

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Specialist List in the UK – June 2020

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An Outline for Non-UK OMFS Surgeons

This document has been written to help free movement of colleagues. It was accurate at the time of writing. Circumstances change and we recommend checking the current status before making any significant commitments.

To reassure colleagues from overseas that the requirement for a registerable dental qualification is not just a barrier for colleagues wishing to work in the UK, there have been a number of UK trainees who entered training with a non-EU dental qualification, did not succeed acquiring a UK registerable dental qualification [e.g. Overseas Registration Exam (ORE) or Licentiate in Dental Surgery (LDS)] and have not been able to join the OMFS Specialist List. They completed UK training without problems, and have a dental degree (e.g. from West Indies or Pakistan) but without passing the ORE/LDS, they could not become a specialist in the UK and so are unable to be appointed to a consultant post.

The OMFS Specialist List in the UK is held by the Medical Regulator the General Medical Council (GMC), but entry onto the list requires training which started and completed whilst in possession of 'registerable' dental and medical qualifications. Everyone whose training was in single degree Maxillofacial Surgery (even if the individual possessed a dental degree) must apply through the CESR process (which requires a significant portfolio of evidence – see below).

Nations with recognised dual degree programmes (post-Brexit).

During the next 2 years, the UK has unilaterally agreed that it will continue to recognise EU qualifications as we did whilst we were a member. During the 'Transition Period' until the end of 2020, this recognition is multilateral for UK surgeons but after that it will be agreed by new treaties. The list below is of countries whose training is currently recognised in the UK either because they are Specialists in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (dual degree programme) both from page 88 European Medical Directive 2005/36/EC or have been notified as such on information received from the EU by the General Medical Council (GMC). This list was updated at per March 2019 and includes countries such as Greece who are not mentioned in original Annex V.

Austria	Finland	Ireland	Norway
Belgium	Germany	Lichtenstein	Romania
Bulgaria	Greece	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Cyprus	Hungary	Malta	UK

OMFS specialists with only a single qualification (medical or dental).

There are no UK OMFS specialist lists for colleagues with only a single medical or single dental qualification. Dentally qualified specialists may be able to apply to the General Dental Council for mediated entry onto the Oral Surgery specialist list.

Surgeons with dual medical and dental degrees have trained in a nation with Single Medical Degree 'OMFS' or where 'OMFS' is under dental directives.

Specialists who hold dual medical and dental qualifications, whether from Maxillofacial Surgery (medical training only) - page 83 European Medical Directive 2005/36/EC or from countries like The Netherlands where OMFS is under the dental directives can apply to General Medical Council (GMC) for entry onto the OMFS specialist list by demonstrating equivalence of training and experience using an "Article 14" application for a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR).

http://www.gmc-uk.org/SGPC_SSG_Oral_and_Maxillofacial_Surgery_DC2318.pdf_48455204.pdf is the link for specialty specific information.

So, to reiterate, as the **UK does not have a specialist list in either single medical degree Maxillofacial Surgery, or a dual degree dental specialty of OMFS** specialists from these backgrounds can only gain entry onto the OMFS list if they have:

1) medical and dental degrees that can be registered by the UK regulatory bodies for medicine and dentistry namely the General Medical Council (GMC) and the General Dental Council (GDC) respectively.

2) training and experience that is assessed as equivalent to UK training by the GMC via the CESR route.

Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR).

The CESR process of applying to the General Medical Council for assessment of equivalence is called "Article 14 application" for entry onto the specialist list. Although there have not been many applications through this route to OMFS, it is a well-defined process and applications with a strong portfolio which must include (as a minimum) numbers of procedures which match indicative numbers for UK OMFS trainees, can be successful.

If you hold registerable dental and medical qualifications and are on an OMFS or Maxillofacial Specialist List in your country, the UK delegates to UEMS would be very happy to give general advice about your CESR application.

Recognition of Medical and Dental Qualifications

If your medical **and** dental qualifications are from a member state, then they will be recognised in the UK upon application to the regulatory bodies for medicine (GMC) and dentistry (GDC). If either qualification was obtained outside the EU, then you will need to contact the relevant body, links below.

Non-UK surgeons with non-EU dental qualifications

Dentists whose qualification is from outside the EU may sometimes have their qualification recognised, for example if the qualification has already been recognised in another EU country. The rules on this are very complicated.

If your application to have your dental qualification recognised is unsuccessful, the UK dental regulator runs an exam called the 'Overseas Registration Exam' (ORE) and the Licentiate in Dental Surgery (LDS). These exams are in two parts and tests the whole dental undergraduate curriculum. It is very expensive and difficult to pass. OMFS surgeons in this position should take advice from colleagues with experience of passing this exam – if you contact the UK UEMS representatives we can try to help.

Useful Links

General Medical Council (regulator of medicine, holds OMFS List)
General Dental Council (regulator of dentistry)

www.gmc-uk.org
www.gdc-uk.org