portion of fees for the year. Any unused fees can be refunded to you or credited towards the next year's study. Upon re-joining the course, you would need to repay any refunded fees (if not credited to your account already) plus a 10% continuation fee to re-enrol. If you would like more information about this, please contact us by email at distancedentistry@kcl.ac.uk

International students

1. Can I get a student visa?

If the face-to-face teaching for your chosen course is at our London campus, you should follow the guidance at the page below on applying for a visa to attend a short course:

<https://self-service.kcl.ac.uk/article/KA-01843/en-us>

If you are attending our face-to-face teaching based outside the UK you should explore the visa requirements for that country via the country's government website.

External regulatory bodies

1. Does the MClinDent Fixed & Removable Prosthodontics give automatic access to the MRD examination?

The programme does not give credits to the MRD (Member in Restorative Dentistry). You would be required to apply to RCSEng (The Royal College of Surgeons of England).

King's College London also offers a full-time on-campus Prosthodontics MClinDent. Please visit [our online prospectus for further information](#).

2. Are the MSc or MClinDent distance learning programmes registered as additional dental postgraduate qualifications by the GDC (General Dental Council - UK)?

No, the GDC has suspended their list of additional qualifications at present.

3. Does completing an MSc by distance learning entitle the student to be on the GDC's (General Dental Council - UK) specialist list?

Our distance learning courses do not give you an automatic GDC registration.

Practicing dentists in the UK must be GDC registered. Practitioners from outside the UK need to check with their equivalent registration body for more information.

4. After completing this MClinDent or MSc, will I be able to register as a specialist?

A MClinDent or MSc does not entitle the holder to join a specialist list.

To become a specialist, you need to contact the GDC (General Dental Council - UK) or equivalent regulatory body for advice.

There is no specialist list in Aesthetic Dentistry in the UK.

5. Can I practice in the UK once I have completed the MClinDent or MSc degree?

No, these are not primary dental qualifications. Please see the GDC (General Dental Council - UK) website for details on how to obtain registration to practice in the UK.

6. Does the Australian Dental Board recognise MSc or MClinDent distance learning programmes?

The qualifications are not currently recognised by the Australian Dental Board. To gain this recognition, you would need to apply. King's College London would write in support of your application.

7. Can I join the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners once I obtain the MClinDent/MSc degree?

Discussions are underway with the Royal Colleges.

8. Will the qualifications I gain be recognised in my home country?

This depends entirely on your home country, so please check with your governing body if this is of importance to you.

Interruption of studies

1. Can I take time out?

Yes, you can apply to take time out of your programme for personal reasons. You can do this twice throughout your course and the maximum period of interruption is two years.

2. What happens if I am unable to complete the programme?

If you are experiencing difficulties during the course, you can take time out, request an extension or reduce the volume of work per year by not taking all modules in a year of study. If you still cannot complete the programme, then it is possible to exit with credits obtained to date. This may be sufficient to enable you to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) or Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits), subject to regulations.