

SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Aims of the accreditation process

The purpose of this accreditation process is to recommend suitable candidates to enter the dental specialist register maintained by the Singapore Dental Council.

Suitable candidates would need to demonstrate competencies consistent with that expected of a Dental Public Health specialist practising in Singapore.

Pre-requisites

The candidate applying for accreditation in the specialty of Dental Public Health shall fulfil the following criteria:

- Successful completion of a formal basic specialist training (BST) programme or its equivalent¹, which is recognised by the Dental Specialists Accreditation Board (DSAB).
- Completion of advanced specialty training (AST) shall be considered after at least two years of full-time DPH practice locally (or overseas equivalent on a case-by-case basis) following completion of basic specialty training (BST).
- Completion of a minimum total duration of four years full-time DPH training comprising the basic specialty (BST) and advanced specialty (AST) training components.
- Fulfilment of the core component in Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for specialists and have a valid practising certificate registered with the Singapore Dental Council.
- Signed a declaration that the work and projects used for this accreditation are conducted by the candidate.
- Upon successful fulfilment of the above, present oneself for an assessment by the DPH Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee (DSAC). The assessment shall consist of two (2) sequential components:

Part 1: Candidates are required to fulfil at least five (two of which are compulsory) of the seven competencies detailed in Annex A. This will be done through a/an

- i) Review of a Logbook (Annex B)
- ii) Assessment of two completed DPH projects (Annex C)

Part 2:

- i) Exit Interview (Annex D)

¹ For candidates who had completed a part-time BST, the full-time equivalent of the part-time programme will be considered when assessing the minimum total duration of the combination of BST and AST. For example, a 2-year part-time BST may be equivalent to a 1-year full-time BST.

Candidates will only be allowed to proceed to Part 2 after they have passed Part 1 of the examination.

Re-Supplication

Re-supplication of Part 1: Assessment of Logbook and DPH Projects

Candidates who fail **Part 1** of the assessment of logbook and DPH projects will not be able to proceed to **Part 2**.

For re-supplication, the candidates will have to make good any shortcomings identified by DSAC (DPH) and re-submit the logbook and/or DPH projects, highlighting any changes since the last assessment, where appropriate.

Re-supplication of Part 2 : Write up and Exit interview

Candidates who pass **Part 1** but are unsuccessful at **Part 2** will be required to retake the full exit interview.

The DSAC requires one (1) hard copy and one (1) soft copy of all submissions. The hard copies may include high quality printouts of images or pictures as appropriate. The soft copies may contain videos, JPEGs of digitised images or pictures as appropriate and submitted in a thumb drive.

Submission Checklist

S/N	Document to be Submitted	Yes/No
01.	Basic Specialist Training (BST) Degree and Transcript	
02.	Logbook (not exceeding 30 pages) comprising <ol style="list-style-type: none">CV highlighting the candidate's BST qualifications and work experience during the Advanced Specialist Training (AST)List of accomplished DPH competencies using the format given in Table 1 of Annex BPortfolio of the candidate's AST experience with details described in Table 2 of Annex B	
03.	Translational DPH Projects completed during the candidate's AST. The candidate shall provide information of two projects completed during AST. These include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">A publication where the candidate is either the first or corresponding authorA DPH-related scientific study or project/programme conducted in Singapore The information should be provided with a covering table shown in Appendix 1 to Annex C.	

DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST COMPETENCIES

The competencies expected of a Dental Public Health (DPH) specialist include:

Competency	Details
Competency 1: Conduct oral health epidemiological surveys	Plan and/or conduct oral health epidemiological surveillance programmes (e.g. plan and implement a study of a population's oral disease burden and/or risk factors for oral diseases).
Competency 2 (Compulsory): Critique and address DPH-related issues in the Singapore context	Identify and critique dental public health issues in the context of Singapore's society, demographics and healthcare system. This should be based on a critical evaluation of the current evidence on oral health trends, policies, programmes, interventions and services.
Competency 3: Design DPH programmes and policies to improve oral health	Design oral health programmes and policies to improve the population's oral health. This could include the drawing up of proposals/plans for specific dental public health intervention(s) and/or writing grants for these proposals.
Competency 4: Implement DPH programmes	Implement and organise oral healthcare programmes that improve the population's oral health. This refers to the actual operationalisation of a plan and overseeing some aspects of its implementation and/or evaluation of the programme outcomes.
Competency 5: Identify and foster multi-sectoral collaborations to improve oral health	Collaborate within and beyond the healthcare sector to address determinants of oral health. This could include the holistic integration of oral healthcare into patients' medical care and/or inter-sectorial collaboration to tackle common risk factors.
Competency 6: Advocate the improvement of oral health	Champion and promote oral health in the population. For example, advocacy to improve the oral health of underserved communities.
Competency 7 (Compulsory): Conduct DPH research	Conduct scientific research on oral health topics of public health significance applicable to a Singaporean context.

The five competencies may be achieved with both translational DPH projects described in **Annex C**.

DPH SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION LOGBOOK

The logbook should contain no more than 30 pages and presented in Times New Roman font size 12 with 1.5 line spacing and 1" margins all round (left, right, top, bottom). The logbook must include the following:

- a. A concise and informative CV highlighting the candidate's BST qualifications as well as professional and work experiences acquired during AST. In addition, the candidate should provide a copy of the transcript of their DPH/Public Health BST programmes. The DSAC (DPH) will use the information in the CV to ascertain if the candidate has met the necessary BST and AST requirements.
- b. A list of the competencies accomplished during the course of the AST using the format shown in Table 1.
- c. A portfolio with details of the candidate's AST experiences, contributions and achievements in DPH aligned with at least five of the seven competencies (**Annex A**). Table 2 provides an overview of the information the candidate should provide for each competency. Apart from describing the candidate's accomplishments in DPH, the submission should also demonstrate a reflection by the candidate of his/her experiences highlighting the impact of the work, challenges faced and overcame, key lessons learned and what could have been done differently. The details must be presented in prose with appropriate headings to highlight details for each competency described.

