



## Circular No. (11/2021)

<b>From</b>	• Department of Healthcare Professions / Ministry of Public Health
<b>To</b>	• All Dentists in the State of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector) • All Healthcare Facilities/ focal points in the state of Qatar (Governmental & Private sector)
<b>Subject</b>	Amendment of Circular No. (1/2013) regarding the Approved Dental Specialty Qualifications in the State of Qatar and the Professional Titles granted by DHP for Dentists
<b>Date</b>	13 October 2021

“The Department of Healthcare Professions presents to you its compliment”

In The Department of Healthcare Professions pursuit to unify the policies and procedures that maintain consistency and objectivity of the registration/licensing process; and with the aim of ensuring safety and competency of healthcare practitioners working in the state of Qatar; DHP has decided to update the policy of DHP’s approved Specialty Qualification List for Dentists.

**Note:** This circular and its policy will repeal circular No. (1/2013) and its policy and Circulars No. 19/2016, 8/2017.

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**Thank you for your cooperation**

**Registration section/ Department of Healthcare Professions**

**Attachment:** Policy of DHP’s approved Specialty Qualification List for Dentist.



# **DHP's new approved specialty qualifications list for Dentist in the State of Qatar**



## No. 1 Policy Statements

- The following scopes of practice are evaluated according to the Dentists' Approved Specialty Qualifications list: *Periodontics, Orthodontics, Pedodontics, Endodontics Prosthodontics, Oral Medicine, Public Health Dentistry, Orofacial Pain, Oral Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery\**, *Restorative Dentistry\*\**.
- A Minimum of 2 years full-time specialty clinical education program is required for all specialty Qualifications: **Except** for Oral Surgery, Orthodontics and “Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery” minimum of 3 years full-time specialty clinical training program is required.

### Definition:

In determining the eligibility of an applicant for registration with Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP), the following definitions for each category to be considered:

**Category 1:** Holders of these Qualifications can:

- Get the **Specialty Title without** post-certification licensed work experience.

**Category 2:** Holders of these Qualifications can:

- Get the **Specialty Title** after **TWO years** clinical licensed work experience post qualification degree.

**Category 2 with Asterik \*\***

- Get the **Specialty Title** after completion of **THREE years clinical** licensed work experience post qualification degree.
- For Qatari and family sponsored Dentists: **TWO years** clinical licensed work experience post qualification degree.

### Notes:

- **For overseas/ Non-family sponsored applicants:**
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a post-graduate degree which is not included in DHP's approved specialty qualifications list cannot be licensed in the state of Qatar as a Specialist nor as a General Dentist.
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a **post-graduate degree** which is included in the DHP approved speciality qualifications list but has not completed the required years of work experience as per his/her post-graduate certificate category, will be licensed as a General Dentist and can apply for noncore privileges in their respective specialty scope. **However, he/she will not be eligible to apply for change scope of practice to Specialist in the future.**



- **For Qataris /Family sponsored resident applicants:**
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a **post-graduate degree** which **is not included** in the DHP approved speciality qualifications list will be licensed as a **General Dentist** and can apply for non-core privileges in their respective specialty scope. However, **he/ she will not be eligible to apply for change scope of practice to Specialist in the future.**
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a **post-graduate degree** which **is included** in the DHP approved speciality qualifications list but **has not completed the required years of work experience** as per his/her post-graduate certificate category will be licensed as a **General Dentist** and can apply for non-core privileges in their respective specialty scope to complete the required years of experience to be licensed as specialist. **He/ She can then apply for change scope of practice to Specialist once he/she attains the required experience and the change scope application will be evaluated by a specialized committee . However, if the Dentist does not have approved non-core privileges, he/she is not eligible to be Specialist.**
- **For currently Registered/licensed General Dentists:**
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a **valid license or evaluated** (holding valid evaluation from DHP) and has a post-graduate degree which **is included** in the DHP speciality qualifications list but **has not completed the required years of work experience** can apply for non-core privileges in their respective specialty scope. **He/ She can then apply for change scope of practice to Specialist once he/she attains the required experience. The change scope of practice application will be evaluated by a specialized committee. However, if the Dentist does not have approved non-core privileges, he/she is not eligible to be Specialist.**
  - ✓ A Dentist who has a valid license or evaluated (holding valid evaluation from DHP) and has a post-graduate degree **which is not included** in DHP's approved specialty qualifications list can apply for non-core privileges in their respective specialty scope. However, **he/ she will not be eligible to apply for change scope of practice to Specialist in the future.**
- **\*For applicants applying as Specialist (Restorative Dentistry):**
  - ✓ Applicants holding one of the below certificates shall apply for evaluation as General Dentist provided that their degree is among the DHP Dentists' Approved Specialty Qualifications list:
    - ❖ MDS Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics
    - ❖ MDS Conservative Dentistry
    - ❖ MDS Restorative Dentistry
    - ❖ MDS Operative Dentistry



