

Diploma of Oral Surgery Residency Training Program in preparation for the “Fachzahnarzt in Oral Surgery” Specialty Examination in the Republic of Germany

Degree awarded:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diploma of Oral Surgery - Fachzahnarzt in Oral Surgery (after passing Fachzahnarzt exam) - (optional) Doctor med. dent.
Duration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 years Full-time for Diploma of Oral Surgery - 4 years Full-time if additional: Doctor med. dent.
Program Start-date	August 1 st and February 1 st of each year
Number of Applicants:	3 Dentists per year
How to apply:	<p>Please email or write to the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at RWTH Aachen University Hospital to receive a copy of the application.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> University Hospital Aachen Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Director: Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Dr. med. dent. Frank Hölzle Pauwelsstraße 30 52074 Aachen Tel.: 0241 80-88231 Fax: 0241 80-82430 mkg-chirurgie@ukaachen.de </p>
Tuition and Fees	Dentists - Full time (per annum): € 20,000

INTRODUCTION

The Diploma residency program in Oral Surgery is a three-year clinical course covering all aspects of Oral Surgery practice and leading to the award of Diploma in Oral Surgery from RWTH Aachen University Hospital. Moreover, the completion of the program entitles the applicant to sit the official Fachzahnarzt Examination in Oral Surgery administered by the Dental Association in the Republic of Germany. Residents enrolled in this program will be trained at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at RWTH Aachen University Hospital in North Rhine-Westphalia, and the program is under the direct supervision of University Professor Frank Hölzle, DMD, MD, PhD. Upon completion of the 3 year program and successfully passing the Fachzahnarzt examination, the dentist is officially recognized as a specialist in the field of Oral Surgery in the Republic of Germany.

OBJECTIVES

The residency program will enable the residents to:

1. Acquire the widest theoretical knowledge to be competent in the foundation for the practice of Oral Surgery and Maxillofacial Surgery.
2. Acquire the foundation and practical experience in Oral Surgery
3. To be competent to enter into further higher specialty training.
4. Effectively interface with other specialties and disciplines in patients requiring interdisciplinary management, especially in head and neck conditions, orthognathic surgery, cleft lip and palate management.

5. Acquire the experience to carry out research projects, critically evaluate scientific publications. and contribute clinical and research papers to journals and conferences.
6. Be able to conduct independent research.

Course Description

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is the specialty concerned with the diagnosis and management of diseases, injuries and defects affecting the mouth, jaws, face and neck. The program is based on the specialty of oral surgery but within the wider context of maxillofacial surgery. The three-year training program provides specialist oral surgery clinical training. Students undertake minor oral surgery under supervision, carried out under local anesthesia, conscious sedation and general anesthesia. They also attend theatre to assist and observe major surgery. Students attend consultation clinics, trauma clinics, and ward rounds. The program includes a 2 weeks clinical rotation in the field of Prosthodontics. Residents familiarize themselves with laboratory procedures for orthognathic surgery, cleft lip and palate surgery, fractures and maxillofacial prosthodontics.

The clinical component consists of the following modules:

Surgical Basic Sciences (Basic surgical science, preoperative, and postoperative care) and Patient Care (Assessing patients, medical aspects of patient care and control of pain and anxiety).

Reflective Oral Surgery Practices

- Dental Tissues (Infections and inflammation of the teeth and jaws, removal of teeth and surgical implantology)

- Bone: Disease and Injury (Diseases of bone and the maxillary sinus, oral and maxillofacial injuries)
- Soft Tissues (Cysts, mucosal disease, premalignancy and malignancy)
- Salivary Tissue, Pain and TMJ (Salivary gland disease, facial pain and disorders of the temporomandibular joint)

Scope of Training

The clinical training is conducted in a three-year training program in a major University Hospital accredited by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Dental Association. The accredited training post allows the candidates to sit the official oral surgery highest specialty examination (Fachzahnarzt Oral Surgery). The training program is designed to give knowledge and experience in clinical diagnosis, oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures as well as general medical and surgical exposure related to the discipline. The resident must work under supervisors appointed by the Director/ Co-Director of the Program. The three-year training program is conducted at RWTH Aachen University Hospital and the Basic Medical Sciences will be integrated in the teaching program.

