

# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN **MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY?**

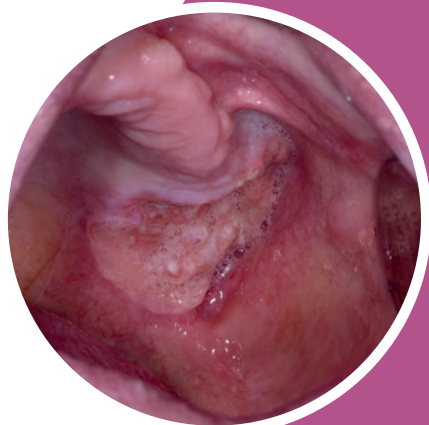
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is unique among medical specialties in that it requires training in both medicine and dentistry.

Since its foundation the specialty has led the way in the field of reconstructive surgery and expanded to involve the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the mouth, jaws, face and neck.

Maxillofacial surgery is a dynamic and exciting specialty, with an enormous scope of practice. The face and mouth are the only part of the body we can't hide. Diseases and injuries to the face and mouth have a major impact on patients' lives physically, psychologically and socially. Training and working as a maxillofacial surgeon, you will undertake treatments and learn skills that profoundly improve the lives of patients.



# WHAT DO MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS DO?



*Would you know that  
the left lower jaw  
has been replaced  
with his fibula bone?*

## → **CANCER**

Resection and reconstruction of head and neck cancer. Maxillofacial surgeons reconstruct their patients by harvesting and in-setting free flaps from all parts the body.

## → **SKIN**

Treatment of facial skin lesions including skin cancer.

## → **ORAL SURGERY**

Surgery to the teeth including the placement of dental implants and treating cysts of the jaw.

## → **SALIVARY GLAND**

Surgical and medical treatment of diseases affecting the salivary glands.

## → **TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT**

Treatment of disorders of the TM joint including joint replacement.

## → **ORAL MEDICINE**

Diagnosis and management of both acute and chronic conditions affecting the mouth and surrounding structures, including the treatment of facial pain.

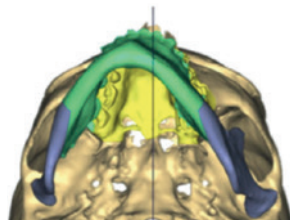
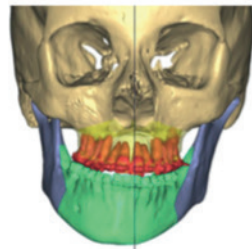
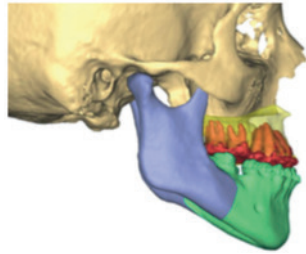
## → **TRAUMA**

Maxillofacial surgeons treat complex facial injuries involving both soft tissue injuries and bony fractures, working closely with neurosurgeons where required.

## → **DEFORMITY**

Correction of congenital or acquired facial deformity including cleft lip and palate, helping patients to overcome disfigurement.

