

## Frequently Asked Questions – Limited/Special Registration

### **(I) Eligibility**

#### **1) *Who can apply for limited registration according to the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Cap. 156, Laws of Hong Kong?***

Dentists trained outside Hong Kong who meet the following criteria can apply for limited registration with the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“Dental Council”):

- (a) the applicant has been selected for –
  - (i) full-time employment as a person with limited registration in a Schedule 4 institution; or
  - (ii) an employment or an employment of a type determined under section 9E of the Dentists Registration Ordinance;
- (b) the applicant has obtained a recognized non-Hong Kong qualification;
- (c) the applicant has had adequate and relevant full-time post-qualification clinical experience;
- (d) unless the applicant is a person with limited registration or a person with special registration when the application is made, or was such a person at any time before the application is made – the applicant is registered as a dentist under the law of a place outside Hong Kong;
- (e) the applicant has not been refused, under section 7A(3) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, to take the Licensing Examination; and
- (f) the applicant is of good character.

#### **2) *Who can apply for special registration according to the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Cap. 156, Laws of Hong Kong?***

Dentists trained outside Hong Kong who meet the following criteria can apply for special registration with the Dental Council:

- (a) the applicant has been selected for full-time employment as a person with special registration in a Schedule 5 institution;
- (b) the applicant has obtained a recognized non-Hong Kong qualification;
- (c) either –
  - (i) the applicant has been awarded a Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”) in the specialty of dental surgery; or
  - (ii) HKAM has certified that the applicant has attained a professional standard equivalent to that recognized by HKAM for the award of a Fellowship of HKAM in the specialty of dental surgery;
- (d) the applicant has had adequate and relevant full-time post-qualification clinical experience;
- (e) unless the applicant is a person with limited registration or a person with special registration when the application is made, or was such a person at any time before the application is made – the applicant is registered as a dentist under the law of a place outside Hong Kong;

- (f) the applicant has not been refused, under section 7A(3) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, to take the Licensing Examination; and
- (g) the applicant is of good character.

**3) Which institutions are authorized to employ non-locally trained dentists under limited/special registration?**

At present, the specified institutions include –

- (i) Department of Health
- (ii) Hospital Authority
- (iii) The University of Hong Kong
- (iv) Prince Philip Dental Hospital
- (v) 34 non-governmental organisations as promulgated under the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 4 and 5) Notice 2025  
*[Please refer to the Council's website for details via the following link:  
[https://www.dchk.org.hk/pdf/Amendment\\_of\\_Schedules\\_4\\_and\\_5\\_eng.pdf](https://www.dchk.org.hk/pdf/Amendment_of_Schedules_4_and_5_eng.pdf)]*
- (vi) Vocational Training Council

## **(II) Application Procedures**

### **4) *How can a non-locally trained dentist apply for limited/special registration?***

An applicant should submit the duly completed application form for limited/special registration together with originals and photocopies or notarised copies that are duly legalised/authenticated (i.e. a copy of the original document certified by a qualified person, such as Commissioner for Oaths, Solicitor or Barrister in Hong Kong, Notary Public outside Hong Kong, etc.) of the required documents (either in person or by post) to the applicant's employing institution. Please refer to the respective application form for the required documents.

### **5) *Is it possible for an applicant to submit his/her application directly to the Dental Council?***

No. Only submission via the employing institution will be accepted.

### **6) *Is an applicant required to pay any application fee?***

No application fee is required. Upon approval for limited/special registration, the applicant will be required to pay HK\$4,855 (the prescribed fees for registration of HK\$4,110 and practising certificate of HK\$745) in accordance with the Dentists Registration (Fees) Regulation. The fees are subject to revision.

### **7) *Is there an application deadline?***

Applications are accepted and processed all year around.

### **(III) Vetting Procedures**

#### **8) *How long does it take for an applicant to receive the result of his/her application?***

Upon receipt of a complete application, i.e. a duly completed application form with **all** required supporting documents and information, submitted by the employing institution, it is expected that the employing institution will be notified of the result in about four to six weeks' time. The time taken to process an application counts from the point when the employing institution has submitted the complete application on behalf of the applicant, and when all clarifications have been made regarding the application, where applicable. Partially or incorrectly complete applications will incur delay in processing.

