

PRACTICELIFE

It's back to school – again!

In a new monthly blog, **Nilesh Parmar** shares his first-hand experiences of working as an implant dentist while taking on the rigours of studying for an executive MBA

I think I am a total glutton for punishment – I really am.

Last year, life was going well for me working as a busy implant dentist, lots of holidays, little stress, and lots of partying!

I worked hard but the reward was to make enough pennies (okay, pounds) to

pursue my, often-expensive, hobbies and still put something away for what I hoped would be an early-ish retirement.

So what made me decide to do a two-year master of business administration (MBA) programme? My answer is... why not?

Does anyone think they know all they

need about business, do you feel you have the necessary skills to understand and manage a business? I know I don't.

I can do teeth, I'm very good at teeth, but what my training hasn't prepared me for is actually running a practice and to understand marketing or accounting.

This is a big gap in dental undergraduate training and is the primary reason why I decided an MBA would be a rewarding endeavour.

We are not solely just students, we also have full time jobs, careers and families to take care of, far different responsibilities than when we first headed off to dental school

Getting started

We started off with a one-week induction course on the core MBA processes of:

- Managerial economics
- Financial management and accounting
- Marketing management
- Organisational behaviour.

We started early and finished late attending numerous lectures.

We've been given a combination of group and individual projects, including a fun team building exercise of designing, developing and shooting an advert for a fictional app, just like being on *The Apprentice!*

We now meet twice a month and I have found the organisation and structure of the programme so far to be tremendous. There are 37 of us in my group and we are beginning to get to know each other, I think it will be an enjoyable two years.

The future

My impressions so far is that out of all the studying I have done (and I have done far too much), I think the MBA will be the most challenging.

I say this because we are not solely just students, we also have full time jobs, careers and families to take care of, far different responsibilities than when we first headed off to dental school.

But what a challenge!

I feel it's already influencing the way I think and do things in practice.

This can only be a good thing... right? I will keep you posted! 

Nilesh's main intention for this MBA column is to provide readers with a first-hand account of the MBA experience at a leading London university from his perspective. Share your comments with him on Twitter: @NileshRParmar or Facebook: DR NILESH R. PARMAR.



Dr Nilesh R. Parmar BDS (Lond) MSc (ProsthDent) MSc (ImpDent) Cert.Ortho was voted Best Young Dentist in the East of England in 2009 and runner up in 2010. He was shortlisted at the Private Dentistry Awards in the category of Outstanding Individual 2011.

Nilesh has a master's degree in prosthetic dentistry from the Eastman Dental Institute and a master's degree in clinical implantology from King's College London. He is one of the few dentists in the UK to have a degree from all three London Dental Schools and has recently obtained his Certificate in

Orthodontics from Warwick University. His main area of interest is in dental implants and Cerec CAD/CAM technology.

Currently studying for his MBA, Nilesh runs a successful seven-surgery practice close to London and is a visiting implant dentist to two central London practices. Nilesh has a never-ending passion for his work and is famed for his attention to detail and his belief that every patient he sees should become a patient for life. He offers training and mentoring to dentists starting out in implant dentistry, more information can be found on his website www.drnilshparmar.com.