Residents are expected to keep detailed records in a logbook of cases treated or assisted, under local or general anesthesia. During the clinical years in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery postings, residents are rostered for outpatient clinics; operations under local anesthesia and general anesthesia; emergency calls and the routines of admitting and preparing patients for surgical procedures.

Residents are rotated to the clinical departments of Prosthodontics for increased exposure to the prosthetic rehabilitation in Oral Surgery and Implantology.

Didactic Basic Medical and Clinical Science Course

Regular didactic sessions, clinical problem based approach seminars, OMS rounds, research meetings, combined clinics and Journal Clubs are provided and the residents are expected to participate actively.

The topics include the management of dento-alveolar conditions, maxillofacial trauma, facial deformity and orthognathic surgery, oral and jaw pathologies, benign and malignant neoplasms of the mouth and jaws; disorders of salivary glands and temporomandibular joints, and maxillofacial reconstruction.

Teaching Activities and Seminars:

All resident are expected throughout their training period to participate in the follow teaching activities:

1. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Service meeting: daily at 7:30am.
2. Journal Club: weekly on Wednesday morning.
3. Oral and Maxillofacial Board examination review topics: weekly on Friday mornings.
4. Continuing education – selected topics in oral and maxillofacial surgery: weekly on Friday afternoon.
5. Head and Neck Interdisciplinary Tumor Board (optional): weekly on Tuesday afternoon.

6. Interdisciplinary Center of Implantology (Case discussions):
weekly on Thursday afternoon.
7. Clinical educational ground round and major in-patients visit:
weekly on Wednesday afternoon.

Leadership and Teaching Opportunities

As part of their training, residents have the opportunity to be involved in the teaching of maxillofacial surgery to the undergraduates and participate in organizing local and international level educational courses administered by the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at RWTH Aachen University Hospital.

Courses and Educational Events:

To enhance and expand the theoretical and clinical knowledge, all residents are required to participate in the following educational courses and workshops for up-to-date learning within the field of Oral Surgery:

1. **International EUREGIO Course for Implantology and Bone Augmentation on Human Cadavers:** The dentists will have a chance to perform operations on fresh frozen cadavers with preservation of natural tissue characteristics, and presentation of surgical and implantology specific solutions in typical clinical situations.
2. **ITI Education Week Bern (Switzerland) Evidence-Based Clinical Concepts in Implant Dentistry:** a comprehensive one-week educational course encompassing the evidence-based treatment concepts.

3. **An optional international course/workshop** pertaining to the practice of oral surgery.

Clinical Electives:

Residents have the opportunity to carry on an optional clinical elective posting for up to 3 months in an area of focus within the expanded scope of practice in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery including:

- Head and Neck Oncology and Maxillofacial Reconstruction
- Preprosthetic Surgery
- Implantology
- Oral Pathology
- Laser in Oral Surgery
- Maxillofacial Prosthodontics
- Cleft lip/Palate and Craniofacial Surgery
- Laboratory Sciences

Research and the additional “Doctor med. dent.” degree

Residents are required to undertake a research project and to present the result for examination in form of a thesis. They are encouraged to present and publish the result of the project in refereed journals.

Residents have the opportunity to apply for the title of “Doctor med. dent.” and complete the required research. For applicants interested in this, the training program is extended to a 4 year program to allow for simultaneous and integrated research toward achieving the degree. The conducted research project can be arranged in accordance with the research requirements by the Faculty of Medicine for the subsequent award of the “Doctor med. dent.” degree at the end of the 4th year.

Assessment and Examinations

- Semi-annual Review of Performance and Assessment:

The resident's performance is reviewed every six months. Residents who do not make the requisite progress are given direction for improvement. The residency may be terminated if progress does not ensue. Continual assessment takes place over the entire period of the residency program. After each posting, performance is graded by the resident's supervisor.

