

# **Memo for Postgraduate Taught FoDOCS Candidates**

## **Eligibility requirements for the new Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations (DSFE) – MFDS Qualification**

### **1. Full list of Eligibility Criteria for DSFE**

[www.dsfe.org.uk](http://www.dsfe.org.uk)

### **2. MFDS Qualification**

To sit the new DSFE, candidates will be required to hold **MFDS qualification**.

**A new MFDS Tri-Collegiate (Edin, Eng, and Gla) qualification will become available from May 2027.**

### **3. Transition Arrangements (Until May 2031)**

- The Irish MFD completed before May 2027 will continue to be accepted for DSFE eligibility until May 2031.
- Those who have started specialty training or relevant clinical postgraduate programmes before 1 January 2026 remain exempt under existing rules.
- The transition period may be further extended in cases of approved time out of training (e.g., social or personal circumstances).
- The current MFD/MFDS will no longer be accepted as an equivalent qualification once the full transition is complete.

### **4. What This Means for Current and Incoming Trainees**

- Trainees starting in September 2026 should still be able to sit the DSFE before 2031 using the current MFDS/MFD from any UK /Irish Royal College.
- Anyone planning longer-term progression beyond the transition period should be aware that the new tri-collegiate MFDS will become the standard sole requirement from 2031 onwards.
- After May 2031, the Irish MFD (pre-2027) is expected to no longer be valid for entry to the DSFE.

### **Key Takeaway**

If you are planning to sit the DSFE, ensure you understand whether you fall within the transition window and be aware that the new MFDS qualification will ultimately be required once the transition period ends.

*As of March 2026. Please check the [www.dsfe.org.uk](http://www.dsfe.org.uk) website for updates.*