Letter from Dr Patricia Reynolds, Deputy Director of Education for Distance Learning

Under the academic guidance of Guy's, King's and St Thomas' (GKT) Dental Institute of King's College London, the University of London External Programme offers the following five qualifications by distance learning to meet the needs of health and dental practitioners:

- **Master of Clinical Dentistry (Prosthodontics)**
- **MSc in Community Dental Practice**
- **MSc in Dental Public Health**
- **MSc in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology**
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology**

GKT has pioneered distance learning in dentistry, providing postgraduate teaching for students from many different countries around the world, with even greater global accessibility through e-learning. In keeping with our forward-looking profile we are delighted to offer the M.Clin.Dent. via an interactive online learning experience. GKT's responsibilities for the academic direction of the dental programmes include developing programme structures and syllabuses, writing study materials, tutoring students during the intensive courses held in the UK, advising students and ensuring that External students are examined (in both the written examinations and in coursework) to the same standard as students studying at GKT and at the University of London as a whole.

The programmes allow students to study at home and only attend the UK for the two- or three-week annual residential courses (with the exception of the MSc Dental Public Health for which there is no requirement to come to the UK). Study materials have been designed in a user-friendly and interactive style, with back-up tutorial support from an enthusiastic and experienced team.

Large numbers of students from all over the world are enrolled on these distance learning programmes. I now hope to welcome you.

The University of London – a centre of excellence

The University of London, which was established in 1836, is one of the oldest and largest universities in the United Kingdom. As a federation of 19 Colleges and 11 Institutes it is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence. The University also has a long history in providing educational opportunities through its External Programme for students unable to attend the University full time. There are currently more than 30,000 registered students in over 180 countries. There is only one University of London degree, whether studied by the internal or external route. The University maintains robust and effective quality assurance mechanisms for all its qualifications.

Studying at a distance is ideal if you have family responsibilities or work commitments. In recognition of the competing demands on your time, a longer period of study is permitted than for conventional courses.

Dentistry at King's

King's College, founded in 1829, has always had an impressive academic tradition and many of its members have achieved international recognition in their fields, some of them becoming Nobel Prize winners. The Guy's, King's and St Thomas' (GKT) School of Dentistry came into being in 1998 following the merger of the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals with King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, so bringing together, as one institution, some of the most famous medical and dental schools in London.

E-Learning

This innovative and interactive method of delivering distance learning is now available for the M.Clin.Dent. Internet access and basic keyboard skills are all that are required to enjoy a flexible virtual learning environment.

M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics)

Year 1

Introduction to fixed and removable prosthodontics
Treatment planning and preparation of the mouth
Complete dentures

Year 2

Fixed prosthodontics
Aetiology and management of tooth wear
Biomaterials science

Year 3

Advanced prosthodontics
Prosthodontic care for medically/clinically compromised patients and elderly people
Statistics and epidemiology

Year 4

Report

Note: for the first three years of this course you must come to the UK for a two-week intensive residential course.

Important note: as well as the conventional print-based mode of study, this degree is now being offered online via a Virtual Learning Environment.

"I chose to do this course by distance learning because it's difficult finding full-time courses in this subject. They're very competitive and also more expensive. This was a cheaper option and it allows me to stay at home with my family and work in a way which suits me. I get to treat my own people and get to know situations that are peculiar to them.
The course introduced me to new technology making treatment simpler and more effective and, as a result, I hope my own practice will be better."

Sandra Hewlett
M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics), Ghana

MSc in Community Dental Practice

Year 1

Care in the community
Principles of epidemiology
Principles of statistics and applied statistics

Year 2

Care of individual patients and special groups
Applied psychology and sociology
Dental health education and prevention
Clinical log diary

Year 3

Community practice management
Dental public health research project and dissertation

Note: for each year of this course you must come to the UK for a two-week intensive residential course.

"For me the most useful part of the degree was to spend a year dedicated to working on the MSc report. I chose a subject related to dental care for people with disabilities (which is the group of patients I work with at present). Using the skills learnt in the MSc in Dental Radiology, I hope to look in greater detail at ways to improve my provision of care for this group of patients. Since completing the course, I have also become involved with teaching dental nurses and dentists."

David Townsend
MSc Dental Radiology, UK

Note: MSc Dental Radiology has subsequently been renamed MSc Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology.

MSc in Dental Public Health

Year 1

Introduction to dental public health
Principles of epidemiology
Principles of statistics and applied statistics

Year 2

Sociology and dental public health
Oral health promotion and education
Administration in community dental services

Year 3

Dental public health research project and dissertation

Note: there is no requirement to come to the UK.

