



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of the University of Western Australia's Doctor of Dental Medicine program

May 2018

Summary report

Program provider	University of Western Australia
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Medicine
Program/qualification abbreviation	DMD
Program/qualification code	N/A
Head office address, including State	School of Dentistry, 17 Monash Avenue, Nedlands WA 6009
Campus	Crawley and UWA health campus, Nedlands
Program length	4 Years (8 semesters)
Registration division	Dentistry
Registration specialty	N/A
Qualification type	Masters Degree
Australian Qualifications Framework level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	14-15 May 2018
Date of ADC decision	3 August 2018
Type of accreditation	Re-accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2025

Background

The University of Western Australia's (UWA's) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) was last reviewed at a monitoring visit in 2016. The program is accredited without conditions until 31 December 2018.

In December 2017, UWA notified the ADC of changes to the program as a result of the introduction of a new Medical Sciences Major in the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, which has created a direct pathway for Doctor of Medicine Students. Students progressing along this pathway will receive one year credit towards the Doctor of Medicine program. This has had a flow on effect for other degree programs, creating a direct entry pathway from 2018 into the DMD program. The ADC/DC(NZ) Accreditation Committee determined that the changes being made to the program as a result constituted a major change and should be reviewed as part of the already scheduled reaccreditation site visit.

This report uses the School's terminology in referring to the revised DMD curriculum. The previous version is referred to as 'DMD 1.0'; the newly revised curriculum is referred to as 'DMD 2.0'. 'DMD 2.0' is currently in its first year.

Overview of evaluation

The Site Evaluation Team (SET) considered UWA's submission and appendices against the Accreditation Standards. A SET teleconference was held on 4 April 2018. The information subsequently requested was received from the School prior to the site visit.

The SET undertook a site visit to the School of Dentistry, Oral Health Centre of Western Australia (OHCWA), Perth. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Executive Dean, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
- The Dean and Head of School
- Program and year co-coordinators
- Divisional heads
- Discipline leads
- Representatives of the Faculty student experience and school academic services team
- Clinical supervisors
- Students
- A representative of the Australian Dental Association of Western Australia (ADAWA)
- Representatives of the Learning and Teaching Committee and DMD Sub-Committee
- Recent graduates

During the site visit, the SET reviewed the following information:

- Samples of student logbooks

- Examples of assessments used across all years of the program
- Examples of unit outlines, course content and assessments included in the School's Learning Management System (LMS)

The SET also toured the facilities at OHCWA and at the Mount Henry Dental Clinic, Como.

The findings in this report are based on the SET's assessment of the material outlined above, interview evidence and a review of the facilities at the time of the site visit.

Key findings

The evidence gathered by the SET indicates that the University of Western Australia's Doctor Dental Medicine (DMD) program produces graduates who are competent to practice across a range of settings. The SET considered the changes involved in the revised 'DMD 2.0' curriculum, which is in its infancy, noting that the number of pre-clinical and clinical hours students receive are planned to increase. The education provider anticipates that this will improve the quality of clinical education. The impact 'DMD 2.0' will have in future years on the quality of clinical education and the student experience is unknown at this time as changes have yet to be fully rolled out.

The SET identified a number of commendable aspects of the program. The facilities for clinical education at OHCWA are excellent. The SET commends the engagement of a range of specialist clinical supervisors who support the general dentistry clinical supervisors and students. In 'DMD 2.0' students will receive instruction in research from the first year and will commence research projects earlier in the second year. The SET was impressed by the way in which the program research content was structured, ensuring students gain a good grounding in evidence-based practice.

The SET identified a small number of opportunities for further quality improvement. The program might build on current practice by exploring the opportunity for students to have further inter-professional experiences and collaboration with other members of the dental team. The program should consider ways in which to strengthen the involvement of the profession and providers of clinical placements in the design and management of the program. The program should also ensure that plans for clinical supervisors in placements to receive the same induction/orientation program as those at OHCWA are implemented.

ADC accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Western Australia's Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program is reaccredited until **31 December 2025**.

As a monitoring requirement, the School must include the following as part of its 2019 annual report:

- information about the implementation of the revised 'DMD 2.0' curriculum and its impact on the quality of clinical education and the student experience; and
- an updated copy of the Dental School Handbook