

The General Dental Council (Specialist List) Regulations 2024

The General Dental Council make the following regulations in exercise of their powers conferred under section 26(3) and (4) and 52(1A) and 1(8) of the Dentists Act 1984.

1) Citation and commencement

These regulations may be cited as "The General Dental Council (Specialist List) Regulations 2024" and shall come into force on 1 January 2025.

2) Interpretation

In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires-

- "the Act" means the Dentists Act 1984;
- "CCST" means a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in a specialist branch of dentistry;
- "the Council" means the General Dental Council;
- "the Directive" means Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7th September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ No L255, 30.09.2005, p 22), and any reference in these regulations to the Directive or to any provision of the Directive is a reference to the Directive, or to that provision, as it had effect as at the Implementation Period Completion Date (31 December 2020 at 11pm).
- "the European Qualifications Regulations" means the European Primary and Specialist Dental Qualifications Regulations 1998 as amended.
- "fees" are prescribed by the Council in the General Dental Council (Specialist)(Fees) Regulations 2017.
- "the Professional Qualifications and International Agreements Regulations" means the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023; and
- "specialty" means a branch of dentistry referred to in regulation 3 for which a title is prescribed under these regulations.

3) Prescribed titles

The following titles are prescribed for the purposes of section 26(3) of the Act –

- a) Specialist in Orthodontics
- b) Specialist in Oral Surgery
- c) Specialist in Endodontics
- d) Specialist in Periodontics
- e) Specialist in Prosthodontics
- f) Specialist in Restorative Dentistry
- g) Specialist in Dental Public Health
- h) Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry

- i) Specialist in Oral Medicine
- j) Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- k) Specialist in Oral Microbiology
- l) Specialist in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology
- m) Specialist in Special Care Dentistry

4) Certificate of completion of specialist training

- a) Subject to the paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), the Council shall award a CCST to any registered dentist who applies to the Council for that purpose (and pays any fee determined by the Council) if the Council is satisfied that the registered dentist has satisfactorily completed specialist dental training in a specialty approved by the Council pursuant to regulation 5.
- b) A CCST may only be awarded to a registered dentist.
- c) A CCST shall not be awarded to a person registered under section 17 of the Act (temporary registration).
- d) A period of dental training in a specialty counts towards completion of the training required for another specialty if it is common to both.
- e) A CCST shall state –
 - i) the date on which it was awarded
 - ii) the specialty in which it was awarded
 - iii) the name of its holder
 - iv) the holder's primary dental qualification; and
 - v) the registration number allocated to the holder by the registrar.
- f) A CCST shall state where the holder's primary dental qualification was awarded and, in the case of a registered dentist whose primary qualification in the United Kingdom was awarded following the completion of a degree, licence or other dental diploma overseas, the CCST shall also state this qualification and the place where it was awarded.

5) Conditions for use of prescribed titles

- a) In order to qualify to use one of the titles prescribed in regulation 3 a registered dentist shall comply with the conditions prescribed for that title in these Regulations.
- b) Specialist dental training intended to lead to the award of a CCST shall not be approved by the Council unless that training meets the conditions specified in Article 35 of the Directive (specialist dental training), or under article 22(a) of the Directive (part-time training) is to be treated as meeting those conditions.
- c) The Council may withdraw any such approval if it is satisfied that the training no longer meets, or under article 22(a) of the Directive can no longer be treated as meeting, the conditions specified in article 35 of the Directive.

6) Requirements for eligibility: qualifications, knowledge and skill and experience

- a) A registered dentist shall be entitled to use the title "Specialist in Orthodontics" or (as the case may be) "Specialist in Oral Surgery" if the registered dentist-
 - i. holds a CCST awarded by the Council under regulation 4 in the specialty in question;
 - ii. holds a specialist qualification or qualifications awarded in the United Kingdom and has relevant knowledge and skill and experience in the specialty in question and satisfies the Council that they have gained a level of expertise that is equivalent to the level of expertise they might reasonably be expected to have attained if they had a CCST in that specialty;
 - iii. is an eligible specialist as specified in regulation 9 of the European Qualifications Regulations in the specialty in question;
 - iv. is an existing specialist as specified in regulation 12 of the European Qualifications Regulations in the specialty in question; or
 - v. is eligible under Part 2 of the Professional Qualifications and International Agreements Regulations.

