



Australian  
Dental  
Council

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

**May 2016**

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program provider</b>	University of Queensland
<b>Program/qualification name</b>	Bachelor of Dental Science / Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)
<b>Program/qualification abbreviation</b>	BDS <sub>c</sub> / BDS <sub>c</sub> (Hons)
<b>Program/qualification code</b>	2367
<b>Head office address, including State</b>	The University of Queensland, Oral Health Centre, Corner Bramston Terrace & Herston Road, Herston QLD 4006
<b>Campus</b>	Oral Health Centre – Herston
<b>Program length</b>	5 Years
<b>Registration division</b>	Dentist
<b>Registration specialty</b>	n/a
<b>Qualification type</b>	Bachelor Degree / Bachelor Honours Degree
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework Level</b>	7 / 8
<b>Accreditation standards version</b>	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
<b>Date of site evaluation</b>	31 May - 1 June 2016
<b>Date of ADC decision</b>	12 August 2016
<b>Type of accreditation</b>	Re-Accreditation
<b>Accreditation start date</b>	1 January 2017

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<b>Accreditation end date – Bachelor of Dental Science</b>	31 December 2018
<b>Accreditation end date – Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)</b>	31 December 2023

## Background

The University of Queensland's Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) program was last accredited by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in 2009. Accreditation was awarded for seven years without conditions.

In 2014 the School of Dentistry advised the ADC that, following a University initiated review, the BDSc would be reclassified as a Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) (BDSc(Hons)) as its outcomes had been determined to be at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 8. The ADC undertook a desktop assessment of the honours program in 2014 and determined that accreditation be awarded to the program until 31 December 2016, aligning its accreditation end date with that of the previously accredited BDSc. All students in the BDSc were offered the opportunity to transfer to the new honours program, although a small number chose not to do so. There has been no admission to the BDSc program since 2014 and it is being taught out with the final students expected to complete the program by the end of 2018. From the start of 2015 students have only been able to enter the BDSc(Hons) program. However, as students remain in the original program both the BDSc and the BDSc(Hons) have been put forward for accreditation.

Both programs are identical in structure and content, with students attending the same classes. A curriculum review, undertaken in 2014, has resulted in a new curriculum, with a stronger clinical focus, being rolled out on a year by year basis. At the time of the Site Evaluation Team (SET) visit, the new curriculum had been rolled out to students in years 1 and 2 of the BDSc(Hons) program.

## Overview of the Evaluation

The SET received the University of Queensland's 81-page submission against the Accreditation Standards, various appendices and subsequent information requested from the University following the SET teleconference of 22 March 2016. The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 31 May and 1 June 2016. During the visit, meetings were held with:

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- The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
- The Head of the School of Dentistry
- The School Management Team
- The program co-ordinator and Teaching and Learning Chair
- Year co-ordinators for the program
- School administrative and support staff
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the program
- Clinical demonstrators and specialists teaching into the program
- Clinical dental staff and dental laboratory staff
- The Australian Dental Association Queensland (ADAQ) President and CEO
- The Director of Metro North Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Oral Health Services for Queensland Health
- Outplacement clinic supervisors
- A representative group of students from both programs
- A group of recent graduates from both programs

The SET also toured the facilities within the University of Queensland School of Dentistry and the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) Dental Services Clinic in Woollongabba and met with a range of clinical staff.

During the site visit the SET was provided with further documentation including sample log books, examination papers and examples of student feedback.

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## Key Findings

The School has been through a period of change with the very recent appointment of a new Head of School and multiple further academic staff appointments in the previous twelve months. Several academic staff on short term contracts have had those contracts converted to longer term ones, providing greater continuity for students.

The completion of, and move to, the Oral Health Centre in 2015 has provided students with access to a first class clinical facility. There have been some initial challenges in building a new pool of patients for students to treat, with access to removable prosthodontic, exodontic, endodontic and paediatric patients still a little light. The School is in the final stages of negotiating an 'alliance' with Metro North Hospital and Health Service which will relocate cases from the Metro North region, which includes the Brisbane Dental Hospital, to the Oral Health Centre providing an expanded pool of patients for students to treat.

The School is in the midst of an ongoing curriculum review which is seeing a year by year shift to a more clinically-focused program. One of the results of the review has been a move to new teaching and learning approaches, including the 'flipped classroom' model and the development of 'virtual patients' for students to work with.

Academic governance processes around the programs are clear and strong, with good levels of student representation. Information and support services available to students are also clear and appropriate. Assessment is appropriate and clearly linked to subject learning outcomes.

## ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC determined that the University of Queensland's Bachelor of Dental Science program is accredited until **31 December 2018**.

The ADC determined that the University of Queensland's Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) program is accredited until **31 December 2023**. It was determined that as a monitoring requirement a visit be undertaken in 2019 once the first cohort of students have reached the final year of the revised curriculum to ensure that the revised program is rolling out as intended and that it continues to meet the Accreditation Standards