

## Registered Eyecare Professionals – multi-professional skills to deliver new pathways of care

Ophthalmic care is delivered on a multi-disciplinary basis across primary, community, secondary and tertiary care. Defining both the numbers of staff required *and* their skill sets is essential to address short term workforce needs and long-term planning. Currently, there is wide variation between and within providers in the scope of activity carried out by different eye health professional groups. Providers and commissioners need clarity on what services the eyecare workforce can deliver with core competence, with local development and with post-graduate qualifications. This ensures the best use of their skills without the burden of unnecessary courses.

This document sets out the current courses and qualifications (including core professional skills) for registered eye health care professionals and how they relate to service capabilities that provide safe patient care. Note that there are other important members of the eye care workforce that are not currently covered in this document eg ophthalmic and vision scientists, dispensing opticians, contact lens opticians, healthcare assistants and support workers, and healthcare science associates.

The information in this document can be used by commissioners, health service providers and workforce planners to help to:

- Appropriately commission services
- Run a service within a system (with the support of workforce matrices, job planning and e-rostering where indicated)
- Identify staff numbers and training and development requirements for the adequate eyecare workforce of the future.

### What are levels of competence and capability?

The level of competence (the knowledge and skills to perform specific tasks) and capability (integration of professional knowledge, skills and behaviours to take responsibility and be accountable for decisions and actions, in service delivery and development) of each professional need to be understood in order to recognise the potential for independent practice or degree of supervision needed.

The information in this document provides a high-level guide for short- and long-term workforce planning but there are several other vital aspects to consider –

- the currency of each qualification (ie how long ago it was achieved and are the skills still being used and kept up to date); **It is each individual professional's responsibility to maintain their knowledge and skills through active use and CPD or request a training update if they require refreshing.**
- the current and previous working practices, experience, and exposure to relevant clinical situations of the individual
- the evolving evidence base for care and practice
- the correct communication infrastructure and close working relationships
- robust clinical governance framework
- adequate supervision, audit and feedback.

**All end-to-end pathways must be supported by appropriate governance, clear communication channels with support and feedback and shared learning with close working relationships across all who deliver eye care.**

Levels of competence/capability (based on OPT Framework) used in this document are –

**Level 1-** Ability to participate in triage/screening and to monitor low risk patients with an established diagnosis to a clearly defined clinical protocol in a specific condition(s)

**Level 2-** Ability to make preliminary diagnosis within a specific area and manage under specific protocols

**Level 3-** Ability to independently diagnose and manage patients – this may be within specific areas of practice or diagnostic categories performed by an Advanced Care Practitioner (ACP).

## **Ophthalmologists**

Ophthalmologists are medically qualified doctors and apply for competitive entry to a minimum 7 year-long ophthalmology postgraduate training after a minimum of 2 years foundation training.

The training is comprehensive, under strict governance with continuous assessments and high stakes examinations. It covers all aspects of the medical and surgical care of ophthalmic patients – and includes training in research, education and training of ophthalmic professionals, and leadership. The core competencies of training ophthalmologists are highlighted in ophthalmology specialist training learning outcomes, found here: <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/curriculum/ost/learning-outcomes/>. Many ophthalmologists also undertake several post-training subspecialty fellowships in the UK or abroad in their area of specialist interest before applying for consultant posts. The ophthalmologist, as part of a team, provides delivery of eye care across the full spectrum of ophthalmic disease.

A **Consultant Ophthalmologist** is a clinician who works as an independent decision maker and holds ultimate responsibility for the patients under their care. **Competence level – full decision making and responsibility for all areas of service provision**

**Ophthalmologists in training** provide extensive service delivery during their supervised posts and are commonly front line for all out of hours care – both in-patient needs and emergency. More senior trainees (years 5-7) develop independent skills. The new ophthalmology specialty training (OST) curriculum – under consultation – defines competences at different levels. **Competence level – supervised for safe care delivery (years 1-4) and independent with consultant oversight (5-7).**

**Staff Grade, Associate Specialist and Specialty (SAS) doctors and trust doctors** represent a mixed group who have had different levels of training and experience. They make up the backbone of several departments to deliver patient care in association with their consultant colleagues. Associate Specialists can have autonomous practice with ultimate responsibility for care, as for consultants, in some or all areas of practice if agreed with their Medical Director. **Competence level – Senior specialists and associate specialists are independent decision makers and staff grade and trust doctors are supervised.**

## Non-ophthalmologist doctors

The basic medical qualification and minimum of 2 years foundation training provide minimal and variable ophthalmic exposure and training.

