

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner (Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care)
Award	MSc PG-Dip
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Nursing/Division of Optometry and Visual Science
Programme code	PSOPNP
Type of study	Part-Time
Total UK credits	MSc 180 PG-Dip 120
Total ECTS	MSc 90 PG-Dip 60

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner (Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care) is a flexible, professionally orientated programme for nurses working in ophthalmic health and eye care within health and social care provisions. It seeks to prepare a specialist research-focused workforce that will help revolutionise health and social care provision to better meet society's changing demographic health needs by using new technologies and more innovative and creative working practices. The main focus of this programme is prescribing within the context of ophthalmic nursing. You will complete the non-medical prescribing programme in addition to ophthalmic related modules which will enhance your prescribing competence.

The aim of the programme is to prepare you for new, efficient and ethical ways of working that will offer better quality of life and quality of care by placing service users and carers at the centre of decision-making and service redesign. It will enable you to respond better to the increasing pressures on the current healthcare system.

The course offers education in the latest theoretical and clinical developments relating to the role of ophthalmic nurse practitioner. It also develops your research and critical thinking skills and provides the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent practice and research in the future. This will provide you with the opportunity to create a challenging and rewarding Master's programme tailored to nursing ophthalmic care.

By completing the MSc Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner (APHSC) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of ophthalmic nursing and clinical decision making in relation to practice. You will have been engaged in research that contributes new views to this area.

Those of you who exit the programme with a postgraduate diploma will have explored knowledge related to the field of ophthalmic nursing from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

If you exit the programme at postgraduate certificate level you will have been enabled to examine theories related to health and social care and be able to synthesise and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in this area and be able to consider problem solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

### Aims

The overall educational aim of the MSc is to provide postgraduate education which:-

- Prepares you to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make informed judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Enables you to demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.
- Encourages you to develop advanced health and/or social care knowledge, and develop new skills which advance practice. This will include developing the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable situations, and the independent learning ability required for continuing personal and professional development.
- Integrates the development of scientific/theoretical knowledge and clinical skills.
- Uses a variety of teaching and clinically appropriate assessment methods.
- Further develops your analytical, critical and problem-solving faculties and your ability to produce original work: and to foster your personal development.
- Develops reflective ophthalmic nurse practitioners.
- Enables you to practice safely by affirming:
  - an appropriate level of competence within the context of ophthalmic nursing.
  - a level of self-awareness that encourages recognition of your own limits.
  - the knowledge to meet likely future developments.
- Enables you to further your knowledge of a range of ophthalmic conditions.
- Enables you to develop as an independent practitioner and be competent to assess eye conditions vision and eye health, and to prescribe drugs according to local policies.

### **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Show knowledge and critical understanding of the principles of research design and statistics.

- Critically appraise the nature of health and social care provision and further develop your role as an advanced health and social care worker.
- Show effective advanced clinical decision making in treating eye conditions.
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of how the body processes systemically administered medicines and an in-depth understanding of prescribing in at risk groups.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the legal basis and policy framework for supplementary and independent prescribing and possess a detailed understanding of the nurses' role as a supplementary/independent prescriber.
- Critically interpret and apply the principles of clinical governance to supplementary/independent prescribing.
- Have a critical awareness of professional codes of practice in relation to prescribing.

#### Skills:

- Exercise and further develop the analytical skills required for the analysis of a patient with an ocular problem and treatments within the context of supplementary and independent prescribing.
- Interpret and critically review research pertaining to ocular abnormalities and treatments in order to review current standards.
- Demonstrate analytical and problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations with particular emphasis on prescribing issues.
- Demonstrate an ability to differentially diagnose sight-threatening from non-sight threatening eye disease and an awareness of personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct in relation to prescribing.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.
- Demonstrate the ability to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, make informed judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly.
- Critically appraise, evaluate and integrate theories and perspectives and articulate implications for prescribing practice development and innovation.
- Develop prescribing skills to empower colleagues and clients, through teaching, mentoring and modelling.
- Demonstrate continual monitoring of standards of care, and be able to respond to criticism and feedback on the service that you are providing.
- Develop research designs appropriate to research questions/hypotheses, and select and implement appropriate statistical analyses of data.

