



COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS
COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE

Benchmarking document

Dental Technology

The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine is issuing this Benchmarking Document for Dental Technology in the performance of its functions as defined by Article 27 of the Health Care Professions Act, Chapter 464 of the Laws of Malta and in terms of Article 28 Health Care Professions Act, Chapter 464 of the Laws of Malta and Subsidiary Legislation 454.16 Professions Complimentary to Medicine (Licence to Practice) Regulations.

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Introduction

This document outlines Malta's Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (CPCM) standards of proficiency for Dental Technologists. Via this document the CPCM is setting the minimum registration requirements for Dental Technologists in Malta. These standards are the threshold standards considered necessary to protect members of the public and via which qualified Dental Technologists can apply for registration in the Dental Technology register kept by the CPCM.

This benchmarking document has been adopted by the CPCM to evaluate and assess applications to be registered as Dental Technologists and practise within the jurisdiction of Malta. They also serve as guidance to the CPCM on how to address substantive differences from these standards.

Description and Scope of Practice

Occupational Description

Dental Technologists are autonomous health-care professionals who together with clinical dental practitioners form part of the Dental Team. The Dental Technologist is expected to keep abreast of all relevant literature relating to his field and should be duly registered with the competent authorities and regulating bodies of the place where the service is delivered. Amongst other tasks dental technologists design, construct/manufacture, repair and adjust dental custom-made, removable and fixed, appliances.

Scope of Practice

Modern Dentistry relies upon the provision of technology support. Dental prosthesis has to demonstrate and interrelate physical and mechanical principals to restore the function of lost teeth, simultaneously fulfilling the aesthetic expectations of the patients.

Every patient presents individual problems, this requires a technologist who can both understand the problem and the manipulative skills to create a solution. Central to the study of Dental Technology is an in-depth understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the oral structures and materials used in this demanding environment.

The Dental Technology industry demands technologists with a broad technical background extensive knowledge of one or more of the dental disciplines/specialities, and the business and managerial skills required for laboratory and quality management.

Dental Technologists Construct and Design

- Orthodontic appliances;
- Full & Partial dentures (metal framed and acrylic); and
- Crowns bridges & veneer to a predefined specification by a dental practitioner.

Level of Qualification

The CPCM considers applications from applicants who have successfully completed a BSc degree in Dental Technology with a total of 180 ECTS credits at an MQF/EQF (Malta/European Qualification Framework) level of 6 or higher at an Institution recognised by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) within the National Commission for Further and Higher Education in Malta (NCFHE).

The CPCM understands that a number of programmes may be at an above or lower level, than the standard outlined, and that there may be some exceptions, so applications will be taken on a case by case basis to verify that the standard requirements as outlined by this document are met.

Courses delivered online are not accepted.

The applicant needs to:

- Provide a detailed transcript of Theoretical and Practical Training and Studies in hours associated with the Dental Technology Qualification and in relation with the syllabus performed by the accredited institution. This has to be endorsed in the original format by the Institution's Head/Registrar of the University/College.
- Provide the course description, including study unit details.

Language Proficiency

The CPCM requires those applicants who wish to enter the Dental Technology register, to provide proof of language proficiency as defined in Annex A.

Evaluation of Application

On evaluation of the application the Council may choose to do one of the following:

- Grant registration;
- Ask for further clarification when required;
- Ask for the applicant to attend an interview;
- Reject the application if the qualification is not adequate and in line with this benchmark; and
- Be asked to carry out a period of supervised practice or undergo an aptitude test.

Minimum Curriculum Requirements

This standard ensures that the curriculum meets the standards for professional knowledge, skills and attitudes as expected by CPCM and therefore the applicant would be considered fit to practise in Malta.

The CPCM is aware that standards are continuously being updated over time. This document refers to the minimum general subject areas (but not restricted to) that the course needs to offer for the applicant to be successfully considered as a Registered Dental Technologist. The course programme successfully completed will reflect the skills and knowledge base that ensure that an applicant, once registered, is able to work as an independent and autonomous practitioner.

