

European Prosthodontic Association (EPA) Specialization in Prosthodontics

EPA Specialist Recognition in Prosthodontics.

1. Group 1: Automatic recognition of any legal nationally approved European prosthodontic specialist.
2. Group 2: “Direct recognition” of any dentist who has passed a Prosthodontic Specialization Training Programme that has been judged by the EPA Specialization Committee (EPASC) to have a standard that is of the same level as those in countries with legal national recognition (see validation process below).
3. Group 3: Individual recognition after evaluation of the submitted documentation and presentation of eight clinical case studies and their defense before the EPASC.

Validation Process of Postgraduate Programmes in Prosthodontics Leading to the Award of EPA Recognized Specialist in Prosthodontics (Group 2).

A) Submission of Master’s Programme Curriculum.

An extended and comprehensive version, in English, of the master’s programme curriculum is to be submitted to specialistcommittee@epadental.net for evaluation by the EPASC. The EPASC refers to a document outlining the expected qualities of a specialist prosthodontics taught curriculum which is available on the EPA website. This document is used as a benchmark to assess adherence to EPA guidelines and is updated periodically.

B) Application Fee.

A non-refundable 500 Euros application fee, payable through the specified channels outlined on the EPA website is to be paid at the time of the application submission. Proof of this transaction is to be emailed the honorary secretary of the EPASC.

Bank Transfer	Beneficiary Name: EPA European Prosthodontic Association IBAN: GR740570000000551387801312 Bank: VIVABANK S.A.	
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C) Requirements to be Met by Candidate Programmes.

1. Programme Duration and Credits.

The postgraduate programme must be accredited by the appropriate accreditation body in each country and must have a duration of 3 years (6 semesters), with a total of 120 to 180 ECTS credits (40 to 60 ECTS/year), where 1 ECTS corresponds to 25 hours of workload.

Currently, numerous European universities do not provide three-year master's degree programmes. Consequently, it is feasible to complete the requisite training through a two-level programme in such instances:

-First Programme: A complete two-year 120 ECTS (60 ECTS/year) postgraduate programme that provides advanced training in prosthodontics, laying the necessary foundation for specialization.

-Second Programme: A one-year complementary programme (60 ECTS) designed to deepen the initial training and complete the training necessary for full specialization in prosthodontics.

The programme should integrate didactic, clinical, and research components throughout the duration.

2. Curriculum and Structure.

The programme should offer content that guarantees comprehensive training in prosthodontics, covering all the fundamental and advanced aspects necessary to develop the essential skills and competencies in this specialty, including both classical procedures and mastery of the new technologies that are revolutionizing the field of prosthetics.

Didactic Component: It should include theoretical courses covering advanced topics on dental materials, dental prosthetics, and occlusion concepts, as well as knowledge of all sciences related to prosthodontics, such as periodontics, orthodontics, endodontics, etc.

Clinical Component: Practical training in all dental procedures, including both conventional and digital workflows, should form the core of the programme.

Research Component: A research project culminating in a publishable paper should be conducted.

3. Faculty Qualifications.

The faculty should consist of recognized experts in prosthodontics with significant clinical experience and an active involvement in research. The programme director should have a minimum of 10 years' experience and hold a PhD or equivalent academic standing and

be certified by the EPA as a Specialist in Prosthodontics (see website instructions: europrosthodontics.org).

4. Clinical Training.

Supervision: Clinical training must be closely supervised by experienced prosthodontists.

Case Requirements: Students should complete a significant number of diverse prosthodontic cases, including complex rehabilitations, to ensure comprehensive hands-on experience.

D) Guidelines for Accreditation of the Candidate Prosthodontic Specialization Programme.

Upon review and validation of the programme by the EPASC, the following steps will be followed to accredit the master's programme:

1. Clinical Case Submission.

Upon programme approval, the course director will facilitate the submission of three completed comprehensive prosthodontic clinical cases as PDF or PowerPoint presentations for remote evaluation by the EPASC.

2. Minimum Requirements and Template.

Reference can be made to a separate document outlining minimum requirements for case presentation. An optional template is available on the EPA website as a presentation guide. For this examination, the EPASC has agreed that each candidate should submit two cases from the compulsory cases section and one other case of the candidate's choice. The programme director must ensure that the full range of cases is presented across the graduating cohort. This will enable the EPASC to better evaluate the diversity of the programme.

3. Face-to-face Oral Evaluation.

Once cases are approved, a face-to-face oral evaluation session will be organized by the programme director at the home institution or another convenient location. A delegation consisting of two or three members from the EPASC will be appointed to visit the candidate master's programme faculty for the purpose of faculty inspection and oral evaluation of the graduating cohort's defense of their clinical cases. Information technology services must be available for live streaming to the remaining EPASC members during the oral evaluation session.

4. Expenses Covered by the Master's Programme.

All expenses incurred by the EPASC members travelling for the evaluation visit, including flights and accommodation, will be covered by the candidate master's programme.

E) Automatic Accreditation for Graduates.

If the evaluation process is deemed satisfactory, the programme will be granted accreditation for the following nine years. During this period, graduates will receive automatic recognition via the group 2 pathway, provided they apply individually by following the steps outlined in the EPA document "Application for Specialty Recognition."

F). Programme Revalidation Process.

The accreditation must be renewed every nine years to ensure ongoing compliance with the established standards.