- ✓ Upon approval of the evaluation application, applicants can apply for non-core privilege in Endodontics and /or Prosthodontics.
- ✓ Further, applicants can apply for change scope of practice to change their scope to Restorative Dentistry based on the approval of the non-core privilege application.
- ✓ This policy shall cancel circular No. 19/2016.
- **\*\*Licensed Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Specialists** can perform all core privileges and **non-core Privileges of Oral Surgery only** and can apply for non-core privileges in OMFS.
- **All privileges applications shall be evaluated by expert committees.**



## No. 2: Update on the policy of Dentists' Approved Specialty Qualifications in the State of Qatar

No.	Country	Category 1 (No work experience needed)	Category 2 (Two years of work experience)	Category 2 With ** (Three years of work experience)
1	Arab Countries <sup>#</sup>	Arab Board from State of Qatar and GCC countries	Arab board from other countries	
2	Australia	Doctor of clinical dentistry or Equivalent  <i>Note: Approved specialist training programs by the dental board of Australia</i>		
3	Belgium <sup>#</sup>			Specialization certificate issued by a University in <b>Orthodontics or Periodontics</b>
4	Bulgaria <sup>#</sup>			Evidence of successful completion of the State Exam in <b>Orthodontics/ Oral Surgery/ Paediatric Dentistry/ Periodontics/ Prosthodontics/ Endodontics</b>
5	Canada	Dental specialty program (Ex. Diploma in a clinical specialty) (Approved by the Canadian Dental Association) Proof of national dental specialty Examination (NDSC) Fellowship of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada		
6	Denmark		<i>Specialist Certificate in Oral Surgery/ Oral &amp; Maxillofacial Surgery issued by the State Board of Health (only for 5 years program).</i> <i>Specialist Certificate in Orthodontics issued by the</i>	



			State Board of Health (only for 3 years program)	
7	Egypt		Doctoral degree (Clinical Program)	Master's degree (Clinical Program)  (All applicants are required to submit their transcript, program curriculum or equivalent)
8	Finland <sup>#</sup>			Specialist Certificate in <b>Orthodontics</b> or <b>Oral Surgery</b>
9	France	<p>Diploma d 'Universities (DU) either in <b>orthodontics, Oral Surgery</b> and <b>Oral medicine</b>.</p> <p><b>Orthodontics:</b> "Diplôme d'études Spécialisées <b>d'orthopédie dento-faciale</b>". The professional title is: "<b>chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en orthopédie dento-faciale</b>"</p> <p><b>Oral Surgery:</b> "diplôme d'études spécialisées en <b>chirurgie orale</b>" The professional title is: "<b>chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en chirurgie orale</b>"</p> <p><b>Oral Medicine:</b> "diplôme d'études spécialisées en <b>médecine bucco-dentaire</b>. The professional title is: "<b>chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en médecine bucco-dentaire</b>"</p>	<p>CES (certified d'études specialises) granted to individuals of the EU until 1985, then substituted by the DES certificate</p> <p>D.I.S (Diplome Interuniversitaires de Specialitie) granted to foreigners</p>	
10	Germany	<p>Specialist degree in <b>Orthodontics:</b> 'Fachzahnärztliche anerkennung für Kieferorthopädie" issued by "Landeszahnärztekammern "</p>		



		<p>Specialist degree in <b>Oral Surgery:</b>          "Fachzahnärztliche Anerkennung für Oralchirurgie/Mundchirurgie"          " issued by          "Landeszahnärztekammern"</p> <p>Specialist degree in <b>Periodontics:</b> Certificate of Periodontics issued by "Zahnärztekammer Westfalen Lippe"</p>		
11	Hong Kong	<p>Master of Dental Surgery (Clinical program)          +  <i>Membership/fellowship examination</i></p>	Master of Dental Surgery or Equivalent (Clinical program)	
12	Hungary #			<p>University Certificate in one of the following specialties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Orthodontics</b> with the title: "Fogszabalyozo szakorvos"</li> <li>• <b>Periodontology</b>, with the title: "Parodontologus"</li> <li>• <b>Pediatric Dentistry</b>, with the title: "Gyermekekfogorvos"</li> </ul>
13	India			Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) in one of the approved dental specialties (Clinical Program)
14	Iran		Iranian Board	Specialty Certificate issued by Iranian Ministry of Health
15	Ireland	<p>Doctor of Dental Surgery D.Ch.Dent (University of Dublin)  <i>The candidate should be eligible to sit for the specialty Fellowship examination of Ireland</i></p>		





