



Information for Candidates

2014



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1. Preface

Where does the MJDF assessment fit into a modern dental career?

The FDS and FGDP(UK) at the Royal College of Surgeons of England provide a well-established, modern, educationally sound assessment in the Diploma of Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties (MJDF RCS Eng).

The aim of the MJDF examination is to assess knowledge, application of knowledge and graduates' understanding of the structures and processes required to provide quality-assured dental healthcare after completion of the Dental Foundation Training programme, whether they are pursuing a career in general or specialist practice, in either primary or secondary care.

The UK *Dental Foundation Training Curriculum* ([published by COPDEND](#)) defines the competences, curriculum, educational content, training requirements, and expected outcomes for all dental graduates who complete dental foundation training. Successful completion clearly demonstrates a level of achievement beyond undergraduate training and a commitment to professional development which may be useful to future employers.

Although not essential, it may be a desirable requirement for entry into specialist training. It is the starting point for general dental practitioners who wish to achieve the Fellowship of FGDP(UK) and become Fellows of the RCS Eng.

The two dental faculties believe that the MJDF provides a modern, fit-for-purpose, innovative assessment for today's young dentist. It also removes the reliance on traditional tests of knowledge and, together with the structured professional skills assessment, allows for triangulation of methods to assess the areas set out in the foundation training curriculum.



2. Introduction

This document contains background information and guidance for candidates preparing for the MJDF and highlights further sources of help. Annex A contains a list of frequently asked questions.

3. How to use this document

This document should be read alongside the *MJDF Regulations*, available to view on the MJDF website (www.mjdf.org.uk).

This document contains important guidance which is supplementary to the *MJDF Regulations*. **Any candidate preparing for the MJDF assessment should therefore read both the *MJDF Regulations* and this document in full.**

4. A Curriculum for UK Dental Foundation Programme Training

The publication *Dental Foundation Training Curriculum* is the basis for the MJDF assessment. The curriculum can be downloaded from the [COPDEND website](#).

5. The format of the MJDF summarised

This section provides a summary of the two components of the MJDF. Further information, including specimen questions, can be found within the section 7 *Guidance on the content of parts of the assessment*.

Part 1 examination

The Part 1 examination will consist of one paper, based on the foundation training curriculum, assessing knowledge and applied knowledge. This will include different formats of multiple choice questions (MCQ) in single best answer (SBA) and extended matching question (EMQ) form.

Part 2 examination

The Part 2 examination will consist of a structured professional skills assessment, comprising 18 stations within a single circuit.

The assessment will test candidates' communication skills, clinical competence and clinical reasoning.



Final award of the Diploma of MJDF

Candidates are reminded that once Part 1 examination has been completed Part 2 examination must be completed within a five-year time frame.

6. Training, education and preparation for MJDF

The *Dental Foundation Training Curriculum* sets out the competencies (that is, the knowledge, skills and attributes) that dentists should acquire following two years' postgraduate experience.

It should be stressed that the MJDF assessment is open to, and will have value for, all dentists wishing to obtain a first-level postgraduate diploma, and is not restricted to recent graduates.

Tutor networks

There is a network of tutors to assist those preparing for the MJDF assessment. Further details are available on the MJDF website (www.mjdf.org.uk).

Study days

Study days are organised at by the FGDP(UK) around the UK to assist candidates with preparation for the MJDF. Please visit the MJDF website for details of upcoming study groups and seminars.

Non UK-based candidates

MJDF Part 1 is offered in several overseas centres. For more information please visit the MJDF website www.mjdf.org.uk.

Candidates who wish to attend the MJDF examination should ensure that they can access sufficient study support to satisfy the requirements of the foundation training curriculum.

7. Membership of the dental faculties

Successful candidates will be eligible for joint membership of the two dental faculties at The Royal College of Surgeons of England for a period of six years following completion of the MJDF Diploma. At the end of this six-year period, holders of the MJDF may choose to join either faculty or continue with



membership of both, in accordance with such membership categories and fees that may be prescribed at that time.

8. Policies applicable to the MJDF

Policies relating to appeals, plagiarism and malpractice, disability and equal opportunities will be made available to candidates separately.



Annex A

Frequently asked questions

What is the value of the MJDF measured against the old qualifications?

One of the defining characteristics of the MFDS was that it served as an entry requirement for specialist training. The GDC has decided that there will be no formal examination entry requirement, and selection is likely to be on the basis of a range of criteria demonstrating suitability. Possession of a postgraduate qualification (MFDS, MFGDP(UK), MJDF, or a non-College qualification) will play a part in demonstrating a candidate's suitability. However, it is not an absolute requirement.

The MJDF's purpose and value is to confirm the acquisition of competencies at the end of the foundation training curriculum, for a dental career which may develop within either primary or secondary care.

I want to enter specialist training. Do I also need MJDF in addition to my existing MFDS/MFGDP(UK)?

See above – in keeping with published GDC guidance, this is not currently a mandatory requirement.

Since the MJDF assesses competencies in the foundation training curriculum, is it relevant to a practitioner with several years' experience post-qualification?

Yes – the MJDF will be the starting point for dentists who wish to develop their careers in a number of ways. With more flexible entry into specialist training, and the advent of concepts such as Dentists with Special Interests, all practitioners should consider the MJDF as a valuable demonstration of having achieved the postgraduate competencies set out in the foundation training curriculum.

I have completed MFDS/MFGDP(UK). Can I use this to obtain exemptions from parts of the MJDF?

If you have completed MFDS or MFGDP(UK), you need only take Part 2 MJDF to gain that award, as long the components for which you are claiming credit and Part 2 of the MJDF are completed within the five-year period allowed by the regulations.



Is MJDF available overseas?

MJDF Part 1 is offered in several overseas centres. For more information please visit the MJDF website www.mjdf.org.uk

How long do I have to complete the MJDF?

All parts of the assessment will normally need to be completed within five years of passing Part 1.

Is the MJDF registerable as an additional qualification with the GDC?

At the time of publication (Sept 2014), the General Dental Council is not accepting new applications for registrable qualifications pending a review of its policy for approving such applications. This applies both to the MJDF and the MFDS of the Dental Faculties of the Royal Colleges in Scotland. On completion, the faculties will apply to the GDC for recognition as a qualification.

Where do I obtain further information and guidance?

Visit www.mjdf.org.uk, or contact the MJDF Examination Department at mjdf@rcseng.ac.uk.