MSc in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology and PG Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology

Year 1

Radiation physics
Radiation protection
Statistics

Year 2

Science and technology of radiological imaging
Radiography
Radiographic anatomy I

Year 3

Radiology and pathology
Diagnostic interpretation and radiographic anatomy II

Year 4

Report (MSc only)

Note: the Postgraduate Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology comprises the first three years of study. For the first three years of both courses you must come to the UK for a two-week intensive residential course.

Support and study materials

Students are supported by a personal tutor and for the M.Clin.Dent. by the Virtual Learning Environment. All students, apart from those studying for the MSc Dental Public Health, will be required to attend an intensive residential course in the UK. Students are also supported by high quality study materials.

When you register we will send you an individual pack containing a range of specially written materials to help you plan your studies and prepare for examinations. Your study pack may include:

- course notes
- videos
- journal articles
- selected textbooks
- CD-ROMs

I was attracted by the External Programme purely for practical reasons because I was working full time and I couldn't afford to take time off work. It also suited me to do it in my own time rather than as a full-time student.

It's been incredibly worthwhile for my job and my knowledge of the whole area has vastly increased. From all points of view I'm delighted to have done it. At the moment I work as a clinical dentist in a hospital and there is lots of potential for promotion and movement up the career ladder. So I definitely consider this qualification will help me a lot.

Catherine Watters
MSc Community Dental Practice, Republic of Ireland

Assessment

Each module (with the exception of the project) is assessed by an unseen written examination. There are also assignments for each module which will be taken into account for the final assessment. The project, for which tutorial guidance is provided, is examined by the submission of a written dissertation.

Examinations are held once a year, normally in November (October/November for the M.Clin.Dent.), in local overseas centres as well as in London. Examinations overseas are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council.

The Summer Schools organised for the students were very important for my motivation. Meeting colleagues from all over the world with completely different backgrounds and united by a common interest was a great experience. I would recommend every student to participate in these activities.

My final year's research project brought me into contact with the FDI World Dental Federation. This collaboration developed so well that I was invited to present my research results at the World Dental Congress in Malaysia. Finally the FDI directors, impressed by the knowledge gained through the MSc, offered me a post as development manager at their new Head Office in Geneva. I am very happy with this career shift, which would not have been possible without the internationally recognised MSc gained at King's College.

Dr Habib Benzian
MSc Dental Public Health, Germany

Basic entrance requirements

- **M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics)**
- **MSc in Community Dental Practice**
- **MSc in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology**
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology**

A dental qualification acceptable to the University.

AND

Employment in a full-time or part-time appointment, acceptable to the University, in a dental practice, hospital, dental hospital or school or in a community dental services or primary care environment.

***AND* English language**

Evidence of fluency in the English language (where appropriate, an applicant will be required to pass, at an acceptable level, a test of proficiency in English recognised by the University before an offer of registration can be made).

- **MSc in Dental Public Health**

A second class honours degree or the equivalent, from a university or other institution acceptable to the University of London, in a discipline which has, in the opinion of the University, included a suitable preliminary training.

Note: specific requirements can be found in the full prospectus.

Fees

There is an annual fee payable for all the programmes. 2005 fees apply to students registering with effect from 1 January 2005 or later.

	2004	2005
M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics)*	£5,350	£5,750
MSc in Community Dental Practice*	£3,000	£3,300
MSc in Dental Public Health	£3,000	£3,300
MSc in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology* and PG Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology*	£3,500	£3,800

*Fees are exclusive of the cost of travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses when attending the intensive courses. For the M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics) it is also exclusive of the cost of books, which may be in the region of £250 per year (dependent on the library facilities available to the student). If you are taking your exams outside of London you will also need to budget for fees to your local examination centre (this fee will vary). The fee is subject to annual review.

To apply

The official deadline for the receipt of **M.Clin.Dent. (Prosthodontics)** applications each year is **31 August**. The official deadline for the receipt of all other dental applications is **30 September**.

Further details about these qualifications are available in our prospectus or on our website. For a prospectus contact:

The Information Centre (L/DENT)
Senate House
University of London
Malet Street, London
WC1E 7HU
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7862 8360
Fax: +44 (0)20 7862 8358
Email: enquiries@lon.ac.uk
www.londonexternal.ac.uk

King's College London

Postgraduate study by Distance Learning in

Dentistry