		<p>Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry D.Clin.Dent (National University of Ireland)</p> <p><b><i>The candidate should be eligible to sit for the specialty Fellowship examination of Ireland</i></b></p>		
16	Italy <sup>#</sup>			<p>University Certificate:</p> <p><b>Orthodontics:</b> Diploma di Specializzazione in “Ortognatodonzia”</p>
				<p><b>Oral Surgery:</b> Diploma di Specializzazione in “Chirurgia Odontostomatologica”</p>
17	Jordan		<p>Jordanian Board (Proof of successful completion of residency program)</p>	<p>Masters’ Degree. (Clinical program)</p>
18	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia <sup>#</sup>		<p>Saudi Specialty Certificate (Saudi Board) issued by Saudi commission for Health Specialties.</p>	
19	Lebanon			<p>Higher Degree Certificate <u>or</u> Diploma ( D.E.S – Diplôme D'Études Supérieures’)</p>
				<p>Certificat D' Etudes spécialisées (C.E.S)</p>
				<p>Master Degree</p>
				<p>Specialty Certificate <u>or</u> Diploma</p>
				<p>Diploma D’ Universites (DU)</p>
20	Netherland	<p>Specialization Certificate issued by the Specialist Registration Board (SRC) in one of the following specialities:</p> <p><b>Orthodontics:</b> Getuigschrift van erkenning en inschrijving als</p>		



		<p>orthodontist in het Specialistenregister</p> <p><b>Oral Surgery/ Oral &amp; Maxillofacial Surgery:</b> Getuigschrift van erkenning en inschrijving als kaakchirurg in het Specialistenregister</p>		
21	New Zealand	<p>MDs or Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (DClintDent)</p> <p>(Approved specialist training programs by dental council of New Zealand)</p>		
22	Norway	Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training		
23	Pakistan <sup>#</sup>			Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (F.C.P.S)
24	Poland <sup>#</sup>			Evidence of registration as a Specialist by the Medical Centre for Postgraduate Training and Voivodeship centres for postgraduate training
25	Portugal <sup>#</sup>			<p>Speciality certificate provided by “Ordem Dos Medicos Dentistas” (OMD) in the following <b>and</b> specialist registration by (OMD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Orthodontics</b> (especialista em ortodontia)</li> <li>▪ <b>Oral surgery</b> (especialista em cirurgia oral)</li> <li>▪ <b>Paediatric dentistry</b> (especialista em odontopediatria)</li> <li>▪ <b>Periodontology</b> (especialista em periodontologia)</li> <li>▪ <b>Endodontics</b> (especialista em endodontia)</li> </ul>



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prosthodontics</b> (especialista em prostodontia)</li> <li>▪ <b>Dental public health</b> (dental public health)</li> </ul>
26	Qatar <sup>#</sup>	HMC- RCSI specialty Certificate		
		Arab board for medical specialties and Certificate of completion of residency program from teaching institutions in the state of Qatar		
27	Romania			Specialty Certificate <i>(All applicants are required to submit their transcript &amp; program curriculum or equivalent)</i>
28	Russia			Kandidata Nauk
				Master of Science (MDS)
29	Singapore			Master of Dental Surgery issued by The Dental Specialist Accreditation Board
30	South Africa	Accredit speciality program by Health professional council of South Africa (HPCSA) <i>The candidate should hold specialist registration in South Africa</i>		
31	South Korea <sup>#</sup>		Completion of 1 year internship + 4 years residency program in the specialty area + License as a specialist awarded by the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs	
32	Sweden	Certificate of completion of specialty training		
33	Switzerland	Fachzahnarzt anerkennung		
		Clinical Master's degree		
34	Syria			Higher study certificate issued by the Ministry of Higher Education