The core modules expected to be covered during studies are:

- Evidence based Dentistry;
- Anatomy and Physiology of the oral cavity;
- Dental Laboratory practice- Complete dentures;
- Dental Materials Science;
- Preventive Dentistry & Dental Public Health;
- Removable Prosthodontics- complete dentures;
- Microbiology and Immunology;
- Head and Neck Anatomy for Allied Dental Health Professionals;
- Health & Safety in the Dental laboratory;
- Clinical Ethics;
- Removable Prosthodontics- Acrylic partial dentures;
- Laboratory Practice;
- Clinical Medical Science for Dental Technology;
- Orthodontics;
- Dental Laboratory Practice- Orthodontics;
- Research and statistics;
- Biostatistics and Health Informatics;
- Clinical Governance and Audit;
- Fixed Prosthodontics; and
- Chrome Cobalt sub structure manufacture.

Practice and Training

Applicants seeking registration will be required to submit documentary evidence of the supervised/mentored training in the form of either a student portfolio or a logbook duly signed by the supervisor. These will include the practical sessions undertaken showing the key defined learning objectives. The laboratory supervised training during the academic course is expected to be of a minimum of 1,000 hours.

Applicants who trained abroad and where already working as Dental Technologists, must be registered with the national regulator in the country of origin (if the profession is regulated in that country) and should have practiced the profession of Dental Technology for a minimum of 6 months in the past 1 year. These applicants are expected to possess an equivalent degree comparable to the local one issued by the University of Malta, and such cases will be assessed on a case by case basis.

For those carrying out the training after graduation, where the applicant already holds a recognised degree from another institution that is reasonably similar in the amounts of ECTS credits but would benefit from additional training to address any discrepancies, such training should consist of a minimum of 180 hours, followed by an assessment. The mentioned practice must be carried out under the direct supervision of a CPCM registered and licensed Dental Technologist with a minimum of 5 years work experience or a Dental Practitioner whose name is included in the Medical Specialists Register kept by the Medical Council. The logbook duly signed and compiled to allow verification. Hours of practice included as part of Research Projects will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Other CPCM documents to be considered in conjunction with this Benchmarking Document:

1. Codes of Professional and Ethical Conduct

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/cpcm/Documents/Codes%20of%20Professional%20and%20Ethical%20Conduct%20-%20March%202019.pdf>

2. Code of Practice (Dental Technology)

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/regcounc/cpcm/Documents/Dental%20Technology%20Code%20of%20Practice.pdf>

CPCM MALTA

This document has been prepared by the CPCM Dental Technology subcommittee in consultation with the Malta Association of Dental Technologists – March 2020

ANNEXE A

Language Proficiency Requirements by The Council for The Professions Complementary to Medicine

The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine requires applicants to meet the Council's level of Proficiency in the English or the Maltese Language.

All professionals seeking registration are requested to present either one of the following:

1. A Maltese language certificate; **OR**
 - (i) An Ordinary Level MATSEC certificate (MQF level 3); OR
<https://myexams.gov.mt/matsec-examinations/>
 - (ii) An Advanced/Intermediate Level MATSEC certificate (MQF level 4); OR
<https://myexams.gov.mt/matsec-examinations/>
 - (iii) A Medical Maltese Proficiency Certificate.
<https://www.um.edu.mt/arts/malti/korsijiet/medicalmaltesecourse>
2. The applicant can provide evidence that his/her professional qualification(s) (on the basis of which he/she is applying for registration) was/were acquired through the medium of English or Maltese and that practice placements in that/those qualification(s) were undertaken and supervised through the medium of English or Maltese; **OR**

3. The applicant can provide evidence that s/he has **lived in and practised** his/her profession through the medium of English or Maltese in a country that has English or Maltese recognised as the official language of that country for a period of **not less than 2 years in the past five-year period; OR**
4. Any other proof of English or Maltese language Proficiency.

Additionally, should the applicant choose to opt for other forms of proving language proficiency, the applicant can opt for either one of the following Secure English Language Tests.

Should the applicant opt for this, the below is the list of Examining Boards recognized by the Council and the minimum required standards accepted by the Council in terms of the table below (or equivalent);

Examining Board	TOEFL Internet-Based (iBT)	IELTS (Academic)	Cambridge	Occupational English Test (OET)
Required Level	95	6.5	Advanced Certificate	B
Remarks	A writing score of at least 24 is required.	Required with a minimum of 6.0 in all elements.	A pass at a grade C or better is required.	A grade B or better is required in all components.

Any other Secure English Language Tests which are equivalent to those mentioned in the table above will also be considered.