

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE



Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate University Study of Dental Medicine in English

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY PROGRAM

NAME OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

***INTEGRATED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE UNIVERSITY STUDY OF DENTAL
MEDICINE IN ENGLISH***

PROVIDER OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

TYPE OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

UNIVERSITY STUDY PROGRAM

LEVEL OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

INTEGRATED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDY

ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL TITLE UPON COMPLETION OF THE STUDY

***DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE ("DOCTOR MEDICINAE DENTARIAE"), AND IS
ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION***

SCIENTIFIC AREA OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

AREA: BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH, FIELD: DENTAL MEDICINE

DURATION AND MINIMAL ECTS POINTS OF THE STUDY PROGRAM:

The study lasts for 6 years or 12 semesters. For each completed year, a student earns 60 ECTS credits. Upon completion of the study, minimum of 360 ECTS credits are earned

In numerous encounters with colleagues from European dental schools and student drafting agencies from throughout the Europe, we were made clear that there is a tremendous need for admissions to dental schools in western European countries, namely from the UK and Germany. Due to educational restrictions from those countries, many prospective students aren't able to enter their preferential study of Dental Medicine, and they therefore seek the possibilities to study dentistry abroad. Our fine history of delivering dental education at the highest level ever since the year 1948 represents a valuable starting point. Our most important goals include increasing the level of internationalization, global collaboration and of the quality of education.

Having a study program in English language will have a strong impact on faculty members, as it will inevitably catalyze the creation of the necessary international atmosphere. Teachers will be put in an environment full of highly motivated international students, demanding highest level of knowledge transfer. This process enhances a development and competitiveness of the institution. Under such circumstances, teaching staff becomes ever so more competent in an international outreach, international collaboration and more comfortable at presenting the institution internationally at conferences, workgroups and professional bodies.

The School of Dental Medicine is a public institution of higher education which, as a part of the University of Zagreb, organizes university studies and develops scientific and professional work in the educational and scientific area of biomedicine and health care and in the field of dental medicine. The School of Dental Medicine is a legal entity entered into the Register of Higher Education Institutions and the Register of Scientific Research Legal Entities, kept by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.

The current program of study is the foundation of education in the field of dental medicine. We have formed this program of study in English as a mirror image of the accredited program in the Croatian language. The number of core courses is completely identical in both study programs. The diploma is equivalent to the diploma received by students who complete the current Croatian degree program. The program in English has clearly expressed learning outcomes.

The program is designed as a combination of basic courses (15%), general medicine courses (30%), and preclinical and clinical dentistry subjects (55%), which provide a broad enough education to every doctor of dental medicine. During classes, students receive the necessary skills and techniques, especially during seminars and practical training in which they acquire practical knowledge directly with the help of university teachers. In order to easily master the work techniques and get quickly involved in the practice and professional performance of tasks for which they have been preparing during the study, attention has been given to mandatory practical training of participants during the 3 final years of the study, which is carried out in appropriate healthcare setting. In addition, during 12th semester, students are spending 500 hours of practical training in outreach community dental offices. This allows students to get an insight into their own knowledge, skills and the actual preparation for entry into the world of modern dental practice. Particular

emphasis is placed on building students' competencies through one-on-one work with mentors. Students thus actively learn how to solve problems, gain experience in team work and conduct of business.

Preclinical manual skills are offered to all students in the 3rd year of study and clinical training (patient treatment) in the 4th year onwards. Medical clinical subjects are organized from the 3rd year on.

Continuous modernization of clinical and teaching spaces resulted in an increased interest of patients, as we are the institution that, in conjunction with the Department of Dentistry, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, as well as Clinical Hospital Dubrava, employs highly educated subspecialists from all fields of dental specialties, able to treat most complicated situations. Thus the referred patients who seek oral and dental healthcare are the amazing pool of cases warranting high number of patients seen and treated by each enrolled student. This is one of our comparative advantages in comparison to other European dental schools offering study program in English.

The current program of study which is now conducted in Croatian received Accreditation for the conduct at the School of Dental Medicine by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia based on the prior positive opinion of the National Agency for Higher Education.

Upon completion of the study at least 360 ECTS credits are acquired. The study is mostly conducted at the seat of the higher education institution in Gundulićeva 5, 10 000 Zagreb. There are also other sites where students receive their education. They include following locations:

University of Zagreb School of Medicine (Šalata 3)
Clinical Hospital "Dubrava" (Av. Gojka Šuška 6)
Clinical Hospital Centre "Sestre Milosrdnice" (Vinogradska 29)
University Hospital Centre Zagreb (Kišpatićeva 12)
Clinic for Infective Diseases (Mirogojska 8)
Public Health School "Andrija Štampar" (Rockefellerova 4)

Academic degree is stated as: doctor of dental medicine. The occupation doctor of dental medicine in the Republic of Croatia belongs to the group of regulated professions, therefore the study program is largely harmonized with the provisions of Directive 2005/36/ EC, as well as the Law on regulated professions and recognition of foreign professional qualifications (OG124/09). The School of Dental Medicine carries out the program as integrated study, in one educational cycle of six years.