Where present in hospital eye teams, **Foundation Doctors** provide the medical care of ophthalmic patients and a very limited degree of low-risk ophthalmic care under consultant supervision.

**General practitioners** are often the first port of call for patients with eye disease currently – patients may be treated, diverted to an optometrist for first contact assessment or management, or referred to the hospital eye service for further management. **Competence level – decision maker on minor ocular conditions (usually superficial eye disease). Not an expert on ophthalmic conditions - optometrists should act as the main primary care practitioners for eyecare.**

**Secondary and tertiary care hospital doctors** will have patients from A+E and on the ward who present with or coincidentally have eye disease/complaints- – they may be treated or referred (to an optometrist or the hospital eye service for further management). **Competence level – decision maker on and manages minor ocular conditions and trauma (usually superficial eye disease). Not an expert on ophthalmic conditions.**

## Optometrists

Optometrists study at university for at least three years and secure full registration after completing a period of pre-registration assessed training, practicing under supervision, following graduation. During the pre-registration year, optometrists have the opportunity to practice and develop their skills within hospital and primary care settings, working within multidisciplinary teams.

Optometrists are independent practitioners, primary health care specialists, trained to examine the eyes to detect defects in vision, signs of injury, ocular diseases or abnormality and problems with general health. Working within primary care, they are responsible for sight testing and case-finding under the general ophthalmic services (GOS) contract but also provide other services, such as low vision support and contact lens care.

The core competencies of optometrist required to be registered to the GOC are found here: <https://www.optical.org/en/Education/core-competencies--core-curricula/index.cfm> (it is worth noting that there will be new GOC learning outcomes and standards of education, commencing in 2023 which are in development).

Once registered, Optometrists have the opportunity to take further post-graduate qualifications and develop their interests in specialist areas of practice.

Some optometrists work solely or partly in secondary care, working independently delivering optometry-led clinics or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

Many optometrists practicing in primary care delivers extended primary care services to assess, monitor and manage a wide range of low complexity ocular conditions.

***See the Competencies and qualifications matrix for more details on what services and subspecialty care can be provided with optometry core competence level.***

## Orthoptists

Orthoptists are allied health professionals (AHPs) who are trained in the diagnosis and management of eye movement disorders. Following graduation (3-4 year degree with clinical placements), they are fully qualified autonomous practitioners in the core competence areas and do not require any post graduate pre-registration training.

The core competencies of orthoptists are highlighted in the HCPC standards of proficiency (generic and orthoptist specific) and the British and Irish Orthoptic Society orthoptic curriculum framework, found here:

[https://orthopticsorg.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Curriculum%20Framework\\_July%202016.pdf](https://orthopticsorg.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Curriculum%20Framework_July%202016.pdf)

***See the Competencies and qualifications matrix for more details on what services and subspecialty care can be provided with orthoptic core competence level.***

## Nurses

Ophthalmic nurses have a nursing degree (minimum 3 years with clinical placements) which is a general training programme that has minimal, if any, obligatory ophthalmology exposure and experience – the NMC standards of proficiency define the threshold level for all nurses. There is currently no UK standardisation of ophthalmic nursing course provision/learning outcomes but undertaking a validated ophthalmic/ophthalmic nursing course (to include theory and academic assessment) is important for career progression and to provide the foundation for further consistent development such as the OPT. Some nurses will have qualifications that are no longer available (Ophthalmic Nursing Certificate or Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma, both pre-1990) and a range of other courses are available from specialist large eye units or hospital, or Higher Education Institutions (e.g. University of Manchester 2x15 week ophthalmic courses-can be studied at level 6 or level 7 as a stand-alone course or as part of a post registration degree or master's degree in Clinical Practice).

