

Graduate Diploma in

ADVANCED

GENERAL

DENTISTRY

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION (CADE)
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

Graduate Diploma in Advanced General Dentistry

Course Details

1. Aim

The aim of the program is to provide training for the general practitioner to deliver an advanced level of care for patients grounded on the best evidenced care available. The course caters to a population of dentists who do not have the desire to specialize in any particular discipline but wish to continue to be proficient in advanced quality education to better serve the public. This course is also part-time allowing the dentist to continue working in their practice.

2. Goals (based on *Accreditation Standards for Advanced Education programs in General Dentistry*, p 9, Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association 2007)

“Advanced education programs in General Dentistry are educational programs designed to provide training beyond the level of pre-doctoral education in oral health care, using applied basic and behavioral science. Education in these programs is based on the concept that oral health is an integral and interactive part of total health. The programs are designed to expand the scope and depth of the graduates’ knowledge and skills to enable them to provide comprehensive oral health care to a wide range of population groups.

The goals of this program are to prepare the graduate to:

- 1) Act as a primary care provider for individuals and groups of patients. This includes: providing emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care; providing patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner; directing health promotion and disease prevention activities, and using advanced dental treatment modalities.
- 2) Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patients and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.
- 3) Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making and technology-based information retrieval systems.
- 4) Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, in professional practice.

3. Eligibility

The student must

- be the holder of a Bachelor of Dental Surgery or equivalent which is registrable with the Singapore Dental Council
- have a minimum of 2 years of general practice after graduation

The selection process involves an interview and manual dexterity test(s) if necessary.

4. Overview of the program

The course is of 2-year duration on a part-time basis and will run 4 terms per year. It will consist of in-house programs conducted on Tuesdays (8am - 5pm) for Term 1 of the first year and on Saturdays and during vacation periods if necessary. Clinics will run 40 weeks throughout the year on Tuesdays for the rest of the terms with didactics on Saturdays.

The program will include the following:

- seminars/tutorials
- literature reviews
- preclinical technique
- clinical practice
- treatment planning sessions
- teaching

The clinical management of patients will include the following:

Students will treat their own patients under supervision at NUS and are expected to spend at least 1 day equivalent of clinical practice at the faculty. All clinical work will be tracked through a clinical log book.

5. Course Duration

The minimum and maximum candidature for the program will be 2 and 5 years respectively.

6. Course Components

6.1 Didactics, Seminars and Tutorials (200 hours)

The course consists of the following modules:

Module 1	Introductory Module
Module 2	Communication, Ethics and Professionalism
Module 3	Periodontal Therapy and Management of Soft Tissues
Module 4	Wisdom Tooth Module
Module 5a	Restoration of Single Tooth and Aesthetics
5b	CAD-CAM Technology
Module 6	Occlusion and Oro-facial Pain
Module 7a	Removable Prosthodontics for Edentulous Ridges
7b	Fixed Prosthodontics
Module 8	Endodontic Therapy and Management of Pulp Tissues

Seminars, literature reviews and presentations will be conducted as part of the modules. In addition, the student will leverage on some of the core courses mounted by the existing

Specialty programs eg. photography course, graduate research methodology program.

6.2 Preclinical technique (30 hours)

This will be conducted for the Endodontic, Prosthodontic and Operative Dentistry components.

6.3 Clinical Practice (640 hours)

Candidates will spend at least 1 full day equivalent per week at NUS under supervision.

- For clinical training, students will treatment plan and treat their own patients under supervision.
- Patients will be made aware that they are being treated by dentists under supervision as part of the training program and a consent form will be provided.

6.4 Library time (200 hours)

The student is expected to spend time in reading and preparation of seminars.

6.5 Treatment Planning (180 hours)

Trainees are expected to prepare cases for presentation and to actively participate in discussions. This includes attendance at the following treatment planning sessions:

- Graduate Specialty MDS treatment planning
- Presentation of their own cases

6.6 Presentation of a topic of interest

Each candidate is expected to write up and present on a topic of interest which has to be approved by a supervisor.

7. Teaching (45 hours)

Trainees will be involved in teaching undergraduates for a term of 9 weeks in their final year.

8. Clinical Requirements

- At least 10 patients to include the following :
 - Direct and indirect restorations
 - Endodontics - at least 4 molar teeth
 - Fixed Prostheses to include
 - A minimum of 2 FPD
 - Removable Prostheses
 - 2 cases to include fixed-removable combinations
 - 2 cases of F/F dentures
 - 2 complex periodontal cases
 - LA surgeries
 - to include removal of 6 impacted teeth

9. Assessment / Examinations

This will include both formative and summative evaluations:

1. Formative Assessment (40 %) will be conducted throughout the duration of the program.
2. Summative Assessment (60%) will be conducted at the end of the program
 - written paper
 - presentation of 2 completed cases of a multidisciplinary nature (each case should include at least 3 disciplines with a minimum of 6 pieces of work. The case should be approved by the supervisor)
 - treatment planning of an unseen case
 - compulsory oral viva

10. Graduation Requirements

The graduate diploma will be awarded to successful candidates who have

- met residency requirements
- completed all didactic and clinical requirements of the programs
- passed all modules
- passed the Final Examination

15. Teaching Staff

The following are some of the staff who will be involved in the course in the didactic program or as clinical supervisors:

- A/P Asher Lim
- A/P Lim Kian Chong
- A/P Jennifer Neo
- A/P Keng Siong Beng
- Dr Benjamin Tan
- Dr Bruce Lee
- Dr Islam Intekhab
- Dr Jerry Lim
- Dr John Loh
- Dr Michael Lim
- Dr Raymond Wong
- Dr Ronnie Yap Yi Roon
- Dr Shahul Hameed
- Dr Tan Hee Hon
- Dr Wong Mun Loke

For further enquiries, please contact Dr Jennifer Neo at gsdhead@nus.edu.sg or Ms Betty Chum at denbc@nus.edu.sg

Dated 29 December 2014