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**Fellowship in Prosthodontics**

**Department of Substitutive Dental Sciences College of Dentistry**

**Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University**

**Program name:** Fellowship

**Name of the degree awarded:** Fellowship in Prosthodontics

**Objectives of the program:**

Upon completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Be clinically competent professionals, able to practice Prosthodontics independently drawing on their in-depth knowledge of the art and science of this specialty.

2. Be able to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of all areas of Prosthodontics consistent with current advanced education accreditation standards.

3. Be able to explain how the biomedical sciences relate to the specialty of Prosthodontics.

4. Possess an in-depth knowledge of biomaterial sciences in terms of laboratory and clinical manipulation coupled with their clinical applications.

5. Possess an in-depth knowledge of properly applying cutting-edge prosthodontic technology in the dental laboratory and clinics, including the areas of Implant Dentistry and Maxillofacial Prosthetics.

6. Know how to apply the appropriate advanced clinical procedures, based on the principles of “evidence-based dentistry (EBD)” in accordance with the needs of each individual patient.

7. Be able to diagnose and manage post-operative complications and dental emergencies.

8. Possess the expertise to design, implement and oversee an appropriate post-operative maintenance regimen and patient recall program.

9. Be experienced to access the dental scientific literature readily to maintain contemporary professional knowledge

10. Be able to evaluate new dental products and procedures using critical thinking skills.

11. Be able to apply those critical thinking skills when analyzing patient situations to reach a diagnosis before proceeding with treatment.

12. Be able to know when to advise patients to seek a second opinion, when to make a referral and when there is a need for an interdisciplinary care.

13. Satisfy and, where possible, exceed the expectations created for the program learning outcomes.

14. Join local, regional, national and international organizations in support of dentistry, in general, and Prosthodontics, in particular.

15. Remain engaged in research efforts independently and collaborate with general

dentists and dental specialists as well as other health professionals.

16. Adopt the philosophy of and making a commitment to “life-long learning.”

**Justification for the program’s provision:**

The rationales for the establishment of the Fellowship in Prosthodontics program can be summarized by the following points:

1. The expansion and depth of knowledge, coupled with the growth in technology and breadth of clinical skills required in dentistry today have rapidly surpassed the scope of the general dental practice. As in many fields of medicine, specialization in different areas of dentistry is vital for the College of Dentistry to mirror the levels of education currently provided at other leading universities in Saudi Arabia and throughout the world.

2. As the leading institution for providing postgraduate training in the Eastern Province, the Fellowship in Prosthodontics program will enable the College of Dentistry to expand the levels and quality of dental services currently being provided, aid in the development and advancement of other graduate-level dental programs and permit the College to provide additional highly sought after and needed interdisciplinary patient services.

3. The availability of advanced prosthodontic services will lessen the demand for referrals outside the College of Dentistry, reduce waiting times for patients in need of complex prosthodontics treatment and also diminish the need for specialty services presently provided in different health institutes.

4. The Fellowship in Prosthodontics program, therefore, will train generations of clinicians in the specialty of Prosthodontics and address any shortage of Prosthodontists in different health institutes in the Eastern Region.

5. This Program is certain to stimulate the interest of the Saudi dental community in terms of continuing professional development.

6. The program will also serve to fulfill the Kingdom vision 2030 by increasing the number of postgraduate programs and postgraduate graduates.

7. The availability of a Fellowship in Prosthodontics program at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is intended to offer and provide qualified Saudi dentists with an alternative to external scholarships. This, in turn, will result in an increased pool of qualified Saudi candidates for the program and also have positive implications for the Saudi economy.

8. The creation of this program not only will provide for the training of local graduates; it also will lead to increased employment for Saudi nationals in keeping with the Kingdom’s Saudization program.

**Study plan:**

The Fellowship in Prosthodontics program consists of a comprehensive, 4-year curriculum of full-time study composed of eight (8) academic semesters along with three (3) short, summer sessions.

The curriculum has been designed to graduate students with an in-depth knowledge and the technical skills required for the practice of Prosthodontics, prepare them for teaching and provide them with experience and training in research methods. To achieve these goals students will work in an exciting, contemporary, and fast-paced educational environment.

The program is structured with the following allocations of activity and time:

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| --- | --- |
| %36 | Didactics |
| 50% | Clinical/Laboratory\* |
| 10% | Research |
| 4% | Teaching |

**General overview of the program:**

The Fellowship in Prosthodontics program can best be described in the following year-by year overview.

Year 1 – The program begins with preclinical training in the basic technical aspects of Prosthodontics to assess the individual knowledge of students and calibrate their technical skills to the standards of the College of Dentistry. Core and specialty courses are provided along with clinical training. The clinical care course continues into the summer semester.

Year 2 - Students will enroll in additional core and specialty courses, continue with advanced patient care in clinical courses and are introduced to advanced research through courses in research methodologies as well as biostatistics. Students are expected to begin their search for and selection of an appropriate research project by the end of the second year. A research project should be selected, prepared as a research protocol and submitted for approval in this year.

Year 3 - At this stage in the program students will be expected to begin completing some of their advanced clinical cases begun in Year 1 and Year 2 and expand their engagement in core and specialty courses as well as research. Aside from completion of any remaining core and specialty courses, students will continue enrollment in research to complete their project by year’s end. Students will be required to prepare a manuscript and submit for publication.

Also, in Year 3 students will enroll in special 1hour courses, entitled Directed Study, to provide them with experience in a wide variety of areas related to dental education, teaching and research. The following is a partial list of topics from which students may select areas of interest: dental photography, presentation skills, ethics, practice management and marketing, clinic administration, competencies, electronic patient records, faculty development, electronic educational media, interdisciplinary interaction (referrals), scientific writing, strategic planning, technology in dentistry and trends in dental education.

Students are expected to enroll in at least two (2) units of directed study course (1 unit per semester) with the approval of the supervising faculty member and the proposed plan for each term by the Program Director.

Year 4 – In the final year students will fulfill all remaining didactic core and specialty course requirements, take at least two (2) additional Directed Study courses, complete their clinical cases (by the end of the academic year) and submit proof of acceptance or published article from their research project in a peer-reviewed journal.

Summer Sessions – Students will enroll in Clinical Prosthodontics to provide ongoing patient care during the summer months given the complex nature of the treatment they will be providing. They also will provide emergency services on an as needed basis for their patients for the interval between the end of the Semester II and the start of Semester I of their next year. Summer sessions also will provide additional time for research and thesis writing.