***See the Competencies and qualifications matrix for more details on what services and subspecialty care can be provided with nursing core competence level.***

## Higher qualifications and further post graduate qualifications for optometrists, orthoptists and nurses

It is important to note that optometrists, orthoptists and nurses can deliver a wide scope of eye care work in primary, community and secondary care with either core competency alone or core competency supplemented by local development. However there also exists a range of more formal qualifications and courses. As many of these are accessible to all three groups, they are covered together.

***See the Competencies and qualifications matrix for more details on what eye care services and subspecialty care can be provided with completion of optometry, orthoptic and nursing formal courses and post graduate training programmes.***

The mapping of some of these courses and qualifications described to the level of practice are shown below\*:

Level	Definition	Course
<b>Level 1</b>	Ability to participate in triage/screening and to monitor low risk patients with an established diagnosis to a clearly defined clinical protocol in a specific condition(s)	Post-graduate certificate (PGCert) in ophthalmic practice with a clinical component  Level 1 OPT
<b>Level 2</b>	Ability to make preliminary diagnosis within a specific area and manage under specific protocols	Post graduate diploma in ophthalmic practice with a clinical component  Higher Qualifications from the College of Optometrists. Professional & Higher Certificates eg Glaucoma (Broadly the Prof Cert Glaucoma and Higher Cert Glaucoma map to OPT2)  Level 2 OPT
<b>Level 3</b>	Ability to independently diagnose and manage patients – this may be within specific areas of practice or diagnostic categories performed by an Advanced Care Practitioner (ACP).	Masters in ophthalmic practice degree with embedded clinical training  Higher Qualifications from the College of Optometrists Diploma In Glaucoma (Dip Glaucoma)  Level 3 OPT

N.B. There is cross over between OPT Framework and Post Graduate College of Optometry Qualifications therefore this table shows broad competence equivalents. Please refer to mapping document for detailed competence equivalents.

### **Independent Prescribing (IP)**

Independent Prescribing enables optometrists and nurses to clinically assess a patient, establish a diagnosis, determine the clinical management required and prescribe where necessary.

### **WOPEC**

Provided by the Cardiff University School of Optometry and Vision Sciences for individuals who have full GOC registration.

**The WOPEC-LOCSU distance learning lecture series cover a range of topics which refresh or support core competencies for a range of pathways.**

WOPEC also offers a **range of modular courses** delivered over 16 weeks with a mix of online teaching material, discussion forums and assessment. They are aimed at optometrists developing enhanced skills to prepares for extended roles within primary care and hospital optometry.

### **College of Optometrists higher qualification**

These are available for all **graduate eye health care professionals**. See the appendix for more details.

#### **Glaucoma**

- Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Cert Glauc): **Competence level - participation in formal 'enhanced case finding' and OHT/ suspect COAG monitoring service.**
- Professional Higher Certificate in Glaucoma (Higher Cert Glauc): **Competence level-** participation in community or hospital-based care involving the diagnosis of OHT and preliminary diagnosis of COAG and referral refinement including gonioscopy. Develop ability to detect change in clinical status, and subsequent decision making and management of patients with glaucoma.
- Professional Diploma in Glaucoma (Dip Glauc): **Competence level-** provision of a glaucoma service in the community, network, or shared care.

#### **Medical Retina**

- **Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (Prof Cert Med Ret):**  
**Competence level** - ability to make accurate and appropriate referral decisions for patients with medical retina conditions.
- **Professional Higher Certificate in Medical Retina (Prof Cert Med Ret):**  
**Competence level** - ability to manage low risk medical retina conditions autonomously.

#### **Paediatric Ophthalmology**

- **Professional Higher Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Higher Cert Paed):**  
**Competence level-** enables practitioners to deliver eye care to more complex Paediatric cases and specialist populations, and to understand the evidence for developing management options.
- **Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Prof Cert Paed Eye Care):**  
**Competence level-** prepares for extended roles within community and hospital optometry.

### **Ophthalmic Practitioner Training (OPT)**

Based on the Ophthalmic Common Clinical Competency Framework (OCCCF) and supported by Health Education England, this now forms a curriculum to provide in service training similar in nature to the delivery to medical postgraduate ophthalmology training for qualified optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and ophthalmic healthcare science practitioners. The programme was devised by the RCOphth, CoOptom, BIOS and ophthalmic nurse's forum of the RCN to provide clinical training to ensure that the needs of a hospital based ophthalmic service could be met

(secondary care based). The delivery of the OPT curriculum is carried out locally – similar to that of post-graduate medical training – HEE will work to enable this process.

