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**ADMISSION TO BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY PROGRAMME FOR AY2023–AY2024****HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

Besides the conditions indicated in the Offer Letter, admission to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme is subject to the following health and health-related requirements. These additional requirements are required by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and apply to all healthcare workers, healthcare students including dental students.

**1) Blood Borne Diseases (BBD)**

All prospective students should be screened and vaccinated (Hepatitis B) against the following:

**a) Hepatitis B**

All prospective dental students must be screened for Hepatitis B carriage. This screening should be done no earlier than 6 months before commencement of the programme (i.e. not before 1 February 2023).

Prospective students who are Hepatitis B negative and do not have documented serological evidence of immunity against Hepatitis B (i.e. anti-HBs  $\geq$  10mIU/mL) must be vaccinated with the primary course series (i.e. 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine). A post-vaccination serology test within 1 – 2 months after completion of the primary 3-dose vaccination series should be conducted to determine the concentration of protective antibodies (i.e. anti-HBs  $\geq$  10mIU/mL). In the event that prospective students continue to be non-immune despite repeat vaccinations, they will be counselled to understand their potential risk and susceptibility to Hepatitis B during the course of study and when they graduate.

**b) Hepatitis C and Human-Immunodeficiency Virus**

All prospective dental students must be screened for Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency virus (“HIV”). This screening should be done no earlier than 3 months before commencement of the programme (i.e. not before 1 May 2023).

The screening for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency virus must be carried out prior to admission into the programme. Results of the screening may have an impact on the students’ course of study and their future career choices. Prospective students tested positive for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV carriers will be counselled to understand that their areas of practice may be restricted in future.

**2) Varicella Zoster Virus (Chickenpox)**

All prospective dental students should be immune or vaccinated. Students should provide documentation of immunity (positive serology) or official records of having received two doses of varicella vaccine given at least four weeks apart vaccinations. Self-declaration is only acceptable if the history of varicella was physician diagnosed and documented as such. Where history of varicella is uncertain, immunity against varicella would need to be confirmed by serological testing.

Students may begin classes without documentary evidence of immunisation against Chickenpox if:

- He/she has a letter from a physician stating that there is a reason why he/she cannot receive the vaccine;
- He/she has documented evidence of two administrations of the varicella vaccine (i.e. a non-responder).

**3) Mumps, Measles and Rubella Viruses (MMR)**

All prospective dental students should be immune (from documented infection) or fully vaccinated. Students should provide official records of two previous vaccinations (2-dose series at least 4 weeks apart) or serological/laboratory screening results or physician documented diagnoses of previous infection as proof of immunity against all three

diseases. Self-declaration of previous infection or vaccination is not considered as evidence of immunity.

Students may begin classes without documentary evidence of immunisation for MMR if he/she has a letter from a physician stating that there is a reason why he/she cannot receive the vaccine.

4) Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis

All prospective Dentistry students should receive tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccination, if they have not previously received the Tdap vaccination.

Students who have previously received Tdap vaccination should receive a booster dose of Td every 10 years. If Td is unavailable, it may be replaced with Tdap. Documented proof of vaccination with Tdap or Td in the last 10 years would be acceptable as evidence of immunity. Self-declaration is not considered proof of immunity.

5) COVID-19

Healthcare students are strongly encouraged to achieve at least minimum protection against COVID-19, if medically eligible. Minimum protection refers to the completion of three doses of mRNA or Novavax vaccine or four doses of Sinovac vaccine in accordance with age indications and recommendations for each vaccine. Please inform the school if for any reason, you cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19. Healthcare students would generally need to be fully vaccinated if they are to engage in any direct patient contact related activities.

6) Audiometric Testing

From 2013, in compliance with NUS and the Ministry of Manpower statutory medical surveillance requirements, all dental students must complete the NUS Occupational Health risk assessment form as well as undergo an audiometric testing before the programme commences and just before they graduate.

All prospective dental students should have their screening and testing (HBV, HCV, HIV, VZV, MMR, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis Screening and Audiometric Test) as well as immunisations done at the Occupational Health Clinic (OHC), University Health Centre Basement, 20 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119080. The costs for screening, immunisation and testing, as well as the timelines by which the screening, immunisation and testing must be completed, are set out in Table 1.

In order to ease waiting times, prospective dental students are advised to complete the medical examination, screening and audiometric test as early as possible. Please contact the Occupational Health Clinic at (65) 6601 1781 / (65) 6516 7333 to schedule an appointment.

