



Australian
Dental
Council

**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL COUNCIL
REPORT OF AN EVALUATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
BACHELOR OF DENTAL SCIENCE (HONOURS)**

November 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program provider	University of Queensland
Program/qualification name	Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)
Program/qualification abbreviation	BDS(Hons)
Program/qualification code	2367
Head office address, including State	288 Herston Road, Herston, QLD 4006
Campus	Herston
Program length	5 years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 8
Accreditation standards version	Version 1.0 June 2010
Date of site evaluation	N/A – Paper based review
Date of ADC decision	11 December 2014
Type of accreditation	Initial Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2015
Accreditation end date	31 December 2016

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Background

The Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) program at the University of Queensland was last accredited in 2009 for a period of seven years with no conditions. The program was not previously mapped to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), but by its title implies it meets the requirements of a level 7 program.

The University conducted an internal review of all of its programs in 2014 to ensure compliance with the AQF and determined that the structure and outcomes of the BDSc were consistent with an AQF level 8 program. As such, the University has chosen to offer a new award of Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) (BDSc(Hons)) at AQF level 8, which is essentially a re-badged version of the existing BDSc. The first intake of the BDSc(Hons) program is scheduled to begin in 2015.

The University has decided to continue running the BDSc for those students currently enrolled who wish to remain in it, although there will be no new intakes from 2015 onwards and the course will be taught out. The BDSc and the BDSc(Hons) will run in parallel with identical content until such time that the BDSc has been fully taught out. As the BDSc(Hons) is a new award in addition to the BDSc it has to be accredited in its own right.

Overview of the Evaluation

The University of Queensland advised that the BDSc(Hons) is almost identical in content to the existing BDSc and it was therefore decided that a new site visit was unnecessary as an accreditation decision could be reached via a desktop review.

The University provided a written submission against each of the 20 Standards confirming any changes that have occurred as a result of the new program being put in place.

Key Findings

The new BDSc(Hons) program is identical to the currently accredited BDSc program. The introduction of the new program is the result of an internal university review of AQF compliance. The review determined that the existing BDSc program produced learning outcomes at AQF level 8 and the decision was taken to re-badge the program at that level.

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The School of Dentistry has provided evidence of the information provided to existing BDSc students about the new program and this information clearly articulated the impact on the students and the options available to them to transfer to the new BDSc(Hons) program.

While curriculum, program structure and staffing levels remain the same as for the accredited BDSc the School has taken possession of a newly completed Oral Health Centre at Herston, which it will move to following the completion of the 2014 academic year. This facility has not been viewed by the SET and, as such, its compliance with Standards 5 (Physical facilities), 9 (Clinic Administration) and 10 (Preparation for Practice) has not been confirmed.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Queensland's Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) program is accredited from **1 January 2015** until **31 December 2016** subject to the following condition:

That in 2015 a monitoring site visit is undertaken to assess whether the Oral Health Centre at Herston maintains the provision of student clinical experiences and appropriate operation of the clinic in compliance with Standards 5 (Physical Facilities), 9 (Clinic administration) and Standard 10 (Preparation for practice).