The OPT has been developed to cover four large volume sub-specialties within ophthalmology – although there are several others being developed. The levels 1-3 of attainment are as described elsewhere in this document

- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Medical retina
- Acute and emergency eye care

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/professional-resources/new-common-clinical-competency-framework-to-standardise-competences-for-ophthalmic-non-medical-healthcare-professionals/>

### **Other courses**

There are a range of educational providers offering post graduate certificates, post graduate diplomas and masters level qualifications in eye care, some of which integrate the local requirements of the OPT to cover the clinical components.

## Appendix 1 – courses and qualification providers and more details

### **College of Optometrists Higher Qualifications**

**Glaucoma** <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-glaucoma.html>

#### 1. Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Cert Glauc)

This higher qualification is designed to prepare you to participate in formal 'referral refinement' and OHT/ suspect COAG monitoring schemes. You will develop your clinical expertise and decision-making skills regarding managing glaucoma in clinical practice and manage and advise your patients with confidence.

Provider: University of Bradford, Cardiff University, City University of London, University of Manchester, Moorfield Eye Hospital, Ulster University

Who is this for- GOC-registered, postgraduate, community or hospital optometrists and registered allied health professionals

#### 2. Professional Higher Certificate in Glaucoma (Higher Cert Glauc)

This qualification is designed to prepare you for participation in community or hospital-based schemes involving the diagnosis of OHT and preliminary diagnosis of COAG. It will further develop your ability to detect change in clinical status, and subsequent decision making, as well as your management of patients with glaucoma.

Provider: University of Bradford, Cardiff University, Moorfield's Eye Hospital

Who is this for- GOC-registered and registered allied health professionals

#### 3. Professional Diploma in Glaucoma (Dip Glauc)

This course aims to prepare optometrists to provide either a community glaucoma service, or to work with a high degree of autonomy within a hospital glaucoma clinic, making appropriate evidence-based management decisions.

**Providers:** Cardiff University, Moorfield's Eye Hospital

**Who is this for:** GOC-registered optometrists

**Medical Retina** <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-medical-retina.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (Prof Cert Med Ret)

This qualification provides community and hospital-based optometrists with knowledge of common medical retina conditions needed to make accurate and appropriate referral decisions for patients with medical retina conditions and prepares them for supervised roles in medical retina, new patient triage clinics and AMD treatment-retreatment clinics.

Providers: Cardiff University, Aston University, City University of London, Moorfield's Eye Hospital, Ulster University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists and clinicians in the field of optometry

**Paediatric eye care** <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-paediatric-eye-care.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Prof Cert Paed Eye Care)

This qualification provides optometrists with confidence and practical skills needed for working with infants and children and helps prepare them for extended roles within community and hospital optometry. There is a particular emphasis on child-friendly testing procedures and successful examination.

Providers: Cardiff University, Aston University, City University of London, Ulster University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists and Optometric qualification

2. Professional Higher Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Higher Cert Paed)

This qualification develops the knowledge and skills needed to provide a high standard of Paediatric eye care. The course builds on the core knowledge Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care to enable practitioners to deliver eye care to more complex Paediatric cases and specialist populations, and to understand the evidence for developing management options.

Providers: Cardiff University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists (and other eye health care professionals?)

**Low Vision** <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-low-vision.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Low Vision (Prof Cert LV)

This qualification provides optometrists in hospital and community practice with the enhanced knowledge required for the holistic management of patients with visual impairment.

**Providers:** Cardiff University, City University of London, Ulster University

**Who is it for:** GOC-registered optometrists and dispensing opticians and eye care professionals

2. Professional Higher Certificate in Low Vision (Higher Cert LV)

This qualification enables optometrists in a hospital or community setting to provide an enhanced standard of low vision care for specialist groups of patients.

Providers: Cardiff University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists and dispensing opticians and eye care professionals

**Other Courses available in the UK (not comprehensive and may change)**

***UCL- Advanced Practice in Optometry and Ophthalmology*** <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/advanced-practice-optometry-and-ophthalmology-msc>

Combined integral OPT at all levels in order to cover the clinical component – the academic aspects of leadership, research and education are covered as part of the master's programme to cover the requirements of advanced practice.

