

Postgraduate training programs in Dentistry in Kuwait

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Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS), through its various Faculties, is the delegated authority for providing and/or monitoring postgraduate training for Dentists and Physicians practicing in the State of Kuwait.

During the past five years the Faculty of Dentistry, KIMS (FoD/KIMS) in collaboration with the concerned parties has secured positions in different specialty programs at US, UK and Canadian Universities for over sixty newly graduated Kuwaiti Dentists.

In its efforts to improve the chances of our candidates being accepted into postgraduate specialty programs abroad, KIMS has also signed two contracts with the University of Maryland in USA and McGill University in Canada. Despite all these measures, opportunities for acceptance in reputed training programs abroad for our candidates are becoming dramatically reduced. This could be attributed to the current competitive nature of the selection process and the strict criteria adopted. For applications to US universities to be successful, the applicant must be a US graduate having a score of 3.5 GPA or above, a high class ranking, have passed Parts I and II of the American National Board Examinations, have strong recommendation letters and do well at the interview. For universities in the UK and Ireland obtaining the MFD/S Diploma is becoming a prerequisite (entry examination) for any accredited specialty program recognized by KIMS.

Coordination with the Dental Administration of the Ministry of Health, on the one hand, and needs assessment on the other have revealed the necessity for conducting local postgraduate training programs in Kuwait leading to the conferral of internationally recognized postgraduate degrees at the

General Dental Practitioner level (GDP). The degrees identified include the MFD RCSI Diploma and the MGDS RCSI Diploma. The corresponding local programs preparing trainees for these degrees are the MFD RCSI KU Program and the MGDS RCSI KU Program respectively.

After successful completion of the MFD Program (2 year program with 3 examinations), the graduates will become eligible to join any accredited specialty program in universities in the UK and Ireland. For Kuwaiti applicants who do not have any educational background in the UK and Ireland, obtaining the MFD Diploma is the only avenue open for entering accredited training at the general dentist and the specialist levels. The graduates of the MFD Program will also be exempted from the Part I Examination of the MGDS Diploma if they choose to apply for the MGDS RCSI KU Program; they will then need 3 additional years to sit for the Final Part II Examination.

The graduates of the MGD program would be expected to resume their duties at the 'Ideal General Dental Clinics' currently being prepared by the Dental Administration. At these clinics the GDPs would have access to X-ray units in addition to a mini dental laboratory, allowing them to provide all basic dental services to their patients.

Holders of the MGDS RCSI Diploma are eligible for promotion to the level of Consultant General Dental Practitioner, in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Ministry of Health.

Details of the programs are available in the publication *MFD RCSI KU Program* that has been issued by KIMS and in the website <<http://www.kims.org.kw>>.

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