

ORDINANCE 47(A): Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (applicable to students who commenced their studies from 2019-2020 onwards)

1. The University shall offer a programme of study leading to the award of the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), as follows:
 - a) BDS Five-Year Programme (A200);
 - b) BDS Graduate Entry Pathway (A201).
2. The University may award the degree of BDS to students who have pursued the approved programme of studies, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The aims, learning outcomes, structure, subjects of study and the assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme shall be as detailed in the programme specification for the degree.
3. Candidates for the degree of BDS shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University.
4. The University may recognise the programmes of study and examinations for other degrees in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, or programmes of study and examinations of other approved universities and institutions as, in part, qualifying a student for the award of the degree of BDS with or without honours.
5. Before admission to the degree of BDS students shall have normally pursued studies full-time for not less than five years, as detailed in the programme specification. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degree of BDS, including any periods of interruption of study and repeated year of study, shall normally be eight years for students on the Five-Year Programme and five years for students on the Graduate Entry Pathway. Where a student enters directly into Year 2 or Year 3 of the programme, the maximum period of registration shall be adjusted accordingly.
6. Students shall be required to attend the compulsory components of the programme as specified in the relevant programme specification. The Board of Examiners, or a Progress Panel acting on behalf of the Board of Examiners and University, shall be empowered to exclude from an examination any student who has not attended, to the satisfaction of the Dean of the School of Dentistry, the approved programme of study or who has not properly completed written or other work, including clinical work.
7. All assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the programme specification for the degree. The

assessments shall include written, practical and clinical examinations, as detailed in the programme specification.

8. Students who fail in re-sit assessments in Years 1 - 4, at the second attempt, may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners
 - a) be required to terminate their studies; or
 - b) be permitted to repeat failed components of study, with or without attendance, and present themselves for re-assessment at the next available opportunity in the examination cycle.
9. Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, a student may be allowed to repeat a year of the programme, provided that, normally, a student may repeat no more than one year within the whole of the programme.
10. Subject to any overriding considerations of patient safety, 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 accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
11. The rules governing the calculation of final marks and the award of the degree of BDS and BDS with Honours shall be as set out in the programme specification for the degree.
12. Where a student's studies are terminated or they otherwise fail or withdraw from the programme they may be entitled to an exit award, dependent on the year of exit, of either: the degree of Bachelor of Science in Dental Therapy (with or without honours), the degree of Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, a Diploma in Health Sciences, or a Certificate in Health Sciences.

The BSc in Health Sciences and the BSc Dental Therapy, with or without Honours, will be awarded when students have successfully completed the first three years of their programme, in accordance with the Ordinances governing the degrees of BSc Health Sciences and BSc Dental Therapy. The criteria for the award of the degree with and without Honours shall be specified in the appropriate programme specification. A Diploma in Health Sciences shall be awarded to students who have passed the first two years of their programme. A Certificate in Health Sciences shall be awarded to students who have passed the first year of their programme.

13. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Dean of the School of Dentistry, has the right to require any student to withdraw from a clinical placement with immediate effect if the Executive

Pro-Vice-Chancellor considers that the student's presence is against the interest of patients or of the establishment concerned. The student will be suspended for a specific period of time pending full consideration of the circumstances by the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor has the right to extend the period of interruption if they consider that action to be justified.

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/codeofpractice-on-assessment/>

The Fitness to Practise Policy can be found at:
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/studentadministration/policies-procedures/fitness-to-practise/>

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 47(A)

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendments approved on behalf of Senate and Council in June 2019 to:
 - Remove the reference in clause 2 to commencement of the programme at Level 0.
 - Remove the reference in clause 5 to an EU Directive.
 - Remove references in clause 10 to specific examinations that had to be passed before a student could sit the Final Examination. These have been replaced with a more generic requirement for students to meet clinical requirements and to satisfactorily pass assessments as determined by the Board of Studies and as published in the programme specification.
 - Add in clause 12 the BSc Dental Therapy as a possible exit award from the BDS.
 - Replace references to 'mitigating' circumstances with 'extenuating' circumstances, in accordance with the most recent Code of Practice on Assessment terminology.
 - Replace 'Head' of School with 'Dean' of School.
3. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate and Council August/September 2022 to ensure alignment between the approved Programme Specification and Ordinance and to reflect curriculum that came in in 2019.
4. April 2025 - minor amendment approved via Chair's action to reflect revisions in nomenclature (replace 'suspension' with 'interruption').