

World Federation of Orthodontists Orthodontic Specialty Education Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed after an extensive review of orthodontic education programs from around the world. They are intended as a guide to those academic institutions that would seek to develop new programs and for those who would wish to have a standard against which to measure their current offering. The guidelines provide direction for universally recognized quality orthodontic specialty training. They are purposefully very general to encompass the scope of currently recognized specialty education. We acknowledge that many orthodontic specialty training programs throughout the world go beyond these guidelines based on their resources and faculty strengths.

WORLD FEDERATION OF ORTHODONTISTS ORTHODONTIC SPECIALTY EDUCATION GUIDELINES

These GUIDELINES may be used as a minimum standard for developing and maintaining a satisfactory orthodontic specialty education program.

The objective of an orthodontic specialty education program is to produce graduates, educated under the direction of the Department of Orthodontics, who are proficient in the diagnosis, treatment planning and documentation of malocclusion and in the treatment of the full scope of orthodontic and dento-facial problems. These graduates will be prepared to provide service to their communities, their professional organizations and to practice with high ethical standards.

RESIDENTS

In order to be admitted to the program, a dentist must possess a DDS, DMD or similar dental education degree. Admission procedures should consider academic grades and test scores, as well as evaluation of goals and motivation.

PROGRAM DURATION

The program must be full time for at least 24 months and must include a minimum of 3700 hours of faculty-supervised instruction.

FACULTY

A dedicated faculty and program director are essential. The majority of the faculty must be graduates of orthodontic specialty education programs recognized in their region of the world. Appropriate faculty must be available to provide instruction in all required areas and to give full supervision of all clinical care.

CLINICAL CARE, STUDY AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

Adequate space for clinical care, storage of records, and research must be available for the program. Access to library and internet data is essential.

REQUIRED CURRICULUM

1. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Experience must include the diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical orthodontic care for approximately 60 new patients, representing the full range of cases treated in actual practice. These must include some patients needing multidisciplinary care, orthognathic surgery and patients with craniofacial problems. Patients should also include those needing growth guidance and long term retention. Proficiency in the use of contemporary fixed and removable appliances is required.

2. BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The following biomedical sciences should be included- Anatomy, Biostatistics, Embryology, Epidemiology, Genetics, Growth and Development, Histology, Pathology, Physiology, Psychology, Research Methods.

3. CLINICAL SCIENCES

The following clinical sciences must be included: Biomechanics, Cephalometrics, Function and Occlusion, Imaging techniques, Orthodontic materials, Periodontics, Speech pathology, Retention and stability.

4. RESEARCH

Participation in and understanding of research methods is required. Familiarity with the current and classic orthodontic scientific literature is important.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Periodic review and evaluation of all aspects of the program is essential, both within the institution and by external examiners (accreditors). Such review should result in the necessary program improvements.