



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA 2021. – 2025.

The Dental Medicine Program was established in 1973 at the Faculty of Medicine University of Rijeka has been operating continuously since then. In 2008, the name of the study program was changed due to the obligation of the Croatian legislation to adopt Directive 2005/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications of September 7, 2005. Since then, the program has been called Dentistry. The change from a five-year program with 300 ECTS to a six-year program with 360 ECTS is a result of the evaluation of the European Commission's Peer Mission, which took place from October 7 to 10, 2008. July 2008 took place. These changes to the study programs are part of the provisionally closed negotiation chapter 3, in which the European Commission seeks insight into the study programs for the purpose of technical harmonization, i.e., harmonization of the minimum requirements for the acquisition of qualifications obtained upon completion of these study programs. Dental Medicine is a regulated profession for which there is a continuous demand in the private sector.

The level that the Study of Dental Medicine has reached in 46 years of progressive activity in science and higher education has logically and rightly highlighted for its further development the need to change the formal and organisational framework - the establishment of a new



component of the University of Rijeka, the Faculty of Dental Medicine. It provides for the strengthening of teaching and scientific research, brings additional promotion of internationalisation as a proven development flywheel, greater integration of expert bases and existing scientific staff, integration of regional economic units and greater fulfilment of public health priorities. The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine in Rijeka supported this initiative in its meeting on June 11, 2019, and the Senate of the University of Rijeka also supported it in its meeting on July 23, 2019. The Faculty of Dental Medicine of the University of Rijeka started its independent work on March 1, 2020. The development strategy of the Faculty of Dental Medicine is based on the strategy of the University of Rijeka.

1. MISSION

The Faculty of Dental Medicine at the University of Rijeka will contribute to building a regional development ecosystem based on knowledge, excellence and innovation in education, research and treatment. The mission of the Faculty, as a public educational and scientific institution, is to educate students of dental medicine, dental hygiene and, in the future, dental technology, as well as in interdisciplinary areas, in order to provide them with knowledge and skills. The mission is aligned with the areas and priorities of intelligent specialisation of the University of Rijeka, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and its national strategy. The specialised project is aligned with the European and national strategy for the development of higher education and science. An important place is given to the mobility of students and teachers, which meets the requirements of the European higher education system and the EU market.



2. VISION

In the field of education, the Faculty of Dental Medicine of the University of Rijeka will be a recognisable and competitive higher education institution, adapted to the needs of the market, with a clear development strategy based on learning outcomes.

In the field of scientific research, the Faculty of Dental Medicine will be a scientific core, which will be an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary centre linked to basic sciences and clinical medicine, both within the University of Rijeka and with other universities in the Republic of Croatia, but also within the European Union and beyond.

3. SWOT analysis

3.1. Advantages

- A significant number of staff in associated, scientific and scientific teaching positions
- Creation of conditions for the development of internationally recognized researchers working in relevant scientific fields (specialty: dentistry, branches: pediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine, Endodontics and Restorative Dental Medicine, Morphology of the Stomatognathic System, Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Dental Prosthodontics)
- Well developed international collaboration and involvement in international cooperation and mobility programs
- Interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary of the research field and resulting specific expertise.



3.2. Disadvantages

- Lack of working space and equipment for research
- Insufficient number of international scientific projects
- Insufficient number of professional services staff
- Underdeveloped administrative support for research
- Limitations in the employment system
- Insufficient mobility of faculty and students

3.3. Opportunities

- Creation of links with major foreign universities through joint research and development projects
- Connection with local, domestic and international companies and partnerships with the public and private sectors
- Use of new spaces and capacities
- Establishment of a scientific faculty system based on achievements in developed areas
- Use of infrastructure funds
- Connection with former students of the faculty
- Cooperation with other members of the University of Rijeka and use of scientific infrastructure on the university campus.
- Improving the model of rewarding and stimulating the best scientists, teachers and other staff members.

3.4. Dangers

- Insufficient funding of research from the state budget
- Insufficient adaptation to modern trends in education and science
- High competitiveness of biomedical research in the world



4. Strategic goals of the Faculty of Dental Medicine of University of Rijeka

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Science and research
- ✓ Organization
- ✓ Public function

4.1. Education

Teaching as a core activity of the Faculty must be continuously improved. It must be adapted and oriented to students and their needs, while being aligned with the requirements of the labor market. Learning outcomes should be the basis for substantial improvement in teaching, so collaboration between faculty and students must be ensured. Learning outcomes should be based on real needs, they must be implementable in the teaching process and harmonized with other higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia offering related study programs. It is important to acquire practical knowledge and skills by creating brochures for all study programs. In the near future, content integration in the horizontal and vertical sense will be of great importance. In this way, possible overlaps will be avoided and qualitative integration of teaching content will be possible. It is necessary to provide and improve all the necessary teaching infrastructure to make it easier for both students and teachers to achieve the best possible results in the teaching process. It is necessary to provide and improve all the necessary teaching infrastructure to make it easier for both students and teachers to achieve the best possible results in the teaching process. In order to improve the teaching process, it is important to improve the competencies of teachers through continuous training of all teachers and assistants. The



educational goals highlighted in the Higher Education Strategy also include increasing the number of EU students from countries outside the Republic of Croatia by the number of full-time or part-time students from other EU countries to the desired percentage (3% of the total number of students) and increasing the number of students who are not from EU countries by the number of full-time or part-time students from countries outside the EU to the targeted percentage of 10% of the total number of students. Due to the rapid development of the dental profession, which includes new technologies, the development of new study programmes is planned. There are also plans to establish and develop a digital technologies laboratory that will allow students to learn new technologies and teachers to improve their skills. In the spirit of lifelong learning, continuing education courses for dentists are held every year in cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Dentistry.

4.2. Science and Research

The scientific and research work of the Faculty is developmentally defined by the adoption of the Science Development Strategy 2020 - 2025. According to the strategy, the scientific mission of the Faculty of Dental Medicine is to facilitate the acquisition of new and relevant knowledge based on the results of scientific research, to improve the education of students, future teachers, researchers and clinicians, to improve dental practise and thus contribute to the development of society as a whole. The Faculty will systematically raise the scientific level and strive to improve the quality of research, as well as strive for European and world standards of excellence in research. In this way, it will be a respectable factor in the national and European environment. It will work on the networking of higher education institutions at the European



and world level to collaborate on research projects and innovations. Numerous researches at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of the University of Rijeka are aimed at introducing new methods of preventive dentistry and improving diagnostic possibilities. The interest of the scientific public in new methods of preventive dentistry and diagnostics is constantly increasing. Detailed experimental and clinical studies are necessary to create new possibilities for preventive and diagnostic procedures, which ultimately help to improve the knowledge of dentists and make clinical work more successful.

4.3. Organization

In terms of organization, it is necessary to increase the spatial capacity, which is being worked on in cooperation with the University and the City of Rijeka. Additional premises have been acquired at Krešimirova 42, which need to be equipped in order to improve the quality of the teaching process. It is necessary to ensure transparent and systematic monitoring of human resources development. The Faculty must develop in accordance with the highest standards of management and quality assurance, and the necessary conditions for this are the adoption of a set of implementing documents that ensure the recognition and promotion of excellence in all organizational units.

4.4. Public function

Through scientific training at postgraduate professional, scientific and doctoral levels, it will contribute, at the local level but also at the state level, to the creation of a highly qualified and professional dental staff



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necessary for the development of all forms of health services. In this way, it would be possible to improve the level of health services and new methods of preventive dental medicine and diagnostics. It is necessary to develop and improve cooperation with local government and self-government units and civil society institutions.