



Transition Considerations

Version number	V2.1
Effective date	17 th July 2025

Author and Approval		
Role/Team	Author/Reviewer/Approval	Date
Dental Examinations Executive	Author	17 th July 2025
Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Executive Committees	Approval	16 th March 2026

Document Revision History		
Version No	Date	Summary of Revisions
V1.0	17 th July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved for publication.
V1.1	13 th September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 4 – clarification for MFD. The MFD exam will need to be passed before May 2027 to be considered an alternative. Paragraph 7 has been added for DPH reciprocity for Part A ISFE to May 2029.
V1.2	18 th December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 4, now clause 8 – Amendment to the clause, previously, 4, now number 8 for the addition on the validity period for the RCSI MFD. Clause 7 and 9 added. Clause numbers amended 5 to 4, 6 to 5 and 7 to 6.
V2.0	16 th March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 4 paragraph added to clarify meaning of ‘knowledge component.’ Former clause 5 removed as made redundant by clarification to clause 4. Former clause 9, now clause 8, amendment to reflect changing clause numbers.
V2.1	9 th April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branding update – logos and reference to Secretariat amended to Executive. Removal of ‘<i>and has completed the exam after September 2024</i>’ from clause 8 to enhance accessibility of exam.
V3.0	26 th April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 8: Minor wording refinement and alignment with preceding clauses (6–7). Clause 9: Minor clarificatory amendment to phrasing, improving consistency with Clause 8:



The following considerations will be in place for a temporary period of transition to assist candidates impacted by the change in curricula and as a result, new exam arrangements. The points below reference the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Eligibility Criteria.

1. Requirement 3.2 will be applicable to those who start specialty training, (4.1) after 1 January 2026.
2. Requirement 3.2 will be applicable to those who start a UK or Ireland university clinical masters or clinical doctoral degree programme which parallels the training programme, (4.2) after 1 January 2026.
3. MJDF will be considered an acceptable alternative to MFDS.
4. A reciprocity agreement is in place for those candidates who have passed the knowledge component of the specialty membership examinations. These candidates will only be required to pass the clinical section of the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations to receive the fellowship qualification. Candidates will receive reciprocity for the knowledge component, where that component remains valid for progression, for 2 years after the last diet of the existing membership specialty examinations.

The knowledge component (commonly delivered through written papers and/or short-answer question formations within existing College examinations) will be used as the reference point for comparison. Given the variation in current examination design across Colleges and specialties, this term is intended to capture the knowledge-based assessment elements broadly refer rather than denote a specific format.

Relevant examination structures are outlined in appendix 1.

5. A reciprocity agreement is in place for those candidates who achieve a pass in Part A in Dental Public Health in the ISFE examinations. Candidates who achieve a pass in Part A in Dental Public Health but do not attain a pass in Part B by the time of discontinuation of the ISFE examinations will be required to undertake the Dental Speciality Fellowship Examinations. Candidates will be awarded a certificate of completion for Part A, which may be submitted to receive an exemption from the Short Answer Questions (SAQ) element of the new examination. This exemption will be valid for examinations held before May 2029, irrespective of when ISFE Part A was achieved. Candidates who have not achieved a pass at the Dental Speciality Fellowship Examination before May 2029 will not be eligible for exemption and will require to take the new Short Answer Questions (SAQ) examination.



Dental Examinations Executive

Candidates should note that this exemption is unique to Dental Public Health. An exemption may be granted in the specialty of Dental Public Health, as both the previous and revised examination formats include a comparable component. For the other dental specialties, the revised examination structure does not assess Critical Appraisal in this manner.

Consequently, exemptions cannot be applied in those cases.

There are no reciprocal arrangements in place for Part B Dental Public Health ISFE examinations. Candidates should refer to guidance above.

6. The bi-collegiate MFDS certification offered by Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and the MFDS certification offered by Royal College of Surgeons of England, will be accepted for applications for the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Part 1 made before 1 May 2031. Please also refer to clause 8.
7. RCSI MFD will be considered an acceptable alternative to MFDS if the candidate has passed the examination before May 2027, at which point the new tri-collegiate MFDS examination arrangements will take effect. The RCSI MFD, completed before May 2027 will be accepted for applications for the Dental Fellowship Examinations part 1 made before 1 May 2031. Please also refer to clause 8.
8. Where a candidate who holds the certificates noted in clause 6 or clause 7 is not ready to apply for Part 1 of the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations before 1 May 2031, candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Executive Committee until 1 May 2040.
9. Where a candidate who holds the certificates noted in clause 4 or clause 5 is not ready to apply for Part 2 of the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations before the stated date in the relevant clause, candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations Executive Committee until 1 May 2040.
10. Applications to sit an examination may be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of the Dental Examinations Executive. Candidates who are unsure of their eligibility or whose circumstances do not fully align with any clause detailed above are strongly advised to contact the Executive in advance of submitting an application for guidance.

Appendix 1

Examination	College(s)	Parts
M(Orth)	RCS Eng/RCPSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A three-hour multiple choice/multiple short answer paper relating to any part of the syllabus.
M(Endo), M(Perio), M(Pros)	RCS Eng/RCPSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A three-hour written paper with six compulsory short-answer questions in general restorative dentistry; A three-hour written paper with six compulsory short-answer questions in the specialty of the candidate's choice (endodontics, periodontics or prosthodontics).
M(Oral Surg)	RCSEd/RCS Eng/RCPSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written paper of 150 SBA questions.
M(Spec Care Dent)	RCSEd/RCS Eng/RCPSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written multiple-choice question paper in two parts. Each part has 90 questions and lasts for two hours.
M(Paed Dent)	RCSEd/RCS Eng/RCPSG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A three-hour written paper.
M(Endo), M(Perio), M(Pros)	RCSEd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A three-hour written paper of 150 Single Best Answer (SBA) questions.
M(Orth)	RCSEd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two two-hour papers of 90 Single Best Answer (SBA) questions each.