



# Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Guide to Candidates

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## 1. General Information

1.1 This guide refers to the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations due to commence from October 2026. This guide will be updated periodically and should be read in conjunction with [Dental Specialty Fellowship Examination Regulations](#) approved on 10 November 2025.

1.2 The Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations have been developed by the partnership of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow.

1.3 This guide is for use by candidates planning to sit an examination in any of the following specialties:

1.3.1 Dental Public Health

1.3.2 Endodontics

1.3.3 Oral Medicine

1.3.4 Oral Surgery

1.3.5 Orthodontics

1.3.6 Paediatric Dentistry

1.3.7 Periodontics

1.3.8 Prosthodontics

1.3.9 Restorative Dentistry

1.3.10 Special Care Dentistry

1.4 The purpose of the examination is to assess core knowledge and clinical competence across the dental specialties listed above.

1.5 The Dental Specialty Fellowship Examination comprises two parts as follows:

**1.5.1 All Specialties except for Dental Public Health**

Part 1 – Single Best Answer consisting of 180 questions assessed over three hours with a short rest break.

Part 2 – Clinical Structured Oral consisting of 9 stations attempted over one day with scheduled rest breaks.

**1.5.2 Dental Public Health Only**

Part 1 – Short Answer Questions assessing critical appraisal skills consisting of three journal articles with related question papers. This component is assessed over three hours with a short rest break.

Part 2 – Structured Oral consisting of 9 stations and made up of questions on unseen cases, candidate projects and management.

## 2. Applying for the Examination

2.1 The Secretariat will update this information as required; the most current version can be found on the website.



### 3. Eligibility

3.1 The requirements are detailed in full in the [Eligibility Criteria](#). Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria in full by the closing date of the application window for the exam diet they intend to sit to be considered eligible.

3.2 Transitional arrangements including reciprocity agreements can be found on the website.

3.3 No other qualifications will be accepted for the purpose of eligibility.

### 4. Number of Attempts

4.1 Candidates must have passed Part 1 of the examination to be eligible to sit Part 2.

4.2 Candidates are allowed four attempts for Part 1 and four attempts for Part 2. All parts must be passed within four years of the first attempt.

### 5. Exam Dates, Fees and Locations

5.1 Up to date information, including closing dates for application windows, can be found on the website.

5.2 Exam dates and locations are set by the Secretariat and Specialty Board Chairs.

5.3 Exam Fees are set by the Dental Assessment Planning and Review Group and are reviewed on an annual basis.

5.4 Part 1 Exams are online in-centre, Part 2 exams are face to face.

5.5 Exam centres will be indicated by city; detailed venue information will be shared with candidates after the closing date of the application window when final candidate numbers are known. All queries should be directed to the Secretariat and not to the venue.

### 6. Application Process

6.1 Candidates will apply via the risr/apply platform, first creating a user account and then selecting the exam diet they wish to apply. An application form must be completed in full, including the upload of any necessary documents. Candidates are required to self-certify that they meet the requirements of eligibility to sit the exam. Candidates will then pay the exam fee. The application is only submitted once the fee has been paid in full.



6.2 Candidates may create a user account at any time. An application for an exam can only be made during the application window. A successful submission of an application does not guarantee a place on the exam.

6.3 Successful applicants will be notified of their place on the exam no later than one week after the closing date of the application window.

6.4 It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that their application is completed in full, that all information in the form is accurate and genuine, and that the application is submitted before the closing date.

6.5 Candidates cannot apply for any part of the exam if they are waiting for exam results.

## 7. Candidate Prioritisation

7.1 In order to ensure that UK trainees are not disadvantaged by increased demand for spaces on Clinical Structured Oral Examinations held in the UK, a clear process for prioritising candidates is necessary. The groups in order of priority are as follows:

7.1.1 Group 1 - Candidates with a national training number (NTN)

7.1.2 Group 2 - Candidates who are on a relevant UK postgraduate programme such as a clinical masters or a clinical doctoral degree programme

7.1.3 Group 3 - All other candidates including those based outside the UK

7.2 Applications will open in staggered windows:

<b>Phase that applications are open</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Groups that can apply</b>
Phase 1	Weeks 1 & 2 of application window	Group 1
Phase 2	Weeks 3 & 4 of application window	Groups 1 & 2
Phase 3	Week 5 onward	Groups 1, 2 & 3

7.3 Dates for each phase will be published on the website and communicated in advance to the relevant body, e.g. COPDEND, Dental Schools Association, etc.



7.4 This will be managed using the exam application platform provided by risr/. This process will be in place for UK exams only.

## 8. Withdrawals

8.1 Candidate may withdraw before the closing date of the application window and will receive a refund of their fee less a 20% administrative fee.

8.2 Candidates who wish to withdraw after the closing date of the application window should refer to the mitigating and extenuating circumstances policy. Candidates will not be permitted to transfer to a future diet.

## 9. Visas

9.1 It is the responsibility of each candidate to obtain the relevant visa to attend the examination centre. Prior to applying for the examination, candidates should check the visa application process with their local embassy, including the likelihood of a visa being obtained. Candidates may request a visa support letter from the Secretariat by [email](#). This will be issued for the purpose of supporting a candidate's visa application and does not guarantee that a visa will be granted.

## 10. Preparing for the Exam

10.1 Candidates will be provided with all information relevant to their exam in advance by the Secretariat. This may include guidance and information on what to expect on an exam day, signposting to resources and travel/accommodation advice for exam centre locations. Candidates may access preparation materials including sample questions via the Secretariat [website](#).

## 11. After the Exam

### 11.1 Results

The release date of results will be communicated to candidates in advance via electronic communications and during the brief and debrief on the exam day. Results will be published on the risr/ platform and candidates will be able to access these using the login details they used to apply for the exam.

### 11.2 Feedback



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Candidates will receive feedback of their performance regardless of their overall grading. Feedback reports will be published on the risr/ platform and candidates will be able to access these in the same way they access their result.

### 11.3 Appeals

Candidates may appeal their result and should review the contents of the Appeals Policy before doing so. A fee of £100 is charged to accept an appeal for investigation and this fee is refunded to the candidate if the appeal is upheld. All appeals are investigated and outcomes determined by the Quality Assurance team within the Secretariat which sits separately from the Delivery team.

### 11.4 Joining a Royal College or Upgrading Membership to Fellowship

Any candidate who passes all components of the exam will be eligible to join any of the UK Royal Surgical Colleges as a Fellow. A candidate may join more than one College if they wish. Pass lists will be created by the Secretariat and shared with membership teams from each Royal College. Any queries regarding joining a Royal College or upgrading your membership to a fellowship should be directed to the Royal College(s) that a candidate wishes to be a Fellow with.