

\_Since 2003, IMC Münster at Münster University has offered a master degree entitled "Master of Oral Medicine in Implantology". This Master Degree is internationally accredited by the "Akkreditierungsrat" in accordance with the "Bologna Criteria". The course consists of a web-based part on the one hand and a high amount of practical training on the other.

As the oldest professional non-profit association in implantology, the German Association of Dental Implantology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahnärztliche Implantologie, DGZI) focuses its activities on the continuing education and training of dentists practicing in the field of implantology. The objective of these activities is the improvement of both quality and quality assurance as well as the safety of therapies in the interest of patients. Furthermore, they aim at providing factual information on existing therapeutic possibilities of implant-based tooth replacement.

DGZI curriculum graduates can now enroll in the 5<sup>th</sup> "Master of Oral Medicine in Implantology" course offered at special conditions and in English at Münster University since 2004. The international course is based on a cooperation agreement between DGZI/GBOI (German Board of Oral Implantology) and IMC Münster University, Germany. It is designed as an in-service training for practicing dentists and offers continuing practical, university-level education.

Within the field of dentistry, implantology has increasingly emerged as an area of specialization in its own right. The goal of the post-graduate university training course "Master of Oral Medicine in Implantology" for dentists is to provide students with indepth, application-oriented scientific knowledge and practical skills in the areas of oral surgery and implantology. Its focus is placed on indication, planning, symptoms and surgery, as well as post-operative care, its association with prosthetics, as well as general diseases and other individual disciplines in dental and oral diseases and maxillofacial surgery. The course particularly aims at the connection between theory and practice in the area of invasive surgical procedures. Students will be able to offer state-of-the-art oral surgery and implantology, consistent with forensic ethical standards.

The continuing education provided by the DGZI curriculum is recognized by a reduction of the tuition fee for the "Master of Oral Medicine in Implantology" course by almost one third of the total costs. The master course will have a duration of 24 months for DGZI curriculum graduates.

All conditions outlined in the official examination regulations of Münster University regarding the "Master of Oral Medicine in Implantology" must be fulfilled. This means that written examinations and case documentation must be completed. Case documentation takes place under supervision by DGZI/GBOI and includes the corresponding specifications of indication and documentation regulations (master thesis, defense and expert discussion). A professor serves as mentor for writing the master thesis.

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