#### Values and attitudes:

- Explore ethics issues, and be able to incorporate considerations of ethics into all that you do.
- Provide advice for colleagues, patients and their carers that is value free and non-discriminatory.
- Demonstrate effectiveness when working in a range of environments.

- Construct and manage a personal and professional development plan which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Manage your own levels of stress in a way that promotes your welfare and the quality of your work.

### Registration Period

The normal period of registration for a Master's degree is one year's taught programme for full-time students (plus up to one year for dissertation) or two years' taught programme for part-time students (plus up to one year for dissertation). The maximum period of registration for the MSc is 5 years.

The normal period of registration for a Postgraduate Diploma is one year's taught programme for full-time students or two years' taught programme for part-time students. The maximum period of registration is 4 years.

If you registered for and successfully completed the PG-Dip Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner (APHSC) at City, University of London and wish to convert that award to a MSc you will be required to undertake, and successfully complete, the 60 credit dissertation module. This must be completed within 5 years from starting the PG-Diploma.

-You will be required to rescind your PG-Dip Award.

The normal period of registration for a Postgraduate Certificate is one year's taught programme for part-time students. Postgraduate Certificates are not offered on a full-time basis. The maximum period of registration for a Postgraduate Certificate is 2 years.

### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

A blended approach to learning and teaching is adopted including university-based taught modules; e-learning and work-based learning. Modules are run by experienced practitioners and leading researchers, using a variety of direct and interactive teaching methods. You will learn in large and small multi-disciplinary groups and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

The range of teaching methods is wide and includes lectures (face-to-face and on-line), tutorials, advanced clinical training, clinical demonstrations, videos and discussion of clinical scenarios and action learning sets. Discussion forums, interactive seminars, peer reviewing work-based examples and clinically focussed critical reflections via a case review process are also included. Lectures are used to communicate core material and as a foundation for further reading. Practical classes and clinical skills laboratories provide opportunities to develop practical skills and to give demonstrations of techniques covered in lectures. Many lectures are delivered by external specialists, giving access to current issues, research and methods in the

field. Module notes are accessible via Moodle, however, you are expected to take notes and undertake thorough background reading. Reading lists are provided for this purpose. The module 'Principles of Therapeutics' uses Moodle with academic support via email. There is a significant amount of independent study within each module (e.g.120 hours/15 PG credit module) and this time is for you to read literature related to the modules you are studying and to reflect on your clinical practice.

There will be extensive use of the University's Virtual Learning Platform – Moodle for a more interactive learning experience.

At Masters level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and creatively use solutions to solve problems. You will engage in full professional and academic communication critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

The university provides a rich a varied learning environment, and as a Masters student you are expected to fully avail yourself of all the opportunities, and to work in a manner conducive to your own learning style and professional ambitions.

All optometry modules are eligible for Continuing Education and Training (CET) points approved by the General Optical Council.

#### **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

Methods of assessment vary between modules, to reflect their differences in structure and content. The modular examinations may include any combination of the following:-

- An multiple choice question (MCQ) paper (which will normally include questions from each lecturer on the module).
- A short-answer question paper (SAQ) (which will normally include questions from each lecturer on the module).
- Visual recognition and interpretation of clinical signs tests (VRICS) (involving analysis of a series of slides/photographs).
- Patient management case scenarios (a photograph and/or case history documenting observations following the presentation of a patient).
- A professional practice portfolio that incorporates inclusion of self-reflection, peer review evidence and additional data that informs the evaluation of your role in a contemporary health care context.
- Minilabs.
- Peer reviewed publication.

Some modules have more than one assessment component and the weighting for each assessment component is outlined clearly within the module specification.

A range of University support services will be available to you, such as Students Union, Counselling Services etc. and the Postgraduate Programme Director and the Personal Tutor may guide you to these services.

## Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessments are varied to meet the practice and academic challenges of a Masters level course, while recognising the need for motivating, realistic and relevant activity. The means of assessment will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of the modules and includes coursework, examinations, portfolios, minilabs, case studies, reports, seminar presentations and skills schedules. You may also be expected to take part in formative assessment activities during the modules in addition to the summative assessments.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of work can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These will be provided on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task, feedback will normally be provided within four weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. In the case of smaller pieces of work you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf)

## Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Part of your Programme in order to progress to the following Part.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%. Where the module requires more than one assessment, the contribution of each to the final mark is stated in the module specification.