- Diploma Exit Examination and Assessment

All residents will be assessed at the end of the residency-training program by the examination committee through an oral and written examination. The examination covers the full scope of the specialty and is directed mainly at the educational material delivered during the 3 years of residency training.

After completing the clinical training program and successfully passing the exit examination administration by the examination committee, the applicant is awarded the "Diploma of Oral Surgery" through the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery at RWTH Aachen University Hospital. The applicants would also receive simultaneous approval to sit the official Fachzahnarzt Examination in Oral Surgery administered by the Dental Association of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany). Passing the Fachzahnarzt Examination in Oral Surgery entitles the applicant to receive the official Fachzahnarzt in Oral Surgery Specialty certificate, which is the highest dental specialty exam in the Republic of Germany, and is in fact the same certificate that is awarded to German doctors.

Residents will only be permitted to sit for the Fachzahnarzt examination after having satisfied the requirements and expectations of the supervisors

and Director/Co-Director of the Oral Surgery Program, and after award of the Diploma of Oral Surgery.

Program Start-date

The Oral Surgery training program starts on August 1st and February 1st of each year. No admission is allowed within the intervening period. The admission date can be deferred for up to a year with the approval of the residency program director. The duration of the clinical program is 36 months.

Admission requirements

To be considered for the Diploma program, the applicant must:

1. Provide evidence of a primary dental degree from a recognized institution and show high scholastic achievement during their studies.
2. Provide updated resume/curriculum vitae either in the English or German language.
3. Have a minimum of two years post-graduation clinical experience as a dentist.
4. Have German language level B2.2.
5. Have successfully obtained a temporary or permanent license to practice Dentistry in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

** The program director can arrange for language course preparation to reach B2.2 level at a certified language center, along with arrangement for subsequent preparation courses in medical language skills in the German language for preparation for the required licensing exams.*

Residency Training Program Expenses and Fees

For entry in the academic year beginning either August 1st or February 1st, tuition fees are as follows:

Dentists - Full time (per annum): € 20,000

The fees quoted above include all course tuition, residency program expenses, research fees, and administrative and computational costs during the course. The fees must be paid in full before the commencement of the program.

Oral Surgery training program competencies

The list of competencies achieved in the three years of oral surgery training is as follows:

Core clinical competencies

1. Dentoalveolar Surgery

- 1.1 Extraction of teeth & retained roots; pathology and management of associated complications including oro-antral fistula.
- 1.2 Management of odontogenic and all other oral infections.
- 1.3 Management of impacted teeth; management of complications.
- 1.4 Peri-radicular surgery.
- 1.5 Dentoalveolar surgery in relation to orthodontic treatment.
- 1.6 Management of dento-alveolar trauma and familiarity with the management and treatment of fractures of the jaws and facial skeleton.

- 1.7 The diagnosis of dentofacial deformity and familiarity with its management and treatment.
2. Intraoral Oncology and Oral mucosal lesions
 - 2.1 Intraoral and labial biopsy techniques.
 - 2.2 Treatment of intra-oral benign and cystic lesions of hard and soft tissues.
 - 2.3 Clinical diagnosis of oral cancer and potentially malignant diseases, familiarity with their management and appropriate referral.
 - 2.4 Diagnosis of oral mucosal diseases and familiarity with their management.
3. Salivary glands diseases
 - 3.1 Management of benign salivary gland disease through intra-oral techniques and familiarity with the diagnosis.
 - 3.2 Treatment of other salivary gland diseases.
4. Implants and bone augmentation
 - 4.1 Insertion of osseointegrated dental implants
 - 4.2 Bone augmentation and soft tissue management.
5. Pain managements and temporomandibular disorders
 - 5.1 Appropriate pain and anxiety control including the administration of standard conscious sedation techniques.
 - 5.2 Management of oro-facial pain including temporomandibular joint disorders.
6. Treatment of inpatients and medically compromised patients
 - 6.1 Management of adults and children as inpatients.
 - 6.2 Management of medically at-risk patients.