The aim of the programme is to develop clinical practice and to contribute to the advancement of eyecare delivery in primary, secondary, or tertiary care settings. Modules that are offered to provide training in the four busiest ophthalmic specialties in the UK and worldwide; Glaucoma, Medical Retina, Ophthalmic Emergencies and Cataract.

- PGCert
- PGDip level
- MSc

**Who is it for:** optometrists, dispensing opticians, orthoptist, ophthalmic nurse, doctors and other eye care professionals.

***University of Edinburgh- Primary Care Ophthalmology (Online Learning)***

[https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees?r=site/view&id=862&cw\\_xml=.](https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees?r=site/view&id=862&cw_xml=)

Combined integral OPT at all levels in order to cover the clinical component.

The MSc is developed in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) as part of the Scottish Government's directive to empower and enhance the shift of balance of care for cataract, glaucoma, medical retina, emergency, and ophthalmic triage from secondary to primary care.

- PG Certificate - after one year of study
- PG Diploma - after two years of study
- Masters – after three years of study

**Who is it for:** optometrists, dispensing opticians, orthoptist, ophthalmic nurse, doctors, and other eye care professionals.

### ***Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship – level 3***

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/iao/advanced-clinical-practice-ophthalmology-msc-degree-apprenticeship>

This master's degree apprenticeship has been developed by practicing clinicians and will allow an understanding of clinical care in the context of the latest ophthalmic research and treatments. This course incorporates the OPT to deliver the clinical competences of level 3 (decision making)

Who is it for: non-medical ophthalmic professionals; optometrists, ophthalmic nurses and orthoptists only

### **WOPEC Courses**

#### ***WOPEC - individual modules***

[https://www.locsu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Files/WhatWeDo/Training/WOPEC\\_Training/LOCSU-WOPEC-Modules-Booklet-2019.pdf](https://www.locsu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Files/WhatWeDo/Training/WOPEC_Training/LOCSU-WOPEC-Modules-Booklet-2019.pdf)

#### ***Cardiff School of Optometry and Vision science***

OPT001: Low Vision 1 - Theory

OPT002: Low Vision 2 - Practical

OPT030: Low Vision - Advanced

OPT004: Acute Eye Care 1

OPT005: Acute Eye Care 2

OPT006: Paediatric Optometry

OPT009: Glaucoma Foundation

OPT010: Glaucoma 1

OPT031: Glaucoma 2

OPT032: Glaucoma 3 (Advanced)

OPT014: Management of Tear Film Disorders

OPT018: Primary Care Update - Theory

OPT019: Primary Care Update - Practical

OPT025: Medical Retina

OPT026: Cataract and Refractive Surgery

OPT027: Anterior Segment - Clinical Examination and Management

OPT033: Paediatric Optometry - Practical

OPT034: Ocular Therapeutics

OPT035: Practical Prescribing

OPT036 - Independent Prescribing

OPT037: Advanced Paediatric Eye Care

OPT039 - Ocular Therapeutics for Minor Eye Conditions

**Who is it for:** GOC-registered optometrists

***WOPEC-LOCSU distance learning lecture series:***

- Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS). 7 lectures,
- Glaucoma Services. 4 lectures, 4 CET points
- Cataract Services. 5 lectures, 5 CET points
- Low Vision. 10 lectures, 10 CET points
- Paediatric. 5 lectures and 4 key feature scenarios, 7 CET points
- Eye Care for People with Learning Disabilities:
  - o Optometrist. 6 lectures, 6 CET points
  - o Dispensing Optician. 3 lectures, 3 CET points
  - o Optical Assistant. 2 lectures.

**Who is it for:** optometrists and dispensing opticians

**No clinical component – so learners need to have this added on (e.g., OPT levels) to be recognised for clinical competences**

***UCL- Clinical Ophthalmic Practice***

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/telemedicine-ophthalmology-pgcert>

This programme will allow students to develop an advanced knowledge of eye diseases and treatments through the groundbreaking research and digital knowledge underpinning clinical practice.