#### **9) *Will the applicant be informed if his/her application is incomplete or contains inconsistent information?***

If the application is incomplete or contains inconsistent information, the Dental Council will require the applicant/employing institution to provide supplementary information and/or clarify the discrepancy. This may result in prolonged processing time of the application.

#### **10) *How can an applicant enquire his/her application status?***

The Dental Council will normally inform the respective employing institutions directly about any outstanding action of the applications (e.g. provision of supplementary information/supporting documents or clarification for inconsistent information). They will also be notified directly about the results of applications. An applicant should approach his/her employing institution for any enquiries about the application status.

**(IV) Validity / Restrictions**

***11) What is the validity period of the limited/special registration of a dentist?***

The limited/special registration will take effect from a date specified by the Dental Council, and last for a period not exceeding three years. The validity period will be specified in the approval letter and the Certificate of Registration to be issued to the registrant.

***12) When does the limited/special registration of a dentist expire?***

The limited/special registration of a dentist is in force until the earliest of the following –

- (a) the expiry of the registration period not exceeding three years;
- (b) the termination of the person's employment in the specified institution; or
- (c) the removal of the person's name from the General Register under an order made by the Dental Council.

***13) Are there any restrictions on the types of dental services that can be provided by dentists with limited/special registration?***

It is stipulated in sections 9D(3)(b) and 9K(3)(b) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance that the Dental Council may impose any condition that the Dental Council considers appropriate. Dentists with limited/special registration are required to comply with the conditions imposed by the Dental Council.

## **(V) Regulatory Regime**

### ***14) Are dentists with limited/special registration subject to the regulatory regime of the Dental Council?***

Yes. In accordance with section 2 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, dentists with limited/special registration are registered dentists and all registered dentists are subject to the regulatory regime of the Dental Council.

### ***15) Are dentists with limited/special registration required to fulfill continuing professional development requirements set by the Dental Council?***

Yes. In accordance with section 11A(1) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, a registered dentist must not practise as dentist in Hong Kong unless the registered dentist holds a valid practising certificate. It is also stipulated in section 11A(2A) that if the applicant for a practising certificate is a person with limited registration or a person with special registration, the Dental Council must not issue a practising certificate to the applicant unless it is satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirement regarding continuing professional development determined by the Dental Council as applicable to the applicant. The Dental Council will announce details of the continuing professional development requirements in due course.

### ***16) Where can the public access information on the list of dentists with limited/special registration?***

The list of dentists with limited/special registration is available on the website of the Dental Council.

**(VI) Others**

***17) Can a dentist with limited registration migrate to special registration after a specified duration?***

No. A dentist with limited registration is not eligible for migrating to special registration. The person, who meets the criteria for special registration, should submit a fresh application for special registration. For the eligibility of special registration, please refer to Question 2 above.

***18) Can a dentist with limited/special registration change the employment institution during the validity period of the limited/special registration?***

No. The validity of the limited/special registration will expire upon the termination of the person's employment in the specified institution. The dentist should make a fresh application for limited/special registration through the new specified institution with full-time employment.

***19) Can limited/special registration be extended beyond the initial validity period? What are the extension or renewal procedures and requirements for limited/special registration?***

There is no extension or renewal of the registration status for limited/special registration. If the dentist wishes to continue afterwards in the type of employment for which limited/special registration is granted, the dentist must apply for limited/special registration afresh three months before expiry of the current term of limited/special registration.

***20) Is a dentist with limited/special registration eligible for full registration after a specified period of time?***

Yes. A person is eligible for full registration if he/she –

- (a) has worked under full-time employment as a person with limited registration in one or more Schedule 4 institutions or as a person with special registration in one or more Schedule 5 institutions for at least 5 years in aggregate;
- (b) is certified by the institution, or by all the institutions, to have satisfactorily served as a dentist during the employment period by reference to the criteria specified by the Dental Council; and
- (c) satisfies the condition specified in Schedule 10 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, i.e. for a person with limited registration, the person has passed the clinical part of the Licensing Examination; for a person with special registration, the person has passed, or been exempted from, the clinical part of the Licensing Examination.

***21) What actions should the employing institution take if the employment of a dentist with limited/special registration is terminated?***

The employing institution should notify the Dental Council by submitting the supporting document (e.g. letter on termination of employment) by email or post immediately.

**The Dental Council Hong Kong  
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Note: If there is any inconsistency or ambiguity between the English version and the Chinese version, the English version shall prevail.