In the event of a fail mark being awarded, the following will apply.

Resit: You will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:  
[http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	66.5
Dissertation	7	60	33.5

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

### Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

### Postgraduate Certificate:

To exit with a Postgraduate certificate in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care, you will be required to complete the 30-credit 'Introduction to research methods and data analysis' module and the 15-credit 'Critical approaches to advanced practice' module together with one other 15-credit module.

To exit with a Postgraduate certificate in Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner, you will be required to complete two discipline specific modules and two other 15-credit modules from the range of core and optional elective modules. The choice of these two optional modules should be undertaken in consultation with your programme director.

To exit with a Postgraduate certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study six core modules, and you can choose a further module from a choice of four discipline-specific modules and three elective modules. If you are part-time, you should aim to take two modules per term over two years. If you are full-time, you take four modules per term over one year.

You will find your core and discipline-specific modules listed in the table below.

You can see a full list of possible elective modules from the range of MSc programmes offered in the School of Health Sciences at <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/health-sciences/courses>. Some modules are only run every second year so it is important to make your module choice in advance and in close consultation with your programme director. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run, or may only be offered every second year so please check with your programme director.

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SITS Code</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	<b>Core/ Discipline specific core/ Elective</b>	<b>Compensation Yes/No</b>	<b>Level</b>
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7
Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice	APM001	15	Core	No	7
Independent, Supplementary and Non-Medical Prescribing	NMM110	30	Discipline Specific - Core	No	7
Critical Thinking for Ophthalmic Practice	OVM054	15	Discipline Specific - Core	No	7
Principles of Therapeutics	OVM050	15	Discipline Specific - Core	No	7

You then need to select one other from the following modules					
Professional Certificate in Glaucoma	OVM006	15	Discipline Specific - Elective	No	7
Professional Certificate in Medical Retina	OVM056	15	Discipline Specific - Elective	No	7
Advanced Ophthalmic Examination	OVM062	15	Discipline Specific - elective	No	7
Clinical Management Guidelines	OVM061	15	Discipline Specific - elective	No	7
Education in the workplace	CHM002	15	Elective	No	7
Professional Leadership	APM032	15	Elective	No	7
Medicines Management*	NMM024	15	Elective	No	7

\* (NMM024 can only be chosen if NMM110 has been RPL'd).

You may begin carrying out your dissertation during the year but you are only able to submit it once you have completed all the taught modules successfully.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Dissertation	APM002	60	Core	No	7

### TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

This programme will enhance your professional skills in practice, research and teaching. Successful completion of the course will enhance your prospects in applying for posts in nurse management, student support, and as ophthalmic nurse specialists or advanced nurse practitioners in ophthalmology, in a variety of different settings (public and private). The programme is also suitable for nurses considering a post in research.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

## WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

## WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Yes - Non-Medical Prescribing module (30 credits) – Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

## HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

- First degree (minimum 2.1 and above) OR higher level 7/MSc qualification.
- Minimum of three years' experience in ophthalmic nursing.
- A satisfactory academic reference and a satisfactory clinical reference.
- A statement of current clinical skills in the field of ophthalmic nursing.

In addition in order to be eligible for the non-medical prescribing module, you **must meet all of the below criteria:**

### Eligibility

- A current professional registration with a relevant professional/statutory body (NMC).
- Support from employer that you will be given 26 days to attend this module and 12 days (12 x 7.5 hours) for supervised practice under the supervision of a designated medical practitioner/supervisor/assessor.
- Eligible Medical Practitioner who is willing to supervise you.
- Relevant work experience – minimum 3 years with relevant experience of ophthalmic clinical skills. You must provide evidence you have experience in the field in which you intend to prescribe.
- Evidence of an ability to undertake physical assessment – if you have not completed a physical assessment module at Masters level, you will be required to complete a Physical Skills booklet.
- Ophthalmic nurses will be expected to attend interview in person or via Skype to ensure practitioners have the relevant clinical skills to complete the programme.

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university.
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by the University as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA.
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5.
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required.

- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

### **RPL Requirements**

In line with Senate Regulation 19, recognition of prior learning (RPL), be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. APL may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following University Assessment Regulations:

9(c)(ii): RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

9(e)(iii): The volume of credit permissible via APL will normally be no more than one quarter of the total credit for the programme.

9(e)(iii): The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning relates to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

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