Our curriculum is tailored to the practical training of students This modern program of study is carried out according to the standards of the Bologna system. The six-year program offers more opportunities for practical work and more attention is devoted to ensuring the quality of teaching and assessment of obtained competencies.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AND MILESTONE EVENTS IN THE RECENT PAST

The School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, is the only autonomous higher education institution in the Republic of Croatia to provide programs for doctors of dental medicine.

The modern society's ever increasing focus on cognition has also been recognized by the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb. Thus, in the past ten years, it has become the profession's main foundation in the Republic of Croatia, thanks to its structure, teaching organization, and its *curriculum*.

The milestones in the advancement of the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, and its functioning during the recent past have been:

✓ 1999/2000 – The very first complete self-evaluation of the School of Dental Medicine was made as a

basis for assessment and efficacy of the syllabus and the study program.

- ✓ 2001 – An evaluation was performed by the *DentEd* international visitation team, which operates under the auspices of the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE).
- ✓ 2008 – The second complete self-evaluation of the School of Dental Medicine was made. Consequently, a visitation was carried out, and the license obtained.
- ✓ 2010 - A review of integrated undergraduate and graduate university study program was made (Dental Medicine), dealing with the compliance of the study program with the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and The Council for the recognition of professional qualifications.
- ✓ In 2006, the postgraduate doctoral study program was initiated, and as of the academic year 2013/2014, the doctoral studies are also performed in English language.
- ✓ In 2006, the School of Dental Medicine was given a guarantee by the University of Zagreb, whereby the organization of the study programs was ensured, and as of the 21st of February 2008, the concerned ministry issued the license for the postgraduate doctoral study program in Dental Medicine.
- ✓ In 2014, an internal evaluation was performed for the postgraduate doctoral study program in Dental Medicine, resulting in issuance of relevant license.
- ✓ 2015 (October) – Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia has issued a license stating that SFZG fulfils all conditions for higher education and research in the field of dental medicine as the final outcome of our most recent reaccreditation process of our integrated study program.
- ✓ 2015/2016 - Croatian Qualification Framework project executed during the academic year 2015/16 and funded by the EU has provided adjustments of our entire curriculum in accordance with specified learning outcomes. As a result, curriculum improvements assure that our learning outcomes are now standardized and recognizable throughout the Europe.
- ✓ 2016 and 2017 – The University of Zagreb and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia have approved our study program in English.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND STUDENT MOBILITY

Our school is very active in international cooperation. This cooperation has been reflected and manifested through exchange of teaching staff, scientific training of researchers, research related to topics of master's theses and doctoral dissertations, practical training of students, production of graduate theses, research projects and other activities. In addition to the cooperation of the School of Dental Medicine as an institution, there is direct cooperation of scientific staff with colleagues abroad, through an exchange of publications, scientific and professional papers, but also collaboration in research and joint publication of the results of scientific Work.

The mobility of students and staff through ERASMUS, and is facilitated through bilateral agreements. Due to the already existing cooperation or the possibility of future cooperation, the School of Dental Medicine had

supported signing of inter university agreements, and they are: Memorandum of Understanding between University of Zagreb and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston, USA, and Memorandum of Understanding between University of Zagreb and University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Also, we have a Memorandum of Understanding with Varna University, Bulgaria. Currently active Erasmus bilateral agreements are with dental schools of the following institutions (alphabetically):

1. Ankara University, Turkey
2. Catholic University of Portugal
3. Greifswald University, Germany
4. Hacettepe University, Turkey
5. Maximilian Ludwig University Munich, Germany
6. Pavol Jozef Šafarik University, Slovakia
7. Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland
8. Semmelweis University Budapest, Hungary
9. University of Foggia, Italy
10. University of L'Aquila, Italy
11. University of Sassari, Italy

School of Dental Medicine has launched Doctoral study in English in 2013. A strategic goal pointed out in our last "Self-Evaluation" document produced in 2015 was **"Starting a study program in English will facilitate the process of internationalization of the School and bring it closer to the European Union and the world"** Our study program is fully incorporated in the ECTS (*European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System*).

