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Postgraduate training program in Periodontology and Implant Dentistry

University of Liège, Belgium

The post-graduate program in Periodontology and Implant dentistry of the University of Liège is designed for student graduated in Dental Medicine who wants to pursue a career in Periodontics and Oral Implants dentistry. It is a 3-year full time program providing the students the opportunity to develop periodontics knowledge's by intensive clinical activity and extensive learning in periodontology. The curriculum is divided in 3 parts : patient treatment, didactic learning and research project.

Patient treatment

The post-graduate program aims to improve clinical practice learning experience by providing opportunities to manage patients clinically with modern periodontal techniques. The students will treat patient 2 1/2 days per week under supervision of a senior periodontist. Over the all training, students work with external GP referrals and internally with post-graduate students in prosthodontics, endodontic and orthodontics. The first year focuses on diagnosis, treatment planning, periodontal initial therapy and buccal surgery (wisdom teeth and orthodontic related surgeries). In the second year, students start proceeding periodontal, muco-gingival and preprosthetic surgeries and implant placement under the active supervision of senior periodontist. In the third year, students are expected to perform the surgical procedures independently except implant and bone surgeries remaining under supervision. Additionally, the third year students have a mandatory internship in an accredited private periodontal practice one half day a week. Each student is required to complete and carry out 30 fully documented periodontal cases which will be presented and discussed with students and professors.

Didactic learning

The scientific and clinical knowledge in periodontology and implant dentistry will be provided by various didactic learning methods:

- **Active chair-side assistance:** is a one-to-one type of didactic clinical learning giving the opportunity to the student to have specific discussion with the teacher based

on daily cases (consultations, treatment planning, surgeries). Additionally, during these time slots, students can schedule surgical cases when they need active assistance from the teacher.

- **Treatment planning session :** Every Tuesday, a learn and lunch session of 2 hours takes place. The first hour is designed as a pluri-disciplinary discussion and the second hour is focused on perio-specific treatment.
- **Theoretical lectures and literature seminars :** Students attend literature seminars or theoretical lectures on Monday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Most of these meetings cover topical areas: periodontology basics and related fields. Additionnally, students from the second and third years follow the theoretical program of the implant dentistry certificate that takes place once a month on Thursday and Friday.
- **Extra academic seminars :** Students are also expected to follow 6 extra academic conferences per year.

Research project

Each participant has to develop a basic or clinical research project. By carrying out such a scientific project, the students acquire critical thinking, organisation skills and extensive knowledge in periodontal research. An academic advisor will be assigned to each candidate to provide support and guidance during the progress of their research. 1 day per week is reserved to prepare and manage their research project. One research article has to be submitted 6 months before the end of the curriculum and the scientific project is defended publicly.

Calendar

The weekly program is from 8:00 to 19:00 on Monday and from 8:00 to 18:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, students are expected to attend extrauniversity seminars or to do study preparations. The program starts on the 1st of October and is all year around. Students are able to take 6 weeks of vacation.

Admissions

Each year, one local and one international applicant are selected to follow the program. It is essential to have a Master degree or equivalent (undergraduate degree) in Dental Medicine. Entry to the postgraduate courses generally requires high grades obtained in the last three years of dental school. Good knowledge of French and English language is also required. International applicants have to send their application before 15th of January and local applicants before the 15th of May of the year they would start the program.

Evaluations

After the 1st and the 2nd year :

- Clinical skills and level of improvement (40%)
- Research project advancement (25%)
- Result of written exam of theory and literature assimilation (25%)
- Clinical interest and overall involvement (10%)

At the end of the 3rd year :

- Oral exam and thesis defence (30%)
- Clinical skills and level of improvement (40%)
- Research project accomplishment (30%)