



DDSc

Orthodontics

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

36 months

Apply by: **5 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This Programme fulfils the need for dental practitioners to have access to a higher dental degree which provides specialist clinical training in Orthodontics.

Introduction

The Professional Doctorate is a research qualification that contains Professional Skills Training. In addition, the Doctorate prepares candidates for the examinations of surgical Royal College leading to the award of Membership in Orthodontics or further orthodontic qualifications. You should have already passed the FDS/MFDS examination or an equivalent.

Who is this course for?

This Programme is designed for those who are already a Graduate of Dental Surgery and wish to specialise. This is a 3-year full time Doctorate programme comprising 540 credits. The programme has 120 credits at Level 7 and 60 credits at Level 8 in year one and 360 credits at level 8 in years two and three, totalling 540 credits, therefore making the DDSc a higher degree than a Masters degree. The programme consists of 5 core modules common for all pathways and 5 specialty modules.

What you'll learn

- Orthodontics
- Communication skills
- Patient management skills
- Preparation for **MOrth** exam

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

The DDSc is a 3-year full time Doctorate programme comprising 540 credits. The programme has 180 credits in year one mostly at master's level and 360 credits in years two and three at doctorate level. All modules are mandatory i.e. must be passed, and make up the taught, clinical and research components of the programme. The programme consists of 5 core modules and 4 speciality specific modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODS ONLINE (15 CREDITS) (CDEN207)	15
COMMUNICATION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND CLINICAL GOVERNANCE (CDEN233)	15
RESEARCH PROTOCOL (CDEN299)	60
ORTHODONTIC PATIENT CLINICAL ASSESSMENT (CDEN201)	30
ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT PLANNING (CDEN202)	15
ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCES A (CDEN203)	30
ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCES B (CDEN204)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
GROWTH MODIFICATION AND ANCHORAGE (CDEN301)	30
CLINICAL PRACTICE (CDEN303)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year three

Compulsory modules

- Clinical Research and Investigation (CDEN304)
- Doctoral Thesis (CDEN399)

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ORTHODONTICS (CDEN302)	30
CLINICAL PRACTICE (CDEN303)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The DDSc Orthodontics Programme is a clinical programme. Candidates are expected to be on clinic for 60% of their time. Clinical teaching is delivered through blended learning, including seminars, work-based discussions as well as face to face and online lectures. The course includes both taught clinical components.

In the first year of the programme, students are trained as specialists in Orthodontics in theory-based and clinical taught modules and begin to assess and treat patients. There will be a large amount of clinical contact with patients and consultants which, due to the small ratio of students to consultants, will be approximately 1 hour clinical time: 1 hour contact.

For the second and third years, the taught elements of the Orthodontic pathway are based in two clinical modules.

How you're assessed

The assessment strategy for the programme adopts a varied approach with individual modules tailoring the assessment to the specific skills and learning outcomes to be tested.

For clinical work, students are assessed through specifically designed continuous assessments to evaluate the competency of the student in the clinical setting and so are graded pass/fail. Consultants assess the clinical competency of students and the Internal and External Examiners review the clinical logbook portfolios at the end of the respective modules. This continuous clinical assessment approach enables students to monitor their own progress and performance and take the necessary measures to ensure that they improve their learning and performance. The format of the continuous assessment and expected competencies are different from year one to years two and three to reflect the level 7 and level 8 learning outcomes.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

The DDDSc orthodontic programme prepares students to become specialists in their field.

We accommodate many specialist dentistry interests through our partnership with the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Together we've created state-of-the-art facilities for specialist dentistry resThe Clinical Research Support Costs help towards supporting students research and will cover the cost of consumable materials used during the course. This includes dental-materials, dental nurse support for clinical practice, research lab support & consumables and digital design suite support, consumables and service. This is a compulsory payment required each year.earch and education, including the management of clinical trials to a high level of clinical governance.

Likely career destinations for graduates include:

- Specialist Orthodontic Practice (Orthodontist)
- Hospital Orthodontist or Consultant
- Clinical academia (University researcher/lecturer)

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

^ [Back to top](#)

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £5,238

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £32,200

Fees stated are for the academic year 2026/27. Please note that a research support fee of £19,225 also applies to this course. This cost is indicative and may be subject to change.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs.

[Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

The Clinical Research Support Costs help towards supporting students research and will cover the cost of consumable materials used during the course. This includes dental-materials, dental nurse support for clinical practice, research lab support & consumables and digital design suite support, consumables and service. This is a compulsory payment required each year.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

^ [Back to top](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Entry requirements are essential. Applicants who do not meet the entry requirements will be rejected.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution.

The programme is intended for graduates of **BDS/BChD** programmes or equivalent, with some vocational experience.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language need to provide documentary evidence of their competency in English. The English Language Requirement for this programme is 7.0 in IELTS (minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests) or equivalent. Please see the English Language Unit website for further information (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/elu/index.htm>).

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

To be a Graduate of Dental Surgery, have at least 2 years post qualification experience, have MFDS/MJDF qualification or equivalent, have achieved at least a 7.0 IELTS with no lower than 6.5 in any individual category.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, writing 21, reading 21 and speaking 23. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 5 overall, with 4.5 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

135 overall, with writing not less than 140, speaking and reading not less than 125, and listening not below 120. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 130 overall, with no component below 120.

Pearson PTE Academic

69 overall, with no component below 61

LanguageCert Academic

75 overall, with no skill below 70

PSI Skills for English

C1 Pass in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5, for further details.

[^ Back to top](#)