

DDSc

Paediatric Dentistry

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 Paediatric Dentistry.

Introduction

The Professional Doctorate is a research qualification that contains Professional Skills Training. Students who successfully complete the DDSc programme in Paediatric Dentistry will be awarded the DDSc (Paediatric Dentistry) from the University of Liverpool and will be eligible to sit the Tri-collegiate Diploma of Membership in Paediatric Dentistry (MPaedDent) specialty membership examination from the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) of Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Both the UK Specialist Curriculum in Paediatric Dentistry and the Tri-collegiate Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh blueprints in Paediatric Dentistry are embedded into the programme.

Funded specialist trainee appointments are competitively available to appropriately qualified candidates on this programme with application through the national recruitment process.

Who is this course for?

This course is for graduates who already have a degree in Dental Surgery who are looking to specialise in Paediatric Dentistry.

What you'll learn

- Research methods
- Clinical research investigations
- Assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning in paediatric dentistry
- Knowledge and skills to manage children with appropriate pharmacological and non-pharmacological behaviour management techniques
- Understanding of paediatric dentistry practice through holistic management of children with complex medical and dental needs.

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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
ASSESSMENT , DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLANNING IN PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY (CDEN261)	30
DENTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE ANXIOUS CHILD (CDEN262)	60

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

Year two

The programme has 360 credits in years two and three at doctorate level.

Compulsory modules:

- Clinical Research and Investigation (CDEN304)

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

Year three

In Year three you will undertake your Doctoral thesis.

Compulsory modules:

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

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DENTAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL AND DENTAL NEEDS (CDEN361)	60
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY (CDEN362)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The Professional Doctorate is a qualification that contains professional skills training through research skills development directly alongside clinical skills training to the level of UK specialist.

Teaching is based on the latest research developments and seminars are delivered by experts in that field. You will attend timetabled teaching seminars, lectures and workshops

in small friendly groups. Advanced practical skills teaching is delivered through hands on simulated sessions progressing onto direct patient care.

The use of technology enhanced learning enables you to access further resources at a time to suit you through the use of a virtual learning environment.

It is expected students will spend approximately 15 hours per week outside of the clinical component on independent study and research.

How you're assessed

There is continuous assessment throughout the course from work based assessments on the clinic to end of year assessments involving written papers and clinical case oral examinations. The research component requires completion of a dissertation and viva voce.

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.

Careers and employability

Potential career pathways include, but are not limited to, the roles of:

- Specialist in paediatric dental practice
- Specialist in community dental service
- Hospital Specialist
- Hospital Consultant
- Clinical academic such as Clinical Lecturer, Senior Clinical Lecturer and Professor.

Graduates from this course have gone on to work in specialist private practices, as clinical academics or a combination of both.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

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

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.

It is expected that applicants should be one of the following:

- Graduates in Dental Surgery of this University
- Graduates with a dental first degree from another approved university, which is recognised by the General Dental Council
- Graduates with a dental first degree from another approved university, which is not recognised by the General Dental Council.

Other Requirements

- 2 year post qualification relevant clinical experience
- MFDS/MJDF or an equivalent

International qualifications

Applications from international students are welcome. International qualifications will be evaluated in line with the National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) guidelines.

English language qualifications

The School's programmes are linguistically very demanding, and it is essential that all candidates have a very high level of both spoken and written English. Qualifications accepted by the Faculty include: GCSE English; GCE O level English; AS Level English; IELTS; TOEFL; Cambridge Proficiency.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language need to provide documentary evidence of their competency in English. The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences English Language Requirement is IELTS band E.

We have simplified our IELTS requirements to an A-F band equivalent. [View our IELTS academic requirements key here](#) for equivalents. Please see the [English Language Unit website](#) for further information

IELTS	E
TOEFL iBT	100, with no element lower than 22
International Baccalaureate	Higher Level (Grade 6)
Hong Kong use of English AS level	B
INDIA Standard XII	75% or above from Central and Metro State Boards
WAEC	B

Please be advised that TOEFL is no longer classified by UK Visas and Immigration as a Secure English Language Test (SELT). However, at the current time the university is continuing to accept TOEFL, at the required level, for entry on to Undergraduate and Postgraduate academic programmes.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this DSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
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.

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