

Basic Medical Qualifications

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

BM BCh – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

MBBCh - Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

MBChB Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

MBChirB - Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

MBBS - Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

Alternative basic medical qualifications are awarded by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons. These are:

LRCP - Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians

LRCS - Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons

Other academic qualifications

Doctors may extend their academic studies with other qualifications:

BSc - Bachelor of Science a basic science degree

FP Cert – Family Planning Certificate

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. Diplomas include:

Dip Av Med - Diploma in Aviation Medicine

DCH - Diploma in Child Health

DFFP - Diploma Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Medicine

Dip Occ Med - Diploma in Occupational Medicine

Dip Orthopaedic medicine (treatment of diseased or injured bones)

Dip Rheumatology (study of disease causing inflammation, pain and stiffening joints)

Dip Therapeutics- Diploma in the use of drugs in the practice of medicine

DRCOG - Diploma Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

DPM or Dip Pall - Diploma in Palliative Medicine

Dip Ther - Diploma in Therapeutics

DDerm - Diploma in Dermatology

Dip Sports Medicine - Diploma in Sports Medicine

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 of qualifications 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

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. Qualifications 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