

Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS) Examination Eligibility Criteria

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V1.0	9 th March 2026	Approved for publication
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V1.2	15 th September 2026	Minor formatting changes

1. Introduction

1.1 This document defines the criteria required for candidates' eligibility to sit the Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery Examination (the MFDS examination).

1.2 Eligibility criteria are defined to ensure that those completing the examination have sufficient training and experience to complete the examination. Candidates should ensure that their knowledge would meet the minimum requirements laid out in the [COPDEND Dental Core training curricula published here](#). Successful completion of the examination is one factor that the GDC and/or UK and International employers may consider within job application criteria.

1.3 The examination will provide a fair and inclusive way for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and competences, regardless of whether they followed a training programme, or another route based on experience and knowledge. This approach recognises that the same outcomes can be achieved by different routes.

2. Key Features of Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Flexibility

The examination is designed to be flexible, accommodating candidates from various backgrounds. This means that the examination focuses on assessing the core competences and knowledge required for the profession, rather than the specific path taken to acquire them.

2.2 Summative Assessment

This examination represents a summative assessment of core knowledge, application of knowledge and understanding of the structures and processes required to provide quality assured dental care. It ensures that all candidates, regardless of their background, are evaluated on their ability to perform the necessary skills and demonstrate the required knowledge.

2.3 Inclusivity

The examination promotes inclusivity and diversity within the profession. This approach acknowledges that valuable skills and knowledge can be gained through various means, not just through formal education.

3. Eligibility Submissions

3.1 Applications will be supported by the relevant documentation noted for the criteria listed. Applicants are required to submit documentation using the system specified in the application.

3.2 Please note: This is a self-declaration process, and it is your responsibility to ensure that all documents you submit meet the stated requirements (for example, they must be signed, dated, and issued by a recognised institution). If your documents do not meet the criteria, your application may not be accepted, and any certification already awarded could be withdrawn. Candidates are advised to check their eligibility using these criteria and if eligible, can apply for the next diet of the examination.

3.3 If the submitted evidence is found to be incomplete prior to the examination, candidates will be withdrawn from the list. If found to be incomplete after the examination, certification may be withdrawn.

3.4 No evidence will be accepted beyond the submission period for those wishing to apply.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Primary Dental Qualification

Candidates must provide certified evidence of possession of a primary dental qualification acceptable to the Councils of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons of England and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

4.2 Clinical Experience

Candidates must have sufficient clinical experience such that they can demonstrate competency to meet the learning outcomes noted in the [COPDEND Dental Core training curricula published here](#).

Candidates are required to successfully complete MFDS Part 1 before they can apply for MFDS Part 2.

4.3 Clinical Registration

Candidates must be registered with a recognised dental regulatory body in their country of practice that is recognised by the Colleges.

4.4 English Language Level

Candidates should have a good command of the English language, akin to IELTS 7, to participate in the examinations which will be taken entirely in English.