# BE PART OF THE CUTTING EDGE OF SURGERY



**Maxillofacial surgeons  
continue to be at the  
forefront of developing  
new surgical techniques**

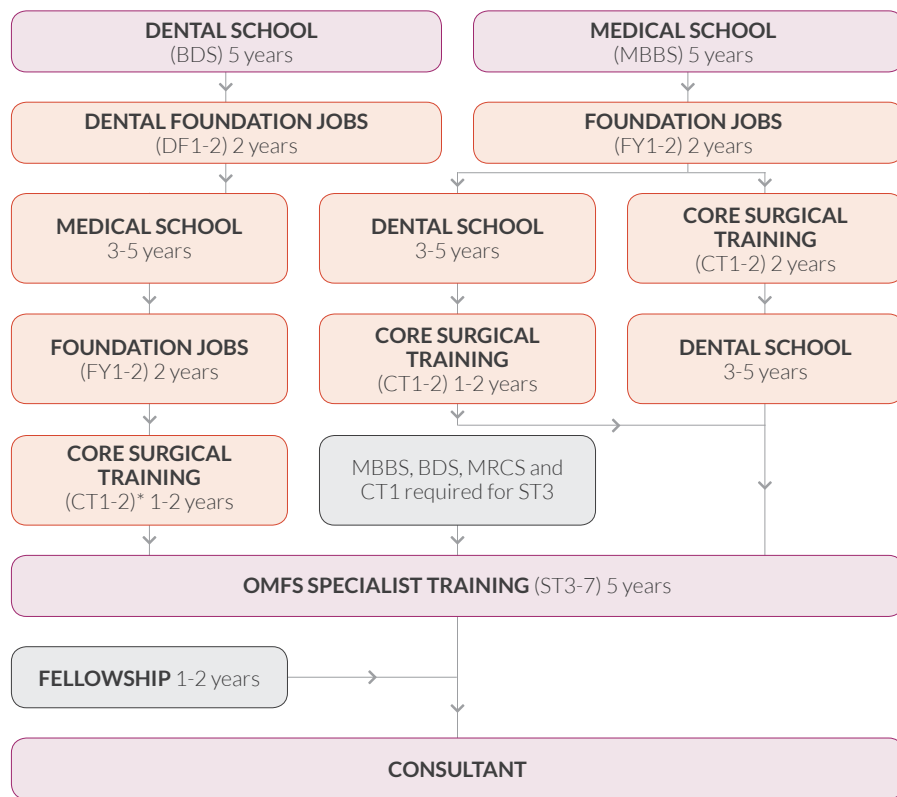
## EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE...

- Computer assisted pre-surgical 3D planning, helping to improve the quality and accuracy of facial reconstruction.
- Robotic surgery, allowing maxillofacial surgeons to access structures deep within the head and neck through the mouth, previously impossible to access without major surgery.
- Navigation surgery, unlocking information obtained from MRI and CT imaging facilitating the surgeon to navigate the operative field to incredible accuracy.



# WHAT IS THE TRAINING PATHWAY?

A major attraction to the practice of maxillofacial surgery is that the specialty interfaces both medicine and dentistry. To enter higher maxillofacial training it is therefore a requirement to have a degree in both medicine and dentistry.



There are opportunities to get OMFS experience in all of these stages of training pathway.  
 Diagram content from: O'Connor R, Cameron M, Kumar S. How to become an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. BMJ. 2014;348:g3720.

# MYTH BUSTING IN OMFS TRAINING

- Shorter second degrees are available of 3-4 year duration for both medicine and dentistry.
- Financial support is available to students studying a second degree including NHS and BAOMS bursaries. Most students work either as a qualified dentist or doctor during their second degree years.
- Average lifetime earnings are equivalent to other surgical specialties despite undertaking a second degree.
- OMFS surgeons are of a similar age to other surgeons whilst in training.
- The length of training even with dual qualification is similar to other surgical specialties. This is because in many surgical specialties, time spent studying for an additional qualification is commonplace in order for trainees to remain competitive.
- Membership of the OMFS Junior Trainees Program allows trainees to include experience gained, including surgical logbook numbers before specialty training in their indicative numbers when awarded a training number.
- One of the lowest competition ratios for application to specialty training.
- Small in size but an incredibly friendly and supportive specialty as a result.



# HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Further information can be obtained by visiting the British Association of Maxillofacial Surgeons Website.
- **[www.baoms.org.uk](http://www.baoms.org.uk)**
- Further information on the OMFS Junior Trainees Program is available by emailing [office@baoms.org.uk](mailto:office@baoms.org.uk) and on the Facebook group “JTG of BAOMS”.
- A second degree workshop is run annually in September. Further information can be found on the OMFS Junior Trainees Facebook Group.



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