



Guide to Doctors' Qualifications

Basic Medical Qualifications

The Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degrees are the basic medical qualifications of doctors awarded by universities. They may be written in different ways:

MBBCh – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
MBChB – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
MBChirB – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
MBBS – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

Doctors may extend their academic studies with other qualifications:

BSc – Bachelor of Science
MD and PhD – Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy are higher degrees in Medicine and Science awarded for research work carried out over a minimum of three years.

Higher Medical and Surgical Qualifications

The Medical Royal Colleges make awards at several levels for doctors who undertake further specialist training. Doctors may undertake a short specialist course and be awarded a diploma. These include:

DCH – Diploma in Child Health
DFFP – Diploma Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Medicine
DFSRH – Diploma of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health
DRCOG – Diploma Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
DPM – Diploma in Palliative Medicine
DDerm – Diploma in Dermatology
Dip PCR – Diploma in Primary Care Rheumatology
DipIMC – Diploma in Immediate Care

More extended study and examination leads to Membership of a Medical Royal College. Examples include:

MFFM – Member of the Faculty of Family Medicine at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
MRCGP – Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners
MRCOG – Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
MRC EM – Member of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine
MRCP – Member of the Royal College of Physicians
MRCS – Member of the Royal College of Surgeons

Doctors may go on to become a Fellow of a Royal College. These include:

FRCGP – Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners
FRCP – Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians
FRCS – Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons

South Brent Health Centre, Plymouth Road, South Brent, TQ10 9HT

Tel: 01364 72394

e-mail: 183075.communications@nhs.net