

Building Your CV and Understanding Self Assessment

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Oral Surgery Specialty Trainee

Learning Outcomes

01

Brief overview of Dental Training Pathways

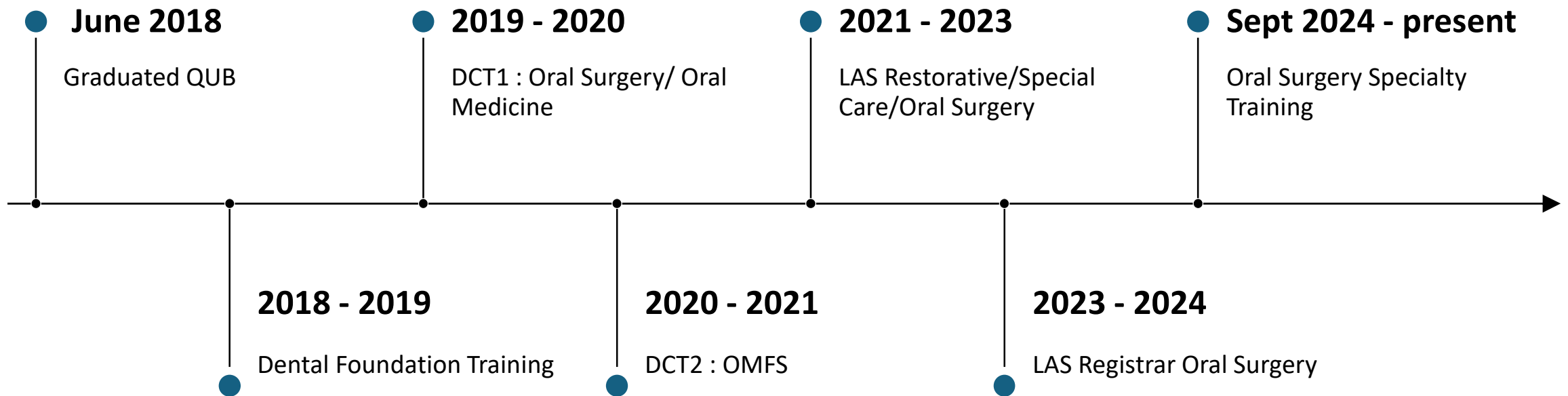
02

Understanding Self Assessment Process

03

Knowledge of ways to build CV for Self Assessment

Career Timeline



What is Self Assessment?

- Multiple-choice self assessment questions built into the application form and form the initial part of the application process.
- You will need to select the most appropriate response from a drop-down list of questions based on your experience.
- Evidence to substantiate your answers must be easily identified and follow the strict guidance given in the policy.
- You will need to upload your evidence to a separate electronic system after applications have closed.
- Your evidence will be reviewed by a panel of clinicians who will confirm the scores awarded.
- Your score will then determine whether you are eligible for interview.
- The score may also form part of your final score to determine your final ranking for available posts.

Where do you start?

- Person Specification
- Self Assessment Form



Person Specification

- Similar to a Job description for each Dental Specialty.
- Looks a range of different 'entry criteria' and 'selection criteria' and where each of these would be assessed.
- A lot of the criteria is the same for all Dental Specialties
- Specialty Specific Criteria – this will differ between each specialty therefore important to look at this as it may impact your decision on choosing different DCT posts.
- All require completion of Dental Core Training 2 or equivalence.
- <https://dental.hee.nhs.uk/dental-trainee-recruitment/dental-specialty-training/person-specifications-for-dental-specialty-training-dst-recruitment>

Self Assessment: Experience to date

At the proposed time of post commencement*,
how many months (WTE)** will you have spent
in total in the following posts:

- DCT posts
- Specialty dentist posts (SAS) or salaried services posts *** or
- DCT equivalent?

Responses	Scores
0 - 12 months	0
13 -24 months	2
25+ months	6

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Essential Criteria

- Demonstrates good communication skills with children, young persons, and parents/carers
- Evidence of specific paediatric dentistry skills (e.g., management of trauma, medically compromised children)
- Demonstrates commitment to Paediatric Dentistry

Desirable Criteria

- Experience in Orthodontics
- Experience in Restorative Dentistry
- Experience in Oral Surgery
- Experience in the Public/Salaried Dental Service
- Experience of delivering clinical/academic training/teaching in Paediatric Dentistry


- Demonstrates insight, interest, and commitment to pursuing a career in the specialty of orthodontics

- Applicants should be able to demonstrate their broad range of experience in all areas of clinical dentistry

- Have experience of a substantive post working in oral surgery/oral and maxillofacial surgery.
- Have documented experience of inpatient care and management of emergencies in a hospital setting.
- Have validated logbook evidence of appropriate experience.
- Shows realistic insight into Oral Surgery and the demands of a career in surgery.

***Ortho Self Assessment Question 11

At the proposed time of post commencement, how many specialties will you have clinically practiced for a minimum of 6 calendar months (WTE) each? Please note that OMFS is a medical specialty but will be considered on a par with all GDC registered dental specialties.



