



THE ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
SURGEONS
OF EDINBURGH

The Faculty of Dental Surgery

Membership in Dental Surgery without Examination

Guidance for Applicants



Introduction

Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Faculty of Dental Surgery is highly respected across the globe as a marker of professional excellence in the field of dentistry. The award of Membership is usually awarded by examination to those who have achieved success in the MFDS examination or a Specialty Membership examination.

However, the Faculty has recently introduced the award of Membership in Dental Surgery without Examination.

This document has been developed to provide information on the route to Membership without Examination of the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

Please carefully review the eligibility criteria for Membership without Examination to determine if you are eligible before submitting your application. It is important that potential applicants recognise the requirements to ensure that the correct process is followed to allow an efficient, timely and equitable assessment of an application.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is proud of its global status, and we encourage dental professionals from all regions of the world to apply and join our Membership. We are opposed to all forms of discrimination and each application will be assessed fairly, regardless of the applicant's age, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class or disability.

For further information or any enquiries, please email dental@rcsed.ac.uk

Route 1

This route is available to individuals who have sat and passed a Membership examination of a sister College. They must have been awarded Membership from one of the following Colleges:

- Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Eligibility:

- MFDS RCS Eng
- MGDS RCS Eng
- MJDF RCS Eng
- MFDS RCPS Glasg

Application process:

Please email a copy of your Membership diploma to membership@rcsed.ac.uk

The Membership **must** have been awarded as the result of an examination. Holders of Membership without Examination or Membership *ad eundem* from a sister College are not eligible to apply via this route.

No election fee is applicable to this route to Membership.

Not eligible for Route 1:

- MFGDP (UK) RCSEng
- FFGDP RCSEng
- MGDS RCSI
- MFD RCSI
- MCGD
- FCGD

If you are not eligible to apply via this route, you may wish to apply via Route 2.

Route 2

College Law 92:

“Notwithstanding the provisions of these Laws relating to the Membership in Dental Surgery by examination it shall be in the power of the Council of the College to award the Membership in Dental Surgery without Examination to registered dental practitioners who do not hold a UK/Irish post-registration qualification but have a verifiable record of dental clinical, research or educational achievement which is considered to be of notable merit.”

College Law 93:

“Applicants for the Membership in the Faculty of Dental Surgery without Examination must provide verifiable evidence of:

- (i) A minimum of ten years’ post registration experience (with an emphasis on professional achievement since registration);***
- (ii) Notable clinical experience and a demonstrable interest in the area of dental education and/or research and/or leadership and management: and***
- (iii) A notable personal contribution to the standing of the dental profession.”***

Experienced dental practitioners who have not passed a relevant Membership or Specialty Membership examination but who fulfil the criteria regarding experience and professional standing may be eligible via this route.

Individuals applying via this route should be experienced members of the dental profession and must be able to demonstrate and provide evidence of a significant contribution to their field of practice or to the College. This may be by showing experience in teaching or training others, management/leadership roles within the profession, research or audit leading to changes in practice and improved patient safety or care. Additionally, applicants will be required to supply the names of two RCSEd Fellows in Dental Surgery who support their application.

The conferment of an award under this route will be subject always to the discretion of the Dental Council of the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

Applications received via this route will be assessed according to the following criteria, agreed by the Dental Council of the Faculty of Dental Surgery:

- A. Professional Standing:** Has been working actively in a clinical role in primary or secondary care or in a dental teaching institution and registered with the General Dental Council (or equivalent for international applications) for a minimum of five years WTE.
- B. Clinical Experience:** Delivers a high standard of clinical/operative care in their chosen field of practice at the level expected of a practitioner who holds a membership qualification.
- C. Research:** Demonstrates a clear understanding of evidence-based practice and the basic principles of research methodology and data interpretation. The applicant should have at least two peer reviewed papers (not case studies) published in indexed journals and at least two presentations at regional, national or international level (preferably within the last ten years of clinical practice).

- D. Quality Improvement/Continuing Professional Development:** Demonstrates evidence of audit and/or quality improvement activity and engagement with activities designed to maintain and develop their clinical practice. For example, clinical audits or quality improvement projects carried out, regular attendance at conferences, education courses, etc.
- E. Dental Education and Training:** Demonstrates a significant and continued commitment to the delivery of dental education and training at an undergraduate and/or postgraduate level.
- F. Management and Leadership:** Provides evidence of active involvement in formal management and leadership through practice/organisational management or appointments held in other professional or regulatory organisations (E.g. Royal Colleges/Faculties).
- G. Commitment to the Faculty of Dental Surgery:** Demonstrates active engagement with RCSEd Faculty of Dental Surgery over a sustained period (for example attendance at or involvement in RCSEd courses/educational events.) The reason for wishing to receive Membership must be clearly explained and should demonstrate a desire and ability to contribute further to the life of the Faculty/College.
- H. Probity:** There should be no concerns regarding the applicant's professional standing or behaviours.

Application process:

Please submit the following documentation to dental@rcsed.ac.uk

1. A completed application form
2. A copy of your CV (maximum 6 pages)

No election fee is applicable to this route to Membership.

If not approved, applicants may not reapply for a period of 24 months.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

A breakdown of CPD hours spent furthering your own education and training over the past five years is required as part of the application process. Please provide details of hours reasonably considered to advance career and professional development. Include dates, hours spent and lecture/course titles. Speaking, examining and chairing will not count towards valid CPD.

We require that you have completed 250 hours of such education over the preceding five-year period.

Applicants who are registered with the UK's General Dental Council may append a copy of their CPD submission for the past five years.

Extract from College Laws as approved by The Privy Council the 17th day of May 2021:

MEMBERSHIP IN DENTAL SURGERY WITHOUT EXAMINATION

92. Notwithstanding the provisions of these Laws relating to the Membership in Dental Surgery by examination it shall be in the power of the Council of the College to award the Membership in Dental Surgery without Examination to registered dental practitioners who do not hold a UK/Irish post-registration qualification but have a verifiable record of dental clinical, research or educational achievement which is considered to be of notable merit.
93. Applicants for the Membership in the Faculty of Dental Surgery without Examination must provide verifiable evidence of:
- (i) A minimum of ten years' post registration experience (with an emphasis on professional achievement since registration);
 - (ii) Notable clinical experience and a demonstrable interest in the area of dental education and/or research and/or leadership and management: and
 - (iii) A notable personal contribution to the standing of the dental profession.
94. Proposals to award the Membership in the Faculty of Dental Surgery without Examination shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Faculty of Dental Surgery by two Fellows of the Faculty of Dental Surgery. The Secretary of the Faculty of Dental Surgery shall transmit such proposals to the Dental Council who shall advise the Council of the College upon them.
95. Members of the Faculty of Dental Surgery without Examination shall become ordinary Members of the Faculty of Dental Surgery and shall have all rights and privileges of the ordinary Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery and shall conform to these Laws, except that they shall not be required to pay the election fee.
96. The form of the Diploma granted to the Members of the Faculty of Dental Surgery without Examination shall be as follows:

“The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh hereby admit to Membership in the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the College in token of his/her experience and qualifications and ordain that he/she is entitled to share all the honours and privileges enjoyed by the Members of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the said College.”