



Institute of Advanced
Dental Sciences & Research
Professionally Correct



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY (DFO)

Curriculum 2022

Institute of Advanced Dental Sciences & Research &
Health Services Academy, Islamabad

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY (DFO)

I. INTRODUCTION

The discipline of Forensic Odontology involves the application of extensive dental specific knowledge to legal and criminal issues. The subject focuses primarily on human identification, disaster victim identification, age assessment, examination of bite marks and medico-legal scenarios related to facial and oral structures.

The specialty has proven its role in Pakistan from medico-legal inquest to counter terrorism support also showed its endurance while air crash victim identification and brought resolve with expertise to the grieving families. The needs of such specialist are in demand world over especially in third world countries where disasters struck quite often.

A forensic odontologist has a sound knowledge in dental anatomy, pathology, natural sciences, forensic medicine, laws and relevant legislation. Good oral, written communication and interpersonal skills. He/she has an ability to work as a team member and also autonomously. He/she understands the humanistic aspects of bereavement, an inquiring mind and has professional and integrity to initiate ethical research. The objective is to train a candidate to international standards so as to ensure higher competence in both general and special area of interest and prepare him/her, for a career in this specialty.

II. COMPETENCIES OF THE DFO PROGRAM

The graduates of the DFO program will be prepared to:

- Ascertain dentition for forensic identification of humans.
- Analyze the orofacial trauma.
- Write Medico legal reports / Opinions and able present to authorities.
- Perform dental comparisons in medico legal incidents.
- Proficient in dental superimposition for identification.
- Competently perform a dental age assessment of a deceased or living person.
- Identify bite mark and can conduct the bite mark analysis.
- Assess appropriate teeth for all types of DNA analysis.
- Prepare medico-legal forensic odontology reports
- Liaise with other medical, scientific and police specialists in line with their role and expertise.
- Understand limitations and Jurisdiction of forensic Odontology.
- Perform Forensic photography when required.
- Work as a mentor and support other members of the profession.
- Demonstrate commitment to professional and ethical values in all activities.
- Able to perform as a good teacher and life-long learner.
- Provide feedback and address performance problems and issues quickly and effectively.

III. PROGRAM LENGTH

It is **One-Year** program comprising of 2 semesters and each semesters' duration is 16 Weeks.

IV. COURSE-WISE CREDIT HOURS AND MARKS DISTRIBUTION

Semester	Course code	Course Title	Credit hours	Marks
Courses for First Semester of DFO				
I	DFO 501	Introduction to Forensic Sciences and Biometrics	01	50
I	DFO 502	Basic Concepts of Forensic Odontology	01	50
	DFO 503	Oral Anatomy & Tooth Morphology	01	50
I	DFO 504	Basics of physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology & microbiology	01	50
I	DFO 505	Criminology, Law, Ethics and Legal aspects in Forensic Odontology	01	50
I	DFO 506	Human Identification/Disaster Victim Identification	01	50
I	DFO 507	Advanced Techniques in Forensic Odontology	01	50
I	DFO 508	Forensic Genetics and Biostatistics	01	50
I	DFO 509	Forensic Pathology and Toxicology	01	50
I	DFO 510	Forensic Radiology	01	50
I	DFO 511	Forensic Medicine	01	50
I	DFO 512	Dental records Maintenance and Information Management systems	01	50
Sub Total for First semester Credit hours/Marks			12	600
Courses for Second Semester of DFO				
II	DFO 513	Forensic Odontology Research Project	03	150
II	On the Job Practicum in Forensic Medicine Departments and/ or Hospital		03	150
Sub Total for Second semester Credit hours/Marks			06	300
Total Credit hours/Marks for DFO			18	900

V. RESEARCH PROJECT (3-CREDIT)

The student will be advised to select a forensic odontology topic with his/her professional requirements during the first semester. The proposal formulated has to be critically appraised by the Academic Committee of IADSR and simultaneously the Institutional Research Board (IRB) before the beginning of the second semester. The committee can suggest changes which will be communicated to the student at the time of critical appraisal. The students will carry out data collection, data analysis, interpretation and presentation of the results leading to conclusions from the study under the research report writing guidelines. The primary educational objective of the research report is to demonstrate appropriate consideration and application of core concepts, skills, and knowledge in analyzing a public health problem within any of the proscribed frameworks. The core area competencies must be addressed in each project. These competency areas cut across the domains identified for each specific framework. For example, quantitative competence may be demonstrated in the literature review and/or methodology section and/or results and/or discussion section of a publication framework. All papers are required to demonstrate minimum competence but are held accountable to a level of competence consistent with the problem and framework as defined by the student.

VI. ON THE JOB PRACTICUM (3-CREDIT)

A forensic odontologist has a sound knowledge in dental anatomy, pathology, natural sciences, forensic medicine, laws and relevant legislation. Good oral, written communication and interpersonal skills. He/she has an ability to work as a team member and also autonomously. He/she understands the humanistic aspects of bereavement, an inquiring mind and has professional and integrity to initiate ethical research. The objective is to train a candidate to international standards so as to ensure higher competence in both general and special area of interest and prepare him/her, for a career in this specialty. The goal of the practicum is to provide a structured and supervised opportunity for the student to apply the theories, principles, knowledge and skills of as learned in the classroom, in a practice setting. The practice experience occurs in a carefully selected health organizations approved by Program Coordinator and is supervised by IADSR & HSA faculty and an immediate supervisor/mentor. This considers the transition from education to professional practice. At the conclusion the students are required to present their project in the form of a written report or as a poster.

VII. METHOD OF ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATION, PROCEDURES AND RULES

Students will be evaluated during each course on the basis of;

- **Formative assessment:**

A mix of the tests, end of course examination, class and home assignments, class participation, interactive discussions, practical exercises, field works and/or group works, end of course examination, depending on the course outline (ongoing assessment and feedback for learning)

- **Summative assessment**

Based on the end of semester examination papers. Summative assessments are held at end of semesters and comprises of semester examinations paper each.

VIII. STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Strict merit-based criteria with absolute transparency will be followed to select its students for the DDPH program.

- **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- *BASIC QUALIFICATIONS*

- BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery)
- MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery)

- *WORK EXPERIENCE*

The candidate should preferably have one years of full-time work experience (in the case of dental and medical doctors, after the house job) in public health-related fields in either the private sector or the public sector, including the armed forces. For students performing extra-ordinary during viva/interviews, the experience can be waived off by the admission committee.

- *AGE LIMIT*

There are no Age restrictions for admission in this Program.

- **DDPH ADMISSIONS**

Admissions Committee of DDPH including members both from HAS and IADSR will be responsible for the selection of applicants to be admitted to the Program. There are established procedures for the timely review of applications to the Program. Deferrals of admission are at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. The selected candidates from the Admissions Committee will be exempted from any test or interview.

- **FINAL SELECTION**

The applicant's acceptance is contingent upon the receipt of all required documents including official transcripts. The Admissions Committee is responsible for identifying those students with missing documents and/or credentials which do not meet eligibility standards.

COURSE FEE

Course Fee is **Rs. 80,000/-** per semester.

Total fee for One Year Diploma is **Rs.160,000/-** which is payable in two installments.