- b) A registered dentist shall be entitled to use the title Specialist in Endodontics or (as the case may be) Specialist in Periodontics or (as the case may be) Specialist in Prosthodontics or (as the case may be) Specialist in Restorative Dentistry or (as the case may be) Specialist in Dental Public Health or (as the case may be) Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry or (as the case may be) Specialist in Oral Medicine or (as the case may be) Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology or (as the case may be) Specialist in Oral Microbiology or (as the case may be) Specialist in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology or (as the case may be) Specialist in Special Care Dentistry if the registered dentist-
 - i. holds a CCST awarded by the Council under regulation 4 in the specialty in question;
 - ii. holds a specialist qualification or qualifications and has relevant knowledge and skill and experience in the specialty in question and satisfies the Council that they have gained a level of expertise that is equivalent to the level of expertise they might reasonably be expected to have attained if they had a CCST in that specialty; or
 - iii. is eligible under Part 2 of the of the Professional Qualifications and International Agreements Regulations.

7) Keeping of lists

- a) The Registrar shall –
 - i) keep a list in respect of each title prescribed under regulation 3 and
 - ii) subject to paragraph (2) enter in each such list the name of any registered dentist qualified under these regulations to use the title for which the list is kept and who applies to be entered in such list.

- b) The list shall contain, in respect of each registered dentist qualified to use a prescribed title-

- i) their name
 - ii) their registered qualification(s)
 - iii) the date on which the registered dentist's name was entered in the list, and
 - iv) their registration number.
- c) Except where a name has been erased or suspended from a list in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (4) or (5) of regulation 8 the Registrar shall retain in the appropriate list of registered dentists qualified to use the prescribed title the name of any registered dentist in respect of whom an application for retention of the name in the list has been received before the prescribed date accompanied by any prescribed fee, until the prescribed date in the next following year.

8) Erasure and restoration

- a) Where the Registrar on the date determined by the Council in any year shall not have received from any registered dentist whose name is entered in a list any fee determined by the Council for retention of the name of the registered dentist in a list for the ensuing year, the Registrar shall remove that name from the list concerned.
- b) The Registrar may restore to the list a name removed under paragraphs (1) or (4) of this regulation upon receipt of an application in the form provided by the Council for the purpose accompanied by any fee determined by the Council for restoration to and retention in a list held under these regulations.
- c) Where it comes to the notice of the Registrar that a person (other than one to whom paragraph (5) of this regulation applies) whose name is included in a list held under these regulations is no longer a registered dentist, the Registrar shall remove that person's name from the list.
- d) Where information is received that an entry in a list is incorrect or that the application was made in error or application is made for an entry in a list to be altered, the Registrar, when satisfied by means of a statutory declaration or otherwise, that the information or the grounds of the application is true and sufficient, shall make the required correction, deletion or alteration provided that, where a change of name is entered in the register, the name previously registered shall be entered with the new or altered name for a period of not less than one year or such longer period as the Council may specify in a particular case.
- e) Any registered dentist whose name is erased from the register under sections 23, 24 or 27B of the Act or whose registration is suspended under section 27B or 27C of the Act shall forthwith have their entry in any list erased or suspended.
- f) When the registration of a person whose registration has been suspended from any list under paragraph (5) is no longer subject to suspension, the Registrar shall once again include that person's name in the list concerned (unless their name has been erased from the register for any other reason).

9) Transitional and saving provision

Where an application for entry in, or restoration to, a list is received before the date these Regulations come into force, the General Dental Council (Specialist List) Regulations 2008 shall continue to apply in relation to the application and any appeal arising from it.

10) Revocation

The General Dental Council (Specialist List) Regulations 2008 are hereby revoked. Given under the Official Seal of the General Dental Council on 25 October 2024.

Lord Toby Harris – GDC Chair

Tom Whiting - Registrar