

Doctors' Qualifications Explained

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:

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| 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:

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| 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:

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| BSc | Bachelor of Science a basic science degree |
| MD & 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:

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| 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 / 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:

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| 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:

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| 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 |