



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE
PROGRAM**

October 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Sydney
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Medicine
Program/qualification abbreviation	DMD
Program/qualification code	MADNTLMD1000
Head office address, including State	1 Mons Road, Westmead NSW 2145
Campuses	Westmead Centre for Oral Health / Sydney Dental Hospital
Program length	4 Years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	Masters Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	4 - 5 October 2017
Date of ADC decision	10 November 2017
Type of accreditation	Re-Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2018
Accreditation end date	31 December 2024

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Background

The University of Sydney's Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program was introduced in 2012 to replace the University's previously accredited Bachelor of Dentistry (BDent) program. The ADC first undertook a review of the program in 2011 with a decision made to accredit the program from 1 January 2012 until 31 December 2017. The first cohort of students completed the program in 2016.

The DMD course is a four year graduate entry program that enables graduates to apply for registration with the Dental Board of Australia (DBA) as dentists.

As a masters level graduate entry program, the DMD program is based at an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level 9 and requires that students must have completed a undergraduate degree in any discipline as well as completed a unit of study in biology equivalent to the University of Sydney's BIOL1001, BIOL1003, BIOL1006 or BIOL1007 as prerequisites to entry.

Students are also required to achieve a satisfactory score in the Graduate Australian Medical Schools Admissions Test (GAMSAT) or a range of international equivalents as well as complete a pre-admissions interview.

Overview of the Evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) received the University of Sydney's 50-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 14 August 2017.

The SET undertook site visits to the University of Sydney's offices in Westmead, including a tour of the Westmead Centre of Oral Health (WCOH) on 4 October 2017 and to the Sydney Dental Hospital (SDH) on 5 October 2017. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Dean, Faculty of Dentistry
- Pro Dean, Faculty of Dentistry
- Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching
- Faculty General Manager
- Finance Manager
- Year co-ordinators
- A range of academic staff responsible for coordinating units within the program

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- Director, Oral Health - Western Sydney Local Health District
- Clinical demonstrators
- Head of Department, University General Practice, WCOH
- Clinic Coordinator, University General Practice, WCOH
- Students from all years of the program
- Graduates
- Curriculum and Assessment Strategy Group (CASG)
- Representative from the Australian Dental Association (ADA)
- Clinical outplacement coordinators

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including reflective journals, Education Innovations Grant details, clinical assessment, log books and examination papers.

The SET was provided with a demonstration of the Faculty's Learning Management System (LMS).

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

Key Findings

The evidence indicates that overall the University of Sydney's DMD program provides students with the professional and clinical competencies expected to practice safely. Students are required to demonstrate they have developed skills in all disciplines of dentistry across a range of settings. Students gain clinical experience in facilities operated by various Local Health Districts (LHDs), which includes the SDH, WCOH, Nepean Hospital as well as outplacement locations. As clinical experience for students is gained within public health facilities operated by the LHDs, the Faculty must maintain strong collaborative partnerships with each of the LHDs to ensure students are able to access the range of patients and cases needed.

The academic governance arrangements for the DMD program are appropriate and the evidence indicates that the DMD program is subject to regular evaluation and refinement, with areas for improvement identified and acted upon. The introduction of the Continuous Clinical Assessment (CCA) application is to be commended as it provides immediate feedback to students after each clinical session and demonstrates the Faculty's

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commitment to ensuring the learning needs of students are addressed. The SET was advised that the Faculty is reviewing the current content regarding cultural competencies and further changes are planned. These changes may further strengthen the program.

The program utilises a range of assessment methods, which are linked clearly to the individual unit learning outcomes and mapped to the professional competencies expected of the new graduate.

As part of a University wide organisational restructure, the Faculty of Dentistry is to be incorporated into a larger Faculty of Medicine and Health. The revised structure will see 16 Faculties reduced to six across the University which may impact on the academic and governance arrangements for the DMD program as presented at the time of the review.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Sydney's Doctor of Dental Medicine program is accredited until **31 December 2024**.

As a monitoring requirement, the University of Sydney is to provide an update in its 2018 annual report advising of the changes made to the organisational structure following the consolidation of the Health Faculties within the University of Sydney. The report is to detail how the School within the newly formed Faculty of Medicine and Health will ensure the DMD program continues to meet Standard 2 – Academic Governance and Quality Assurance, including information of any substantive changes made to the Committee's responsible for the management of the DMD program.