

Australian Dental Council report of an evaluation of University of Queensland's – Doctor of Dental Medicine

26 August 2025

[Updated February 2026]

Executive summary

Program provider	University of Queensland
Program/qualification name	Doctor of Dental Medicine
Program/qualification abbreviation	DMD
Program/qualification code	5763
Head office address, including State	The University of Queensland, Oral Health Centre, 288 Herston Road, Herston QLD 4006
Campus	Oral Health Centre - Herston
Program length	3.5 years
Registration division	Dentist
Registration specialty	NA
Qualification type	HE
Australian Qualifications Framework level	9
Accreditation standards version	Accreditation standards for dental practitioner programs (Approved August 2020)
Date of site evaluation	26 August 2025
Date of ADC decision	10 October 2025
Type of accreditation	Monitoring Visit
Accreditation start date	1 January 2024
Accreditation end date	31 December 2030

Background

In September 2021, The University of Queensland advised the Australian Dental Council (ADC) that it was exploring the introduction of a graduate entry dentistry (Doctor of Dental Medicine) program. The rationale for introducing the program is to meet the dental workforce shortage in Queensland and as such the program will only be open to domestic candidates in the first instance, with priority for admission being given to eligible candidates from Queensland. The provider plans to reassess annually whether to open the program to overseas candidates.

The Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) is a compressed program of 3.5 years as compared to five years for the University of Queensland's Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) program. An Initial accreditation visit was conducted in March 2023 and the program received accreditation for 6 years commencing on 1 January 2024. This monitoring visit is from Monitoring requirement 1, that a monitoring visit is to be undertaken during the second part of 2025 when the first cohort of students has completed 18 months of the program, in order to ensure that the program is rolling out as intended. The monitoring visit is to include an update by the provider on the staffing profile in place to support the program and the status of clinical placements arranged with external clinics for students to undertake placements in 2026.

Overview of evaluation

An Accreditation Team (AT) received the School of Dentistry's submission and various appendices against the Accreditation Standards. The AT requested additional information and clarification prior to the visit following its teleconference held on 17 July 2025. The AT also reviewed additional information prior to the visit and the annual report submitted for the program.

A site visit was undertaken on 26 August 2025 at the Oral Health Centre (OHC) in Herston, Queensland.

Interviews were held with the following participants:

- Head of School
- Teaching and Learning director
- Program Convenor
- Academic staff
- Clinic staff
- Clinical placement providers
- Research coordinators
- Representatives from the external advisory forum
- Current students for each year level
- Academic staff coordinating cultural safety and practice within the program

The AT also toured the Clinic 2.1, which is dedicated to DMD students, and one of the laboratories. The findings of this report are based on the AT's assessment of the material outlined above and interview evidence.

Key findings

The AT found the University of Queensland's Doctor of Dental Medicine program has established a passionate team of educators comprising existing and new staff who are committed to the success of the program, and its students will graduate with the knowledge, skills and competencies expected for an entry level dentist. There has been strong demand for the course leading to a high calibre student cohort which is dedicated and the students are very supportive of each other.

Facilities at the OHC are excellent, with part of clinic 2.1 having recently undergone refurbishment and there are plans in place for upgrades to the remaining older chairs. Students have the opportunity to treat a broad and diverse range of patients who are triaged by staff and allocated based on skill levels. As the student cohort and the capacity to treat patients will grow again in 2026, additional administrative support to manage patient flow will be provided.

Students will complete a significant part of their final year on placement, including regional placements and at a recently completed paediatric clinic. West Moreton Health are committed to providing a broad range of clinical experiences for students, and the AT look forward to viewing the placement agreements which are yet to finalised and signed.

The research component of the program, including the research project, has been modified to meet the requirements of AQF Level 9. Students will complete the project while undertaking their final two semesters of clinical experience and are allocated a day each week for this purpose. Teaching of research fundamentals has commenced, however not all modules have been finalised. The AT would like to review the final research framework including milestones and the assessment framework.

The course structure is very rigorous and students complete a summer semester at the commencement of first and second years. While concerns were initially held about the workload and students' ability to manage, it appears students are coping with the program requirements. The School has been receptive to suggestions for change and there are ongoing mechanisms in place to review the progress of the program as it continues to roll out. Interprofessional practices are taught as modules during the semester and the School is encouraged to consider opportunities for students to work in and engage in interprofessional collaborative practice in clinical settings.

As the final year examinations are still two years away, the AT look forward to the opportunity to view evidence of suitably qualified external experts assessing final year students.

The Doctor of Dental Medicine program appears to be establishing well, with engaged students, dedicated staff and excellent facilities. As the program evolves, it will be important for the provider to continue to seek external input into the program to capture industry expertise, ensure cultural safety expectations are met, and contemporary developments are integrated where appropriate.

ADC's accreditation decision

The ADC has determined that the University of Queensland Doctor of Dental Medicine program remains accredited for a period of seven (7) years from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2030 subject to the following conditions:

1. To fully meet Standard 3 – Program of Study: the School is required to provide evidence by **21 January 2026** of formal placement agreements with West Moreton Health for DMD students.

The ADC has determined that this condition has now been met

2. To fully meet Standard 3 – Program of Study and Standard 5 – Assessment: the School is required to provide evidence by **21 January 2026** of the research project framework including milestones and assessment criteria.

The ADC has determined that this condition has now been met

3. To fully meet Standard 5 – Assessment: the School is required to provide evidence by **31 January 2027** of plans for external examiners for the assessment of final year students.