Responses	Scores
None	0
1 specialty	2
2 specialties	4
3 specialties	6
4 or more specialties	8

MFDS

- At the time of application opening, have you been awarded Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS) or Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties (MJDF)?
- You must have completed all parts; completion of Part 1 only does not count.
- 18 months post-graduate experience to sit
- Different Royal Colleges eg Edinburgh, Glasgow have different membership rates

MFDS

Final dates for the current exam format

The final exam for **MFDS Part 1** will be held on 20 October 2026.

The final exam for **MFDS Part 2** will be held in March 2027.

To book the current MFDS exams with RCS England, visit [Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery](#). Read below for more information about the final exam sittings.

MFDS Part 1

The current MFDS Part 1 exam will be held twice more, on:

- 13 May 2026, and
- 20 October 2026.

If you wish to complete the existing MFDS exam, you are expected to sit the May 2026 diet. This will give you the opportunity to re-sit on 20 October 2026 if required.

Failing the final MFDS Part 1 exam in October 2026 will mean moving to the new exam format.

MFDS Part 2

The current MFDS Part 2 exam will be held three more times in:

- March 2026 in the UK (open for bookings)
- November 2026 in the UK
- March 2027 (to be scheduled).

- At the time of application opening, have you been awarded Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS) or Membership of the Joint Dental Faculties (MJDF)?
- You must have completed all parts; completion of Part 1 only does not count.
- 18 months post-graduate experience to sit
- Different Royal Colleges eg Edinburgh, Glasgow have different membership rates

Audit/QI

- At the time of application opening, how many complete quality improvement projects (QIP)/complete audit cycles have you undertaken in the last 36 months?

- Encompass
- Patient Feedback
- Antibiotic Prescribing
- Radiographs
- Incident reporting

**ensure to register you project formally with the Trust

**STEP/STEPWest Programme

- How did you project change or improve practice?
- How did it benefit or improve patient care?
- Did this result in the development of a protocol or change of referral guidance?
- Did you publish the project?

Teaching Sessions

At the time of application opening , please select the statement that best describes your experience in formal teaching events of relevance to dentistry such as a small group tutorial or lecture, of a minimum length of 30 minutes (this excludes clinical supervision).

- DCT peer group teaching sessions
- Journal Clubs
- Audit meetings – case presentations
- Undergraduate courses eg simulation, MOS course
- Make sure you include learning outcomes
- Ensure to collect feedback



Publications

- Letter is generally a quicker and easier option – use as a response to an article that has been published.
- Ask Consultants about their interesting cases!
- Work in conjunction with a Reg/Staff Grade
- Consider writing up your Audit or QI project
- Educational journals eg BDJ Student is peer reviewed and often like articles from DCT perspective
- Look up the journal manuscript submission to guide how you will write your piece

Posters and Presentations

- Look early on in the year/year ahead for upcoming conferences that may be relevant
- Be selective – usually your work must be original therefore don't submit the same case/project multiple times, unless its been rejected from.
- Use Audits, QI, Case Reports or educational teaching
- International conferences often have broader capacity for accepting as there are more sessions for presenting - they are just often more expensive!
- Online National Meetings/AGM still count!
- Lots of clinical teaching/educational conferences

Commitment to Specialty

- Again, look early on in the year – map/plan out what you are planning to attend
- Selective Conferences wisely – can you present at a National Society Meeting or conference?
- Specialist Society Meetings – ABAOMS, BAOS, BAOMS, BISOM
- Allied societies eg DSTG May 2026
- Essay competitions, poster prizes
- Memberships – often cheaper as a Trainee and gives access to CPD/courses

Leadership Role

- Often one of the harder questions to score well in.
- Edward Jenner award
- STEP/STEPWest can provide a platform for this
- NIMDTA Representatives
- BDA/Specialist Society Reps
- Roles within your Trust – Audit Co-Ordinator, Datix
- Leadership PgCert/Dip/MSc – expensive and only achieves 2 points
- Can be subjective on the self assessment - can depend on who is marking you

Logbook

eLOGBOOK

A logbook for life...

Miss Rebekah Milligan (GDC277592)

Specialty Registrars (StR)

Specialty: Oral Surgery (OralSurg)

Logout

←

Operative Records

Add Operations

Browse Operations

Browse Filters

Reports

Report Queue

ISCP Portfolio

Administration

My Details

My Training History

My Preferences

My Common Operations

My Common Hospitals

My Consultants

National Audits

Local Audits

Help

Operation Details

Select Specialty

Specialty:

Oral Surgery

Operation Details

Patient Id

A patient id is required.

Patient Date of Birth

dd-mm-yyyy

Date of Operation

04-01-2026

Summary

- You are required to have completed DCT2 (or equivalent) to be eligible to apply
- Think of the overall picture when it comes to posts and experience that you need to gain
- Prepare early – organise yourself early on in the year as to what you hope to achieve and how to go about it
- If someone suggests writing something up – do it!
- Start your logbook early on, it will save you a lot of work.
- Talk to people who have been through the process recently