

Institute of Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) | Student Agreement

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1 Introduction

This agreement outlines the **expectations and responsibilities** of both the **Institute of Dentistry** (IoD) and all **students studying in the IoD**. It aims to foster a **professional, respectful, and engaging learning environment**, ensuring that all students are well-prepared for their future roles as dental professionals and in other careers.

2 Expectations of the Institute of Dentistry

2.1 Commitment to students

The Institute of Dentistry commits to:

- Providing **high-quality education and training** that meets the General Dental Council (GDC) Standards for Education ⁱ and aligns with both QMUL's Quality Framework ⁱⁱ and Strategy 2030 ⁱⁱⁱ for Education and Student Experience, which includes:
 - **Inclusivity and Diversity:** QMUL is committed to creating a truly inclusive environment that celebrates cultural diversity.
 - **Ambitious Goals:** The university aims to foster innovation and creativity, encouraging students to think outside the box and seize new opportunities.
 - **Supportive Community:** QMUL emphasizes the importance of a collegial community where openness, cooperation, and mutual respect are key.
 - **Ethical Standards:** Acting with integrity and maintaining high ethical standards are core values at QMUL.

- **Global Engagement:** The university is dedicated to engaging with local, national, and international communities to create a positive impact.
- Working with **students as partners** in their learning experience. This is underpinned by the following values ^{iv}:
 - **Authenticity:** Genuine collaboration between students and staff.
 - **Honesty:** Open and transparent communication.
 - **Inclusivity:** Ensuring all voices are heard and valued.
 - **Reciprocity:** Mutual benefit and shared responsibility.
 - **Empowerment:** Enabling students to take an active role in their education.
 - **Trust:** Building confidence in the partnership.
 - **Courage:** Encouraging innovation and risk-taking.
 - **Plurality:** Valuing diverse perspectives and approaches.
 - **Responsibility:** Upholding ethical standards and accountability.

2.2 Student support

- The IoD will prioritize students' well-being and safety, both psychological and physical, as central to their educational experience.
- Appropriate and relevant support will be made available or signposted to in a timely manner.

3 Expectations of staff

- The IoD expects all staff to treat students in accordance with the principles and values in section [2.1 above](#), the Equality Act (2010) ^v, and the GDC's Standards ^{vi}.

- The IoD will provide safe mechanisms for students to raise concerns about staff behaviour where it falls short of that expected.
- As for students, staff are expected to:

3.1 Professional behaviour

- Adhere to the GDC's standards for fitness to practise ^{vii}.
- Demonstrate professionalism in all interactions with patients, colleagues, and students.
- Always maintain patient confidentiality and respect patient privacy.

3.2 Respect for Patients, Peers, and Students

- Treat all patients, colleagues, and students with respect and dignity.
- Communicate effectively and courteously.
- Respect the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of others.

3.3 Attendance and Engagement

- Attend all their scheduled lectures, seminars and clinical sessions on time.
- Actively engage with students in all teaching and learning activities.
- Notify the appropriate staff and / or students in case of unavoidable absences from teaching or supervision and provide valid reasons.

4 Expectations of Students

IoD students include Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate. Most of these programmes are, or progress to, clinical courses: BSc, BDS, MBBS, DCLinDent and clinical MScs. Clinical students have responsibilities set out by the General Dental Council (GDC) or General Medical Council (GMC – including CCFS students progressing to MBBS) and towards patients that non-

clinical students do not. Non-clinical students should bear this in mind when reading the expectations below.

Students are expected to:

4.1 Professional Behaviour

- Clinical students must adhere to the GDC's standards for student fitness to practice viii.
- Demonstrate professionalism in all interactions with patients, peers, and staff.
- Always maintain patient confidentiality and respect patient privacy.

4.2 Respect for Patients, Peers, and Staff

- Treat all patients, peers, and staff with respect and dignity.
- Communicate effectively and courteously.
- Respect the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of others.

4.3 Attendance and Engagement

- Attend all scheduled classes, clinical sessions, and assessments on time.
- Actively engage in all teaching and learning activities.
- Notify the appropriate staff in case of unavoidable absences and provide valid reasons.