- PGCert
- PGDip level
- MSc

**Who is it for:** multidisciplinary ophthalmic non-medical clinicians, mainly nursing.

### **UCL- Ophthalmology MSc**

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/study/ophthalmology-msc>

Led by consultants and specialists at Moorfield's Eye Hospital, our flagship Ophthalmology MSc programme provides detailed study of specialist ophthalmological practice and research. The newly updated curriculum is based on research-driven innovation across ophthalmic specialties, including clinical management, translational research, digital technology, and surgery.

**Who is it for:** optometrists, doctors

### **City University – Clinical Optometry**

<https://www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students/courses/postgraduate/clinical-optometry>

You will develop your clinical and theoretical knowledge with the guidance of expert practitioners informed by the most up-to-date research. You will gain a detailed understanding of the expanding role of optometrists in the co-management of patients. Your studies will be underpinned by a core module in Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis to develop your critical research skills. Elective modules will allow you to build your professional knowledge and contribute to research in your particular areas of interest.

### **Aston University – Ophthalmic science MSc, Diploma and Certificate**

<https://www.aston.ac.uk/study/courses/optometry-ophthalmic-science-msc>

Our flexible Optometry / Ophthalmic Science MSc has been designed for those working in full time professional practice who want to develop their expertise and gain specialist knowledge while continuing to work.

### **UCL institute of Ophthalmology Telemedicine for Ophthalmology – PGCert**

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/telemedicine-ophthalmology-pgcert>

Telemedicine for Ophthalmology PGCert is aimed at ophthalmic professionals (medical and non-medical) who want to advance their knowledge and skills in order to address the rapid changes in healthcare towards digital health and telemedicine. Students will be introduced to health informatics in the context of eHealth and telemedicine systems, supported by specialist modules in diagnostic imaging for ocular diseases.

Successful completion of this programme will allow students to pursue careers in ocular diagnostic imaging for medical and non-medical health professionals already working in eye care and develop advanced digital literacy knowledge and skills.

**Who is it for:** optometrists, doctors

### **Cardiff University- Clinical Optometry MSc**

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/courses/course/clinical-optometry-msc2>

The aim of this programme is to provide optometrists with the opportunity to undertake a challenging and rewarding Masters in Clinical Optometry that focuses on their personal development as professionals leading, managing and developing ophthalmic practice roles and models of care delivery. The MSc Clinical Optometry is designed for optometrists in primary, secondary, and tertiary settings who wish to advance their knowledge base, and specialist clinical and leadership skills. You will become actively involved in the advancement of optometry.

## **Optometry Prescribing Qualifications**

### **1. Therapeutic prescribing specialty**

- Cardiff University
- City University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Aston University

### **2. Independent prescribing**

- Aston University
- City University of London
- Cardiff University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- University of Hertfordshire
- Ulster University

## **Contact lens practice-**

### **1. Professional Higher Certificate in Contact Lens Practice (Higher Cert CL)**

This qualification is ideal for those looking to boost their knowledge, skills, and confidence in advising and managing patients who wear contact lenses.

Provider: Moorfield's Education- Advanced Contact Lenses

### **2. Professional Diploma in Contact Lens Practice (Dip CL)**

This qualification builds on knowledge and skills GOC-registered optometrists have gained through the Professional Higher Certificate in Contact Lens Practice so they can **provide an enhanced standard of contact lens care in both a community and/or hospital setting**.

Provider: Moorfield's Education- Advanced Medical Contact Lenses

**Who is this for:** GOC-registered optometrists

<https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/course-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-contact-lens-practice.html>

<https://checkout.moorfields.nhs.uk/>

## **Scotland only**

*NES Optometry*

### ***NESGAT (NES Glaucoma Award Training)***

NESGAT (NES Glaucoma Award Training) is a programme of accredited education and training in glaucoma management, delivered by NES Optometry. Funded by the Scottish Government, this qualification allows independent prescribing optometrists in Scotland to manage discharged patients in the community

**Who is it for:** optometrists

**Reference:**[https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/ourwork/optometry/#:~:text=NESGAT%20\(NES%20Glaucoma%20Award%20Training,management%2C%20delivered%20by%20NES%20Optometry](https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/ourwork/optometry/#:~:text=NESGAT%20(NES%20Glaucoma%20Award%20Training,management%2C%20delivered%20by%20NES%20Optometry)