



Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of the University of Adelaide's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics program

November 2018

Summary report

Program provider	University of Adelaide
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics
Program/qualification abbreviation	DClinDent
Program/qualification code	DClinDent
Head office address, including State	Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences Building, North Terrace, West End Precinct, Adelaide SA 5005
Campus	North Terrace Campus
Program length	3 Years
Registration division	Specialist dentist
Registration specialty	Periodontics
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	Level 9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation Standards for Dental Practitioner Programs (Approved Dec 2014)
Date of site evaluation	Paper based review
Date of ADC decision	12 December 2018
Type of accreditation	Initial Accreditation
Accreditation start date	1 January 2019
Accreditation end date	31 December 2023

Background

The University of Adelaide's suite of Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DCLinDent) programs were reviewed by the Australian Dental Council (ADC) in October 2015. At the time, the School of Dentistry had been through a period of significant change with the appointment of a new Dean and the renegotiation of the contract for the supply of patients through the South Australian Dental Service (SADS).

At the time of the 2015 review, the Site Evaluation Team (SET) identified a number of shortfalls against the accreditation standards for the program in Periodontics, in particular with regard to staffing, the program curriculum and assessment. The DCLinDent in Periodontics program was accredited until 31 December 2016, subject to the satisfactory completion of conditions to address the shortfalls.

On 28 September 2016, the Dean advised that the School would not be seeking extension of the accreditation of the Periodontics program at that time in order to allow it to address a number of further issues.

On 8 February 2017, the School advised that it would be preparing an application for initial accreditation of a DCLinDent in Periodontics and a site visit was undertaken to review the program in August 2017. Following the visit and before an accreditation decision was made, the program was withdrawn from the process, with plans to recommence the process again within a year.

The Adelaide Dental School contacted the ADC in August 2018, requesting that the process recommence and provided a revised self-assessment of the program against the accreditation standards.

Overview of evaluation

The SET received the University of Adelaide's revised submission against the Accreditation Standards and supporting appendices.

The SET undertook a site visit to the University on 29 August 2017. During the visit, meetings were held with:

- The Executive Dean Faculty Health and Medical Sciences, Associate Dean Research, Faculty Health and Medical Sciences and Associate Dean Learning & Teaching, Faculty Health & Medical Sciences.
- The Dean and Head of School of Dentistry
- The Postgraduate Co-ordinator, DCLinDent Co-ordinator and Research Development Manager, Faculty Health & Medical Sciences
- A range of administrative, financial, student services and clinical administration staff
- DCLinDent in Periodontics Discipline Lead
- A range of academic staff responsible for teaching into the DCLinDent program

The SET also toured the facilities within the new Adelaide Dental Hospital (ADH).

A teleconference was held on 2 November 2018 between the SET, Dean and Head of School of Dentistry and the DClinDent in Periodontics Discipline Lead to discuss information included in the August 2018 submission.

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 SET was impressed by the new facilities made available to students through the new agreement with SADS. The University of Adelaide contributed significant funding to the development of the facilities in order to secure the contract with SADS for a 30 year term.

The School has put in place a Program Convenor to support the program and provide ongoing development and coordination. Although the School is yet to appoint a Professor in Periodontics, the staffing arrangements in place are appropriate to ensure students will be provided with adequate supervision and ongoing mentoring.

The School has established relationships with the Oral Surgery Department with the SADS to provide periodontics students with access to the range and complexity of cases required for a specialist in training. Close monitoring of these arrangements is recommended to ensure students are able to demonstrate they have achieved the stated learning outcomes. The plans as presented to the SET appear appropriate.

Consideration should be given to expanding the reading lists provided to students to ensure a greater emphasis on original research articles to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the discipline. Students would also benefit from more formalised assessment and feedback during the semester.

ADC Accreditation Decision

The ADC had determined that the University of Adelaide's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Periodontics program is accredited from **1 January 2019** until **31 December 2023**.

As a monitoring requirement to ensure the program continues to comply with Standard 3 – Program of study and is providing students with the range of experiences necessary to develop the entry-level competencies of a specialist in periodontics, the Adelaide Dental School is to provide a copy of the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Periodontics) Information Booklet and a summary of the clinical experiences students have undertaken in the first year a student commences in the program as part of the program's annual report.