Such information will allow the DSAC (DPH) to gain insights into the depth and breadth of the candidate's DPH experience.

Table 1. List of DPH Competencies Accomplished during AST

Competencies	Accomplished (Yes/No)
Competency 1: Conduct oral health epidemiological surveys	
Competency 2 (Compulsory): Critique and address DPH-related issues in the Singapore context	
Competency 3: Design DPH programmes and policies to improve oral health	
Competency 4: Implement DPH programmes	
Competency 5: Identify and foster multi-sectoral collaborations to improve oral health	
Competency 6: Advocate the improvement of oral health	
Competency 7 (Compulsory): Conduct DPH research	

Table 2. Details to be Provided to Map DPH Competencies to Candidates' AST Experiences and Accomplishments

Competencies	Candidate's work and professional experience (<i>i.e.</i> AST) in meeting the competencies, if any.	Candidate's reflection
Competency 1: Conduct oral health epidemiological surveys	Details of the candidate's work and professional experience in planning and/or conducting oral health epidemiological surveys.	Candidate's reflection of the impact of work, challenges and considerations of alternative ways of accomplishing the work
Competency 2 (Compulsory): Critique and address DPH-related issues in the Singapore context	Details of the candidate's experience in DPH-related policy development, planning, design, implementation and management of oral health/oral health promotion programmes or conduct of relevant research to address oral health issues in Singapore.	
Competency 3: Design DPH programmes and policies to improve oral health	Details of the candidate's experience in designing DPH programmes and policies. Where possible, the candidate should provide documentation by way of scientific publication or in-house policy documents to support the work of the candidate in this area.	
Competency 4: Implement DPH programmes	Details of the candidate's experience in the operationalisation, leadership and management of oral health programmes with a DPH focus. Where possible, the candidate should provide documentation by way of scientific publication or in-house policy documents to support the work of the candidate in this area.	
Competency 5: Identify and foster multi-sectoral collaborations to improve oral health	Details of the candidate's experience in such collaborative efforts within and beyond the healthcare sector to improve oral health.	
Competency 6: Advocate the improvement of oral health	Details of the candidate's experience and efforts in championing oral health and oral health promotion.	Candidate's reflection of the impact of work, challenges and considerations of alternative ways of accomplishing the work

Competencies	Candidate's work and professional experience (<i>i.e.</i> AST) in meeting the competencies, if any.	Candidate's reflection
Competency 7 (Compulsory): Conduct DPH research	Details of the candidate's list of scientific research efforts related to DPH and publications, if any, in peer-reviewed journals. For such research, it will be necessary to highlight which were initiated as part of BST and which were started during AST.	

TRANSLATIONAL DPH PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING AST

The candidate is required to submit two DPH projects completed during their AST and at least one of these projects has to be carried out locally in Singapore. Details of these projects are as follow:

- a. **Project One.** A publication in a peer-reviewed and reputable dental/medical/DPH/Public Health journal where the candidate must either be the first or corresponding author.
 - i. The candidate is required to submit the manuscript(s) in full including any supplementary materials. The candidate will need to detail his/her role(s) in the publication (e.g. designing the study, conducting the study, and analysing the findings).
- b. **Project Two.** This could be a completed DPH-related scientific research study or a DPH programme which has been conducted in Singapore. Regardless of whether it is a hypothesis-driven study or a programme, the candidate should have played a major role in its design, conduct, data gathering, analysis and evaluation (if it is a programme).
 - i. The study/programme could have been conducted in the public, private or people sector.
 - ii. The candidate is required to provide a submission of no more than 5000-words outlining the study/programme with the following sections, where appropriate
 - (a) Background
 - (b) Aims/Objectives
 - (c) Methodology/Details (e.g. what did the study/programme entail to support the aims and objectives; how was the study/programme implemented; the start and end date of the study/programme)
 - (d) Results/Programme Evaluation
 - (e) Conclusion and
 - (f) Future Recommendations

The candidate will also need to detail his/her role(s) in the study/programme.

Both projects must not be related to one another.

Appendix 1 to Annex C provides the template for submitting a cover table for both projects.

**TEMPLATE FOR COVER TABLE TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSION
OF COMPLETED DPH PROJECTS**

Project 1: The information provided in this table shall accompany the submitted publication.

Title of Publication	
Author(s) of Publication	
Journal in which Publication has been Published	
Year of Publication	
Volume of Publication and Pages	
Date of Commencement of Project leading to the Publication	
Date of Completion of Project leading to the Publication	
Role in the Publication	

Project 2: The information provided in this table shall accompany the details for the hypothesis-driven study or programme.

Title of Study/ Programme	
Year of Commencement for Study/Programme	
Year of Completion for Study/Programme	
Role in Study/ Programme	

FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION FOR SPECIALIST ACCREDITATION

The candidate will be given 30 minutes to review a case scenario which will require in-depth analysis of the issues and application of DPH concepts and principles to address these issues.

At the end of the 30-minute review of the scenario, the DSAC (DPH) will engage the candidate in a 90-minute oral examination.