PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Ophthalmic Nursing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MSc, PG-Diploma, PG-Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Division of Nursing and Division of Optometry and Visual Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme code</td>
<td>PSOPNU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Part Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>MSc: 180; PG-Dip: 120; PG-Cert: 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>MSc: 90; PG-Dip: 60; PG-Cert: 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Ophthalmic Nursing) is a flexible, professionally orientated programme for nurses working in ophthalmic health and eye care. 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 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. 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 ophthalmic nursing. 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 ophthalmic care.

The MSc Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Ophthalmic Nursing) programme comprises seven taught modules. You will study two core modules, and four out of five discipline-specific modules and one elective module. You should aim to take one or two modules per term. The core modules are ‘Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis’ (30 credits), and ‘Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice’. Both these modules are multi-disciplinary. The five programme specific modules are all concerned with eye health and vision. These specialist modules are taught with students from optometry. You may then choose one other module from the wide range of modules available within the school of health sciences.
There is also a research dissertation (60 credits). The programmes provides a number of exit routes:

- If you successfully complete the seven taught modules and research dissertation, you qualify for the MSc in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Ophthalmic Nursing)
- If you successfully complete the seven taught modules, but not the dissertation, you qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care: Ophthalmic Nursing
- If you successfully complete the following four taught modules, you qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care
  - Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis – 30 credits
  - Professional Development for Advanced Practice – 15 credits
  - One optional 15 credit module chosen in consultation with the Programme Director
- If you successfully complete any four eye-related modules (60 credits in total), you qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate in Ophthalmic Nursing.
  - Ophthalmic examination
  - Diabetic eye disease
  - Glaucoma
  - Refractive surgery
  - Vision in the aged

By completing the MSc in APHSC (Ophthalmic Nursing) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the 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 ophthalmic nursing using 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 be have been enabled to examine theories related to ophthalmic nursing 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 aim of this programme is to facilitate ophthalmic nurses to:
- Develop their nursing knowledge, and develop new skills which advance their practice.
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of a range of ophthalmic
conditions
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct an independent assessment of a client's ocular health, and be competent to initiate an appropriate intervention.
- Develop qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Develop as an independent practitioner.
- Develop as an independent learner, able to engage in continuing personal and professional development.
- Develop their research and critical evaluation skills to become evidence-based practitioners.
- Critically assess the effects of vision loss on lifestyle and general wellbeing

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:
- Demonstrate 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 ophthalmic nurse.
- Demonstrate a firm appreciation of underlying pathological processes affecting the eye and vision.
- Show effective advanced clinical decision making in treating eye conditions.

Skills:
- Exercise and further develop the analytical skills required for the analysis of a patient with an ocular problem
- Interpret and critically review research pertaining to ocular abnormalities in order to review current standards
- Demonstrate analytical and problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations
- 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 referral
- 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 clearly communicate their conclusions.
- Critically discuss the research process.
- Critically appraise, evaluate and integrate theories and perspectives and articulate implications for practice development and innovation
- Empower colleagues and clients, through teaching, mentoring and modelling
- Continually monitor standards of care, and positively 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
- Consider and evaluate the needs and experiences of the people suffering from loss of vision within the context of inter-agency and inter-professional work and place service users and carers at the centre of all decision-making

Values and attitudes:

- Explore ethics issues, and incorporate considerations of ethics into all that you do
- Advise colleagues, patients and their carers in a way that is effective, 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 the MSc programme 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 full time students is 3 years and for part time students is 5 years.

The normal period of registration for the PG Diploma award is one year for full time students or two years for part time students.

The normal period of registration for the PG Certificate award is one year, although
students may take modules on an occasional basis over two years

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

**Time commitments**
Up to four years (part time) for taught modules, plus up to one year for dissertation.

A blended approach to learning and teaching is adopted including City-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 a variety of professional and multi-disciplinary groups and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

You will experience a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies throughout the programme aimed at developing and assessing different knowledge, skills and attitudes. Lectures are used to provide knowledge about topics. Students undertaking this programme will be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills to enable them to work inter-professionally. The range of teaching methods include: lectures; self-directed study; tutorials; action learning sets, class-based seminars; reflective study; enquiry based learning; workshops; individual and collaborative activity; and presentations.

There will be extensive use of City'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.

City provides a rich and 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.

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

**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. Assessment strategies include coursework, examinations, portfolios, minilabs, case studies, reports, seminar presentations, skills schedules and objective
structured clinical examinations (OSCEs). You may be expected to take part in formative assessment activities during the modules in addition to the summative assessments for each module.

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. Feedback will normally be provided within four weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date for end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task, and within three weeks for a smaller piece of work. This will normally include a provisional grade or mark and written feedback. 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/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

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

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.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

Resit: You will normally be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the programme.
If you fail to meet the requirements for the programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
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<td>Without classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertatio n</td>
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#### Postgraduate Diploma:

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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Without classification</td>
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#### 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 Nursing, you will be required to complete the two core nursing modules and two other 15-credit modules from the range of core and optional electives modules in the area of Ophthalmic Nursing. 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 from the range of core and optional elective modules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
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<tr>
<td>Without classification</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>
WHAT WILL I STUDY?

If you are working towards the MSc you will study two core modules, and four out of five discipline-specific modules and one elective module. If you are part-time, you should aim to take one or two modules per term for up to four years. If you are full-time, you take four modules per term over one year.

The second year of the programme for full time students is seen as writing up time for their dissertation.

MSc Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Ophthalmic Nursing) includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>HRM001</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice</td>
<td>APM001</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

You then need to select four from the following five modules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking for Ophthalmic Practice</td>
<td>OVM054</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Certificate in Glaucoma</td>
<td>OVM006</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetic Eye Disease</td>
<td>OVM005</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision in the Aged</td>
<td>OVM012</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractive Surgery</td>
<td>OVM022</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
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You can then opt for one other module from the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicines Management</td>
<td>NMM026</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology for Health and Social Care</td>
<td>APM003</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting and Assessing Learning in Practice Settings</td>
<td>NMM108</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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</table>

These lists are not binding, as new modules become available from time to time and will be offered if they are appropriate. Similarly some modules may become obsolete, and will be withdrawn. 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.

Dissertation component

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Core/</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Dissertation</td>
<td>APM002</td>
<td>60</td>
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</table>

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

**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, in a variety of public and private settings. 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](http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates).

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?**

This programme does not currently offer the opportunity to study overseas.

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

This programme does not require clinical placements. Students usually continue in their nursing post whilst studying at City.

**WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

Some specific modules (e.g. in teaching and learning) are recognised by the NMC.

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

All entrants to the programme must normally be in possession of a relevant first degree.

The normal entry requirements are:

- A first degree (2:2 class or above) or equivalent, in a relevant subject from an approved institution of higher education. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the programme director; Such candidates may demonstrate their readiness to study at Masters level by working autonomously at an advanced level, or by previous publications. Additionally they will usually be required to successfully undertake ‘Biological Foundations in Clinical Practice and Related Pharmacology’ (NM3301).

- A current professional registration with a relevant professional/statutory body or equivalent

- At least two years’ relevant clinical experience as a registered nurse, including
one year experience within ophthalmic nursing. Applicants will be able to bring to the programme recent studies (up to 45 credits) taken elsewhere, if they are relevant to this programme, and thereby be exempted from two or more modules.

**RPL/RP(E)L Requirements**

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RPL may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following City 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 RPL will normally be no more than one quarter of the total credit for the programme but can be permitted up to one third of the total credit of the programme undertaken at City, University of London

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 City 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
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the Board of Studies concerned.