



## EAO Master Diploma



Martin Morley



Javed Ikram



Martin Morley and Javed Ikram have just completed the EAO Master Diploma in Implant Dentistry and received their diplomas during the award ceremony at the EAO congress in Berlin October 2023. We caught up with them to talk about their experiences during this 3-year program that combines online training with face-to-face learning at six of Europe’s most prestigious universities.

Martin Morley works as a dentist in a specialist private practice in Edinburgh. He has been working in implant dentistry for a long time and was given the role to review the implant treatments and complications in his clinic. Morley compared his findings against outcomes in the published literature, and this research sparked a desire to learn more.

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Module at University of Madrid, Spain – Hands-on training.



Javed Ikram is a general practitioner and implantologist based in Lancashire, England. He has practiced implant surgery since 2002. Ikram has continuously taken part in postgraduate education and came across the EAO master diploma when searching for an advanced-level program to further improve his skills. Ikram was attracted by the multicenter approach and the possibility to learn first-hand from authors of scientific papers and visiting their respective centers of excellence.

Both Morley and Ikram were impressed with the set-up of the Master Diploma program “The program was very well-structured, starting with simple implant cases and progressing over the 3 years to more advanced ones. Each center was picked due to its strength in that field. Furthermore, each center was very welcoming, and one left with a feeling of having made good friends and being respected as a clinician,” says Morley.

The combination of theory, practice, and both online and on-site learning suited them both. Morley particularly appreciated the residential visits. “While you can gain insights from online lectures, the optimal learning experience and team ethos are truly best encountered on site. And there is better opportunity to ask questions in this multidimensional learning program.”

Ikram particularly appreciated seeing how the treatments were performed, because he was able to see methods implemented in practice instead of just on a webinar or in a lecture. “Live learning and mentoring provided possibilities to meet the professors and ask their advice. It also helped networking between researchers and the participants. This is not possible through online education!” says Ikram.

The program has clear learning aims, and participants need to complete tasks in preparation for the residential visits. A wide array of videos and reading material were supplied before and after the visits. Participants also have access to the EAO library and the EAO journals: *Clinical Oral Implants Research* and *International Journal of Prosthodontics*.



Module at University of Frankfurt, Germany – Live surgery.

One of Morley’s colleagues recommended the EAO Master Diploma program. Morley explored the EAO program and found an exciting and unique opportunity: The chance to be part of an international collaboration, visiting expert teams of clinicians and researchers across six universities. This experience differed from the usual routine of engaging with a single implant unit.



Series 4 participants during module in Malmö, Sweden.

“The tasks were not too difficult or time-consuming, and you can do your prelearning in your own time,” says Ikram. But he stresses the importance of completing the clinical cases in between the learning modules. Morley agrees, “You needed the time between visits to absorb and implement the learning and perform your own cases.”

The course is at an advanced level, suitable for clinicians with experience in placing implants. Ikram was part of the first cohort in the EAO First certificate in implant dentistry and strongly recommends that participants do this course first because it provides the theoretical grounding and an introduction to some of the professors they will meet in the 3-year master’s course. Morley also recommends having support from colleagues in the form of a mentor in the clinic. Both Morley and Ikram appreciated the mentoring sessions by the units’ clinicians and professors after each residential event.

Finally, they highlight the significance of the social dimension in the learning experience. They continue to

stay in touch with some of the mentors and professors and appreciate the ability to consult with them for treatment planning and other advice. Their group has forged lifelong friends; Morley is hosting an event in Edinburgh for the group and Ikram suggested forming a WhatsApp group to support each other.

The program has provided them with a new level of confidence and motivation for further learning and perhaps even research collaboration.

“Learning is an ongoing process!” says Morley. Ikram expresses that maintaining ongoing collaboration with the EAO as a diplomate can contribute to our development as future mentors, lecturers, and researchers. The EAO remains our steadfast implant family, and our aspiration is to maintain an integral role within its vibrant community.

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