Global learning in a virtual classroom

For today’s busy clinician comes the UK’s first online post-graduate degree in Restorative & Aesthetic dentistry. Dental Tribune has more...

Two of the UK’s most respected education and academic organisations have joined forces to provide an innovative, technology-driven MSc in restorative and aesthetic dentistry. This programme brings together a high class international faculty for a modern and global classroom.

Smile-on, the UK’s pre-eminent healthcare education provider and the University of Manchester, one of the top 25 universities in the world, have had the insight to collaborate in providing students with the best that today’s technology has to offer post-graduate education - lecturers, online technology, live sessions and support.

The aims of the MSc are simple - to provide an innovative programme which enhances current knowledge and clinical skills in aesthetic restorative dentistry; to present sound academic theory and high quality practical training in aesthetic concepts by world class mentors; to provide students with the confidence and ability to enhance their current clinical practice by incorporating the latest advances in technology and research ensuring aesthetic, functional and long lasting restorative care; and to deliver learning using the latest technology enabling students to access the course regardless of place or time zone whilst maintaining their dental practices.

The syllabus covers a wide range of subjects, broken up into seven units of differing lengths and credit value, totalling 1,900 Hours and 180 credits.

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Unit One: Foundations of 21st Century Practice (150 Hours/15 credits)
- Anatomy
- Basic disease processes
- Current concepts in diagnosis
- Foundational occlusion
- Foundations of material science
- Imaging and radiology

Unit Two: Aesthetic Foundations (150 Hours/15 credits)
- Comprehensive patient assessment
- Patient communication
- Record keeping
- Clinical photography
- Treatment presentation
- Medico-legal aspects
- Practice management
- Anterior aesthetic treatment planning
- Colour and shade

Unit Three: Anterior Aesthetics (300 Hours/30 credits)
- Bleaching
- Anterior direct composite
- Aesthetic recontouring
- Simple orthodontics
- Restoration of the endodontically treated tooth
- Veneers
- Sliced veneers/4 crowns
- Crowns

Unit Four: Posterior Aesthetics (150 Hours/15 credits)
- Direct composite
- Inlays/onlays
- Crowns
- Bridges

Unit Five: Complex Treatment (300 Hours/30 credits)
- Tooth loss
- Removable replacement
- Fixed replacement
- Treatment planning tooth replacement
- Periodontal plastic surgery
- The role of orthodontics
- Restorative gingival techniques

Century Practice
The MSc in Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry is a golden opportunity to experience the challenge of a high-quality course, using 21st-century technology to make the journey more accessible for clinicians.

Resources - Students will have access to The University of Manchester's online library.

Methods of assessment include: Multiple choice questions administered after live/distance and interactive lectures; Document-ation and pictures submitted for assessment for case studies; Individual assessment by Aesthetic Master's Faculty to demonstrate clinical competency and theoretical mastery.

The way this MSc is being taught is what makes it so special for students. The mix between the online technologies and traditional teaching modalities is such that there is something for everyone.

Seminar/Webinar - Each lecture is typically 1-2 hours long with assessments to be completed during the unit. Lectures may be taken online (live-distance learning). In all cases, the examination is required to complete the requirement. Each lecture hour is assigned a one hour credit and its associated coursework and assessment is assigned a 0.5 hour credit. (A webinar is a type of web conference, with a difference, as it is live and interactive. The direction of the presentation is primarily led by the presenter/speaker however, audience participation is integral and indeed necessary for a more useful and interesting experience. A webinar is ‘live’ and interactive with the ability to give, receive and discuss information.

Case Studies - Photographic documentation and written descriptions of clinical cases will be submitted online in a standard pre-formatted template file for assessment purposes. The images will include before, after and significant steps in the treatment. Detailed guidelines for case presentation and photography will be provided. Each case is examined anonymously by a minimum of 2 instructors (and a third, in case of disagreement), marked and returned to the participant with an evaluation and comments.

Readings - Each article is assigned a one-credit value (equivalent to one-three hours).

Tutor Sessions - The MSc programme will provide both regularly and irregularly scheduled online chat forums led by members of the faculty. These will be at the time convenience of the tutor and will be recorded and may be viewed by candidates anytime thereafter.

Research Project/Dissertation - A member of the faculty will be assigned to the candidate depending on the selected dissertation topic area. This mentor will be responsible for guiding the candidate through the thesis development, writing, and presentation process.

Residential Courses/Hands-on Lectures - The MSc offers more than just a modern learning experience. Students will be able to communicate with a diverse multi-ethnic global community of peers with whom they will also share residential courses (travel and accommodation expenses to be met by the student) to complete the mandatory hands-on portions of the course, in fantastic settings.

The residential course content includes:
- Year 1 - Clinical photography; Anterior aesthetic treatment planning; Colour & shade; Occlusion; Bleaching; Direct composite; Aesthetic recontouring; Simple orthodontics; Restoration of the endodontically treated tooth; Venereers; Sliced veneers/N crowns; Crowns; Inlays/onlays; Bridges
- Year 2 - Tooth loss; Removable replacement; Fixed replacement; Treatment planning tooth replacement; Restorative gingival techniques; Treatment planning complex cases; Delivery of complex cases; Interdisciplinary treatment

Online learning
The majority of the learning resources will be online. The programme will combine webinars, hands-on sessions and e-learning modules to create an integrated learning programme, using the best of new media and technology. Students can interact with these components through the secure online Education Support Platform (ESP) system, which will guide you towards your goals through a detailed activity timeline. The ESP provides the following:
- Student profile
- Learning plan
- Personal development plan
- Learning modules
- Webinars
- Case study & photo uploading
- Dental literature
- Messaging system
- Multiple choice questions
- Tutor assessment
- Progress tracker
- Resources

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