Table 1: Screening and Vaccination Deadlines

Virus	Screening		Immunisation		Post Vaccination Screening
	Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Deadline
<b>Hepatitis B<sup>#</sup></b>	\$26.00	To complete by 17 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$35.00 per injection</li> <li>• 3 injections over 6 months <i>or</i> booster single injection only</li> </ul>	To complete by 31 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 month after immunisation</li> <li>• Post-vaccination antibody blood test at \$16.00</li> </ul>
<b>Hepatitis C</b>	\$40.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>		
<b>HIV</b>	\$25.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>		
<b>Varicella Zoster (Chickenpox)</b>	\$47.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$75.00 per injection</li> <li>• 2 injections over 6 to 10 weeks</li> </ul>	To complete by 25 September 2023	<i>Not Applicable</i>
<b>Mumps Measles</b>	\$75.00 \$90.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$35.00 per injection</li> </ul>		
<b>Rubella</b>	\$28.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$35.00 per injection</li> <li>• 2 injections over 4 to 6 weeks <i>or</i> booster single injection only</li> </ul>		
<b>Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis</b>	\$50.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 dose of Tdap, if students have not previously received it, followed by Td/Tdap booster once every 10 years</li> <li>• If students have previously received 1 dose of Tdap, Td/Tdap booster is recommended once every 10 years</li> </ul>		
<b>Audiometry Test</b>	\$35.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>		
<b>Basic Medical Checkup with CXR, Urinalysis</b>	\$43.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>	To complete by 28 July 2023	<i>Not Applicable</i>
<b>Occupational Health Individual Risk and Ergonomic Screen</b>	\$35.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>		
<b>Spirometry Test (as recommended by the OHC doctor)</b>	\$30.00		<i>Not Applicable</i>		

Note: No GST is applicable.

The above health requirements are subject to change. If you need clarifications on any of these requirements, please contact the Occupational Health Centre staff at Tel: (65) 6516 7333/ (65) 6601 1781.

#### SERVICE OBLIGATION AGREEMENT FOR DENTAL STUDENTS

All candidates admitted to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme at NUS, except recipients of PSC/MINDEF scholarships/bursaries, are required to serve in the local public healthcare sector upon completing the programme for a specified number of years (known as “service obligation”) as stated in the following table:

Programme	Singaporean Students (Service Obligation Period)	Singapore PR and International Students (Service Obligation Period)
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	4 years	5 years

Those awarded PSC/MINDEF scholarships/bursaries will be bonded according to the terms of their respective awards.

Dental students are required to sign a Service Obligation Agreement with the Government to serve out the service obligation period as specified. Your acceptance of the offer of admission to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme is conditional upon you signing the agreement with the relevant authorities in the year of entry to the University.

Students who fail to fulfill the bond obligations must pay liquidated damages (LD) in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. The amount of liquidated damages is computed based on the subsidy granted and disbursed by the Government to the student, with application of compound interest, and pro-rated by the number of completed months of study the student has completed during the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme or months of service in the public healthcare section before the completion of the service obligation period. Failure to obtain the Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree or to complete the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme within the time stipulated by NUS would also be considered a breach of the provisions of the Agreement.

**Please note that prospective dental students are to sign the Service Obligation Agreement only in the year they are matriculating in NUS.**

For signing of the Service Obligation Agreement, two persons are required to stand as your sureties. Your sureties should:

- a) be above 21 years of age and preferably under 65 years of age;
- b) not be in financial bankruptcy;
- c) be able to provide proof of financial means to pay the liquidated damages (LD) should the LD become due. A surety will need to produce one of the following as proof of his or her financial means:
  - i) Income statement indicating that the surety is gainfully employed and drawing an income of at least S\$1,000 per month;
  - or
  - ii) title deed\*;
  - or
  - iii) banker’s guarantee&
- d) not be party to an existing scholarship, bursary or study loan agreement

**Note:**

**\* Property can be accepted as a proof of asset if mortgage on the property is fully paid and the value of the property is equivalent to or more than the estimated amount of the liquidated damages. Both private and public property can be accepted as long as the mortgage is paid up.**

**& The value of the banker's guarantee should be equivalent to or more than the estimated amount of liquidated damages. The surety has to set aside and lock in the full amount of estimated liquidated damages for the entire duration of studies and bond period.**

- 1. The financial status of each surety will be assessed independently.**
- 2. Sureties' CPF savings and insurance policies will NOT be accepted.**
- 3. Parents who are currently serving as sureties for their other child(ren) for similar Agreements with the Government of Singapore, will only be permitted to serve as sureties for this current Agreement using different proof of financial means.**

For Singapore/Singapore Permanent Resident students, the first surety should be a Singapore Citizen. The second surety can be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident. For International students, both sureties must either be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident.

Sureties can be non-citizens if they are parents of the students (regardless of nationality).

If you need further information, please visit the Ministry of Health website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/hpp/doctors/career-practices/CareerNPracticesDetails/medical-dental-undergraduate-agreement> or contact the Ministry of Health at Tel: (65) 6325 9220.

#### **COST OF MATERIALS FOR DENTAL STUDENTS**

Dental students are to note that they will be required to bear the cost of incidental materials which they will need throughout the duration of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme. Such cost will be in addition to the prevailing tuition fees. The incidental materials include, but may not be limited to, plastic teeth, metal alloy, consumables etc which will be required during the pre-clinical and clinical phases of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme. The estimated incidental cost over the period of the 4-year programme is estimated to be around S\$1,000.

#### **NOTEBOOK REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DENTAL STUDENTS**

All new students enrolling in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme will need to have a notebook computer for the duration of the programme. You are encouraged to have one with a minimum screen size of 13".

#### **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAMME**

If you withdraw from the programme after Week 2 Semester 1 of the Academic Year in which you matriculate, you will be liable for tuition fees and any liquidated damages, if applicable.

*Above information is accurate as at 26 June 2023.*