

ORDINANCE 60: Degree of Doctor of Dental Science

1. The University may award the degree of Doctor of Dental Science (DDSc) to students who have pursued an approved programme of studies, including clinical work, over a period of four calendar years, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The programme specification shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme. Details of the curriculum shall be provided in module specifications. The majority of the DDSc programme, including the thesis, shall be at doctoral level (FHEQ level 8), as defined in the PGR Code of Practice.
2. Candidates for the degree of DDSc shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University.
3. Students who fail to meet the requirements for the award for which they are registered may be eligible for an exit award, as detailed in the relevant programme specification, provided that they are deemed by the Board of Examiners to have met the requirements for that award.
4. The minimum period of registration permitted before submission of the thesis shall normally be no less than 3 years full time study.
5. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degree of DDSc, including any periods of interruption of studies, shall be seven years¹. The maximum period of registration includes any period of interrupted study, extensions to the expected submission date, writing up (thesis submission pending) and re-submission.
6. 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 in the pre-thesis stage of the DDSc programme, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.

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-of-practice-on-assessment/>

The PGR Code of Practice can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/pgr-code-of-practice/>

¹ Not applicable to students who registered before 2015-16.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 60

1. Original Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendments approved by Senate and on behalf of Council in January/March 2021 to revise registration periods for the DDSc to be aligned with on-campus PhDs in order to offer candidates more time to finalise their thesis and reduce the number of routine exceptional approval requests to extend registration. The taught components of the programme were unaffected and continue to be delivered at the same pace.
3. Amendments approved on behalf of Senate and Council August 2021 to update references to mitigating circumstances to read extenuating circumstances.
4. Amendments approved by Senate November 2024 to replace references to 'suspension' of studies with 'interruption' of studies.