4.4 Student Fitness to Practice

- Clinical students must comply with the GDC's guidance on student fitness to practice, which includes maintaining high standards of conduct, performance, and ethics ^{ix, x}.
- **Professional Capability:** Students must maintain health and behaviour standards compatible with the expectations of the General Dental Council (GDC). This includes adhering to guidelines on professional behaviour and fitness to practise.

- **Fitness to Practise:** A student's fitness to practise is questioned when their behaviour or health raises serious or persistent concerns about their ability to continue their programme and practise after graduation. This includes potential risks to patients or the public.
 - Students will inform the Dean of the Institute of Dentistry if there is any significant change to their health that might affect their fitness to be a clinical student or to practice as a dentist / therapist.
 - Students will inform the Dean of the Institute of Dentistry if charged with or convicted of a criminal offence or if they receive cautions, warnings and fixed penalty notices (except parking fines) during their time as a student at QMUL.
 - These regulations apply to all students registered for primary dental and therapy qualifications (BDS, LDS, BSc) at QMUL, including those who have interrupted their studies or are out of attendance.
- **Reporting and Accountability:** Any concerns about a student's professional capability or fitness to practise will be addressed through QMUL's procedures, and outcomes may be reported to relevant external institutions if necessary.
- **Ethical and Professional Standards:** Students are expected to uphold high ethical and professional standards throughout their education and training, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future roles as healthcare professionals.

4.5 Occupational health

- Clinical students will comply with all the immunisation requirements for their programme in line with Department of Health (DoH) requirements ^{xi}.

- Clinical students will inform the Occupational Health provider (currently qmulstaff@ohworks.co.uk) if there is doubt that they are free of blood-borne viruses including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

4.6 Academic integrity

All students must adhere to QMUL's Academic Integrity & Misconduct Policy^{xii}. Students are responsible for:

- Committing to their learning by engaging with available resources, opportunities, and advice, and understanding policy expectations, academic conventions, and assessment instructions.
- Submitting work that genuinely reflects their own abilities, skills, and knowledge, and meets assessment requirements.
- Complying with the requirements of relevant professional or accreditation bodies.
- Respectfully engaging with the policy procedures in good faith.

5 Agreement

By signing this agreement, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the expectations and responsibilities outlined above.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

Institute Representative Name: Professor Christopher Tredwin, Dean, Institute of Dentistry

Institute Representative Signature:

Date: 19/05/2025

ⁱ https://www.gdc-uk.org/education-cpd/dental-education/quality-assurance/review-of-education/review-of-education-2022-23/standards-of-education_2223

ⁱⁱ <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/governance-and-legal-services/quality-assurance/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/strategy-2030/#a-edu>

^{iv} <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/framework-student-engagement-through-partnership-0>

^v <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

^{vi} <https://standards.gdc-uk.org/>

^{vii} <https://www.gdc-uk.org/about-us/what-we-do/fitness-to-practise>

^{viii} <https://www.gdc-uk.org/education-cpd/students-and-trainees/becoming-a-member-of-the-dental-team/guidance-for-students>

^{ix} <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/careers/media/careers/docs/Code-of-Student-Discipline.pdf>

^x [https://www.qmul.ac.uk/governance-and-legal-services/media/arcs/policyzone/Professional-Capability-Fitness-to-Practise-regulations-\(approved-10-08-2021\).pdf](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/governance-and-legal-services/media/arcs/policyzone/Professional-Capability-Fitness-to-Practise-regulations-(approved-10-08-2021).pdf)

^{xi} <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7abc09e5274a319e77a5b9/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf>

^{xii} [https://www.qmul.ac.uk/governance-and-legal-services/media/dgls-media/policy-zone/2024-25/Academic-Integrity-&-Misconduct-Policy-2024-25-\(2\).pdf](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/governance-and-legal-services/media/dgls-media/policy-zone/2024-25/Academic-Integrity-&-Misconduct-Policy-2024-25-(2).pdf)