				Syrian specialization certificate issued by MOH
				Doctor Degree (Clinical program)
				Syrian Board (Based on a residency Program in Syria and passing the board examination)
35	Tunisia <sup>#</sup>			Specialty Certificate issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health
36	United Kingdom	Master of Clinical Dentistry (MCLinDent)	Master of Dental Science + Proof of eligibility for the specialty Membership/ Fellowship examination or specialist registration by GDC	
		Master of Dental Science + Specialty <b>Fellowship</b> / <b>Membership</b> of one of the Royal Colleges		
37	United States of America	American Board (Only boards approved by the American Dental Association (ADA))		
		Specialty Training Program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA)		

# (New country)

### No. 3: General Remarks

- The above table is not exclusive and the Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) reserves the right to amend and update the requirements at different intervals without prior notice.
- The above table does not bind DHP or the employer to appoint the applicant to a certain grade.
- The table above doesn't obligate DHP to grant the applicants any specific degrees.
- Holder of a Qualification degree which is higher than the degrees mentioned in the above table will be considered accordingly.
- The post-graduate degree, which is limited for certain duration of time, should be valid at the time of applying for Registration/licensing with DHP.
- DHP reserves the right to ask for recommendation letters if required.
- DHP reserves the right to conduct interviews as part of the evaluation process if required.
- All specialty training programs should be approved by the regulatory authority of the issuing country.
- Registration for specialty degree in dentistry requires completion of a comprehensive and advanced training program in the specialty.



- In determining the eligibility of an applicant for registration in Specialty Scope, applicant shall comply with the following basic requirements:
  - ✓ To have a minimum of five (5) years undergraduate degree (BDS, DDS or equivalent)
  - ✓ The internship program can be considered for completion of the required undergraduate study years in case the Dental college program is less than (5) years
- Holders of master's degrees from any country must submit the transcripts that show the duration of study and program curriculum or equivalent.
- DHP reserves the right to consult an expert panel in the respective specialty whenever required.
- Dentist cannot be registered with double specialties unless they are related but can get privileges for more than one specialty after assessment through a specialized committee.
- DHP reserves the right to ask for additional supporting documents whenever needed.
- Case by case assessment is implemented.
- This policy cancels any previous policies in this regard.
- Healthcare facilities are given the right to grant the title consultant to their Dentists, according to the Guidelines and standards approved by DHP. (Appendix 1)
- The applicant must be reasonably fluent in either Arabic or English or both.
- kindly check the mentioned website for any updates: <https://dhp.moph.gov.qa>

#### No. 4: Certificates that will not be professionally classified

- Any approved post graduate certificate issued **based on an equivalency** of any other certificate not from the DHP approved qualification list will not be accepted for registration/licensing in the state of Qatar.
- Certificates **of mostly academic nature** and character, the curricula of which do not include patient care, clinical practice and practical training in the field of specialization.
- Health Certificates acquired through honorary training programs or as a locum/visiting dentist or a non-practicing associate or those which are obtained through correspondence and the like.
- Certificates obtained or granted through **affiliation or distance learning /part-time** and contradict the laws of higher education.
- Certificate issued from health unrelated colleges and institutes certificate that are not subject to a training program or that are acquired during work in recognized training centers.
- Registration certificate for obtaining work permits or affiliation (membership) of certain associations that are granted after passing the licensing examination in specific countries such as United States of



America.

- Bridge programs with specific universities made outside the university campus.
- Certificates from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in the United States of America.

#### **APPENDIX 1:**

**Health care facilities have the right to promote their Specialist to Consultant according to the below guidelines and criteria:**

- 1- Dentists **should be** licensed in a specialty area by DHP.
- 2- Holders of certificates from **Category 1**, can be promoted to **Consultant title** after completion of **one year** of licensed work experience post qualification degree.
- 3- Holders of certificates from **Category 2**, can be promoted to **Consultant title** after completion of **four years** of licensed work experience post qualification degree.
- 4- Holders of certificates from **Category 2 \*\***, can be promoted to **Consultant title** after completion of **seven years** of licensed work experience post qualification degree.
- 5- The Specialist should be the **first or second author** for at least **2 articles** published in peer reviewed journals, only one of the articles can be a case report.
- 6- The Specialist should have at least **two recommendation letters** and **satisfactory performance reports** from his current place of work.
- 7- Promotion to consultant title should be through **a committee** from the Medical director, Quality improvement member and a member from Human Resources department.
- 8- All mentioned documents should be available on request from DHP for Auditing purposes.