In accordance with current legislation and Study Regulations, and with the aim of successful implementation of educational programs and introducing students to specific practical tasks of dentistry, the School of Dental Medicine organizes clinical work at the School and organizes additional 500 hours of professional training in community dental service. The emphasis of the study is on the clinical work and on the quality practical training through its different specialties.

This emphasis on developing clinical judgement skills, preclinical manual dexterity on mannequins, and finally the extensive clinical work with dental patients enables students to meet the required competence level to be competitive for European work market. Additional experience from community dental service secures a direct insight into their organization, management and functioning of a dental office.

VISA

Foreign students must obtain a temporary residence permit. For more information about obtaining the appropriate visa, applicants should contact diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Croatia. Candidates will have to start the process for obtaining a visa in their home country before coming to Zagreb. A visa will be required for review before enrolment in the first year. Note: Police Department in Zagreb claims compensation fee - 550 KN for this procedure. The fee is payable after the application for temporary residence has been granted. Candidates are therefore also required to go to the Croatian Health Insurance Fund and take care of their health insurance.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

All foreign students must have health insurance during their stay in Croatia. Health insurance is compulsory for obtaining the permit for temporary residence.

Before coming to Croatia, foreign students are advised to check with their provider of health insurance whether there is an agreement on health insurance between Croatia and their home country. In the event that such an agreement exists, health insurance provider will issue the student a document based on which s/he will exercise the right to health care in the Republic of Croatia. If such an agreement does not exist, a foreign student in his/her home country can buy an insurance policy covering his stay in Croatia or purchase an insurance policy in Croatia with the local insurers. If the student is insured through the Croatian Health Insurance Fund, the following are required:

- ❖ upon registering residence at the main police station in Petrinjska 30, the student will be issued a certificate with the OIB (personal identification number).
- ❖ on the basis of this certificate the office of Croatian Health Insurance Fund will register the student into temporary records and issue a certificate. This certificate is required when applying for permit for temporary residence in the case that the student decides on such a type of health care.
- ❖ Along with the certificate, the student shall attach a photocopy of the first page of the passport and the photocopy of the visa page

Based on these documents, the Croatian Health Insurance Fund shall issue the student a certificate on the basis of which the student is entitled to health care. Within a month, the student shall be issued a health insurance card. The monthly cost is around 325 KN (approx. €40). The payment slips are to be sent to the student at the registered address.

HEALTHCARE

Students who have a health insurance card issued by the Croatian Health Insurance Fund, have the right to health care in any Community health centres. However, it is advisable to report first to the Students' preventive clinic, where students can get advice on choosing the doctor.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The basic legal framework for the activity of the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb is embodied in the Statute of the School of Dental Medicine, and the Study Regulations, which are published on the website of the School of Dental Medicine: https://www.sfzg.unizg.hr/o_fakultetu/dokumenti

Key legal documents on the activities of the University of Zagreb, as well as legal acts governing individual areas of study at the School are also published on the same pages.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The assessment system at the School of Dental Medicine is regulated by the Statute of the University of Zagreb (Article 71), the Statute of the School of Dental Medicine (Article 93), which are available on our website https://www.sfzg.unizg.hr/o_fakultetu/dokumenti

ECTS	UNIZG	DESCRIPTIVE GRADE
A	5 (excellent)	outstanding performance with only minor errors
B	4 (very good)	above the average standard but with some errors

C	3 (good)	generally sound work with a number of notable errors
D/E	2 (sufficient)	fair but with significant shortcomings / performance meets the minimum criteria
FX/F	1 (fail)	Fail – some more work required before the credit can be awarded / Fail – considerable further work is required

PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING ATTENDANCE

Class schedule is published on notice boards and web site of the School of Dental Medicine and the related departments / clinics, where the CLASS SCHEDULE, or timetable is announced. Control of attendance of all forms of teaching is strict, subject to keeping records and acquisition of the minimum number of credits for all the elements that are scored during the entire teaching process and are an integral part of the final grade in a particular subject. Only those students who have fulfilled all the requirements stipulated by the study program and have registered on time for taking the exam, may take the final exam.

Attending all classes is mandatory. Students absent from less than to 1/5 of lectures, seminars and exercises of each course will be considered eligible for semestral signature. Students are obliged to always carry a semester-specific control book containing the student's photograph. Students receive signatures from teaching staff member for each presence at lectures, seminars and exercises. Additionally, students are roll called during practical exercises to re-confirm the presence. Ineligibility for a semestral signature for a particular course obliges the student to re-enrol and attend the same course next year or re-do all the required exercises and tasks in a particular subject.

RECORDS OF TEACHING PROCESS

Evidence of held and attended classes are noted in electronic and written records.