

Postgraduate Programme in Periodontology including Implant Dentistry
at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium



At the Catholic University Leuven the postgraduate program “Periodontology” is 3-yearsfull-time (Monday till Friday, 8.00 am - 6 pm). A successful postgraduate student will be able to practice periodontics (including implant therapy) at a specialist level.

Besides the development of clinical skills, the graduate must also develop a thorough understanding of the basic sciences of periodontology (anatomy, biology, function & regeneration of bone & soft tissues). At the end of the training the student must be able to analyse and critically evaluate the periodontal literature. During the 3-years of training the postgraduate student will be involved in the undergraduate clinical perio-& anatomy training (for which he/she will receive a wage). He/she will also complete his/her own research topic under the guidance of one of the staff members.

Calendar

The curriculum consists of 3 years of full time studies (\pm 1.700 scheduled hours per year). The first semester starts the 1st of August and finishes the last week of January. The 2nd semester is from the 1st of February

through the end of July. The weekly schedule includes \pm 60% of clinical training, while the remaining time is used for seminars (15%), self-study (10%), research (15%), and: case presentations, courses, and self-study.

Research

Each student has to complete a research project. The results of the project should be presented in the form of a written report, ready for publication in a peer reviewed international journal. The research project should be finished and presented together with a literature review (in the same domain) for the Board of Examiners at the end of the 3rd year.

Faculty

Prof.Dr. Marc Quirynen is Program Director and Chairman of the Department. The staff also includes as full time periodontologists: Prof.Dr. Wim Teughels (Course Director), and Christel Dekeyser (Responsible for the Clinic). The clinical training can also count on the expertise of following part-time consultants, each with their own specific talents: Dr. Marcelo Abarca, Sophie De Geest, Greet De Mars, Drs. Rutger Dhondt, Drs. Isabelle Laleman, Marc Meeus, Drs. Joe Merheb, Carl Spaas & Drs. Andy Temmerman.

Currently the department supports 12 PhD students in different domains including: oral microbiology (pre- and probiotics), implantology (guided surgery), optimization of non-surgical periodontal therapy, halitosis, oral radiology, GTR/GBR, L-PRF, ...

Admissions

The applicant must: (a) have a DDS or equivalent degree to practice in Belgium, (b) have acceptable academic records, (c) has to be selected by a selection committee, and (d) have a good knowledge of the Dutch language (ILT level 5) since the courses are given in Dutch.

Clinical Performance

At the end of the program students will have performed more than 120 periodontal surgeries (including muco-gingival and GTR procedures) and more than 100 implants, some of those in combination with different GBR techniques (sinus augmentation, horizontal & vertical GBR, ...). At the end of the 3rd year the students are required to present 8 multidisciplinary cases including a justification of the treatment as well as the procedures performed.

The 1st year students primarily focus on initial periodontal therapy, pocket resection techniques and simple implant surgeries. During the 2nd year muco-gingival procedures and GTR/GBR techniques are added, plus more complex implant surgeries. In the last year students will have the chance to perform more complex interventions under the guidance of an expert, and start more routine interventions with younger post graduate students (supervision on demand). Each case must of course be planned, discussed and approved by a supervisor. Clinical sessions are scheduled in combination with Orthodontics and Restorative departments. Teams will be created with one post graduate student of each of these departments, working together during the 3 years of training.

Seminars and literature review

One to two half days per week are dedicated towards theoretical training in periodontology and implant dentistry. This is done partially via interactive seminars organized within the department of periodontology,

but also by other departments of the School of Dentistry (Orthodontics, Restorative Dentistry, Oral Radiology, Anatomy, Statistics, ...). The department also invites \pm 5 key-opinion leaders/year who are teaching on very specific topics within periodontology, and have a “private” open discussions with the postgraduate students alone. Most seminars are preceded by self-studying. In this way the whole scope of periodontology can be covered.

Websites:

<https://www.facebook.com/periodepartment>

<http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/research/50000644/index.html>

