



RCSI

Faculty of Dentistry Regulations for Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Faculty of Dentistry

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland



RCSI

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1. General Regulations

The General Diplomas of the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in the disciplines outlined in this document may be granted to those who possess a dental qualification registrable in the Register of Dentists for Ireland and to graduates or diplomates in Dentistry of those Universities and other licensing bodies recognised for the purpose and who comply with the Regulations. The examination can be taken at any time after graduation. Successful completion of the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry allows entry directly to Part 2 of the Membership of the Faculty of Dentistry examination

The dates of the examination and the fees payable for admission to the examination are set out in the examination calendars, which are published annually by the College and are available on the Faculty of Dentistry website <http://facultyofdentistry.ie>. The examination is conducted in the English language. Candidates should note that the examination may be delivered in a variety of formats.

Applications must be made online through <https://postgradexams.rcsi.ie/>

Prior to formally applying, please ensure that you carefully read the following information that can be found on our Faculty [website](#)

- Exam regulations
- Exam Rules of Conduct

The online application must be received by the SARA Department (Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs) on or before the closing date of the examination. Once applications have reached the maximum quota, which may be in advance of the advertised closing date, no further applications will be accepted.

Once your online application has been processed you will receive official confirmation, along with your examination number.

The SARA Department will be in contact with you prior to the examination regarding further details of venues, timetables, etc.

The required certificates and the full amount of the fee payable for the examination must accompany applications for admission to an examination.

Candidates should make themselves familiar with the Examination Policies available on our [website](#)

Candidates withdrawing from an examination must adhere to the examination policies regarding withdrawal.

The College or Board of the Faculty reserves absolute discretion to refuse to admit to the examination, proceed with the examination of, any candidate who (a) infringes any of the Regulations or (b) who is considered by the Examiners to be acting in a manner prejudicial to the proper management and conduct of the examination or (c) whose conduct has rendered them in the College's or Board's opinion, unsuitable for conferral with the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Candidates who wish to appeal should review the appeals policy

2. Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry

DPCD RCSI Entry Requirements & Examination Format

Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry – Entry Requirements

The requirements to present for the examination of Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI, DipPCDRCSI are:

- Possession of an undergraduate dental qualification recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- The examination may be taken any time following graduation from Dental School

DPCD RCSI – Examination Format

Notes

The Dip PCDRCSI examination is intended to provide evidence of knowledge, experience and clinical competence in all aspects of Primary Care Dentistry beyond that recognised by the primary dental qualification.

The examination will have emphasis on all aspects of Primary Care Dentistry as listed in the [syllabus](#). The award of the Dip PCDRCSI will be a marker that can identify those dentists with the knowledge, understanding and experience of clinical practice of Primary Care Dentistry sufficient to continue with further suitable broad based clinical, para-clinical and practice management experience and practice based training.

Subject to the regulations for entry, holders of the Diploma will be in a position to enter Part 2 of the Membership of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (MFDRCSI) examination.

Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry

Component	Description
Paper 1 (MCQ & SBA)	<p>The three hour MCQ paper will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) each consisting of a stem and five branches, with each branch being independently TRUE or FALSE • 33 Single Best Answer Questions (SBAs) each consisting of five statements with only one correct answer.
Award of the Diploma	Successful candidates who have complied with all the regulations will be awarded the Diploma of Primary Care Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
Limitation on Attempts	There is no limit on the number of attempts for this examination. However, examiners may, at their discretion, defer for two years, a candidate whose performance is such that re-examining within such a time is not considered to be in his/her best interest.
Exemption	No exemptions are offered from any part of the examination.



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Withholding and/or annulling results

Candidates are advised that the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI may withhold or annul results and require a candidate (or a group of candidates) to re-take any part of their examinations. This action will be taken if the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI is present with: Sufficient evidence that the security of any part of the examination has been compromised.

The Faculty of Dentistry RCSI reserves the right to enforce this in the absence of evidence of direct candidate involvement in any activities that may be investigated under the misconduct regulations.

The Faculty of Dentistry RCSI reserves the right to decline to accept applications from candidates where concerns have been highlighted in relation to candidate behavior under these guidelines.



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APPENDIX I

Candidate Code of Conduct:

RCSI can reasonably expect professional behaviours and to rely on candidates own registration with their professional bodies as indicative of understanding requisite professional behaviours and standards, including as they pertain to academic integrity and examination conduct.

RCSI and the Faculty of Dentistry are required to ensure that their assessments are equitable, valid and reliable. Any form of cheating poses a threat to the academic standards of the qualifications, and to the integrity of qualifications awarded to the vast majority who achieve their qualification entirely by legitimate means (based on QAA guidelines , 2013, 2016 cited in [OIAHE: The good practice framework: disciplinary procedures 2018](#)).

The objective of these regulations is to help and encourage all candidates behave in a professional manner including but not limited to adherence to relevant codes of conduct, Examination / Assessment Regulations and Protocols, and other published standards of professional behaviour of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (“RCSI”) or relevant training bodies.

Together, with the statements below, these outline the defined standards and principles by which candidates must abide. These standards are considered by RCSI as evidence of fitness to study and practice in the chosen profession.

- Membership of a healthcare profession requires the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct. Candidates must behave professionally at all times and in all dealings with RCSI.
- Every candidate is personally responsible for their own acts or omissions.
- These regulations are based on the following core principles:
 - a. Your primary concern must be to maintain and improve the health, wellbeing, care and safety of patients.
 - b. Act according to the highest ethical principles at all times.
 - c. Demonstrate professional responsibility and behaviour.
 - d. Develop your professional competence, skills and standing so as to bring health gain and value to the community and society.
 - e. Be accountable for your own actions. Be honest and trustworthy and show respect for others.
 - f. Conduct yourself in a manner which enhances the service provided to society and which will maintain the good name of your profession.
 - g. Be aware of your obligations and do not do anything which constitutes a breach of these standards.



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Candidate acknowledgement of the code of conduct for examination

By enrolling in an examination held by the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, I, a candidate for examination, confirm that I have read, understood and accepted the following code of conduct for the examination.

The Code of Conduct in respect of disseminating examination information:

1. I confirm that I will not disseminate in any way (written, oral or electronic) information regarding the content of this examination. I will maintain the confidentiality of the examination materials. I will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through recording, memorization, or by any other means. I will not provide information relating to examination content to anyone, including those who may be taking or preparing others to take the examination. This includes postings regarding examination content and/or answers on the Internet.
2. Should RCSI obtain information that I had prior access to or was involved in, reproducing or disseminating RCSI examination question materials, I understand that I may be prohibited from ever taking or retaking any RCSI certification examinations.
3. I understand that prior knowledge of or disseminating information on the content of the Written Examination (both on line or paper based), could constitute a breach of my responsibility as an RCSI examination candidate.
4. I understand and accept that any violation of the above notices may mandate an investigation that may subject me to disciplinary and/or legal action taken by RCSI. The RCSI may, at its discretion, refuse to examine me or, having examined me, may refuse to issue a certificate based upon its above-described investigation. Should I already have become a Fellow, Member or Diplomat of the Faculty of Dentistry, RCSI, such violation may result in the revocation of my certificate. It would also be customary for RCSI to inform such violation to the relevant professional governing body with whom I am registered in the practice of dentistry.

Penalties for Examination Offences

Examination offences are taken extremely seriously. Anyone either suspected of or caught committing an examination offence or for breaching the code of conduct in relation to the dissemination of examination information will be reported immediately to the Faculty and College Authorities. Further action may be taken.