PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Clinical Optometry)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MSc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Division of Optometry and Visual Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme code</td>
<td>PSCLOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Part Time/Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The key purpose of the MSc in Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (Clinical Optometry) is to provide optometrists working in specialist practice (in the hospital or community setting) with evidence-based knowledge and practice of advanced level primary eye care.

The programme 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 creative working practices. The aim 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 teaching in the latest theoretical and clinical developments relating to health and social care provision. It also develops your research skills and critical thinking and provides the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent research in the future.

The focus of the programme is on management of patients (with other medical disciplines if appropriate) and the expansion of the optometrist's role in ocular therapeutics within the hospital and community specialist practice setting. The programme integrates clinical and theoretical knowledge, making extensive use of expert practitioners. It enables you to continue development and accumulation of knowledge and expertise relating to ocular health care and vision science during your professional career. For some modules, you will learn alongside other health care practitioners enriching the learning experience.

Modules within the programme will include decision-making, resolving conflict, resource allocation and ethical issues. You will also be able to develop your theoretical, methodological and research skills to enhance your ability to critically evaluate research and the clinical evidence base. In addition, you will be able to conduct a piece of rigorous research and reach sound analytical conclusions, which can form the basis for the development of effective service delivery in health care organisations.

The programme will provide you with an opportunity to enhance your optometric career prospects in the hospital or specialist community context through gaining both academic
and professional qualifications. The programme includes the Professional Certificates in Glaucoma and Low Vision accredited by the College of Optometrists. The Prescribing modules are also accredited by the General Optical Council and the content forms the theory for the College of Optometrists’ Independent Prescribing Common Final Assessment.

By completing the MSc in APHSC (Clinical Optometry) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of clinical optometry 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 clinical optometry 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 will be 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 your 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 hospital and specialist community-based practitioners
- Enables you to practice safely by affirming:
  - an appropriate level of competence
  - a level of self-awareness that encourages recognition of your own limits
  - the knowledge to meet likely future developments in hospital or community optometric practice
- Prepares you to think critically, be open to new ideas, and challenge outmoded ways of working
- Allows you to develop your research and critical evaluation skills to become evidence-based practitioners
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
- Exhibit in-depth knowledge and understanding of current perspectives, theoretical concepts, research methodologies and research findings in optometry
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of current problems and new insights into your field of study in optometry
- Demonstrate in-depth and systematic understanding of ocular and systemic disease affecting the eye
- Evaluate and critically appraise new and up-dated research-based knowledge in the relevant optometric field
- Enlarge your knowledge and experience of new diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and equipment
- Manage patients effectively with an awareness of ethical dilemmas
- Examine and explore critical leadership and transformational management styles
- Display knowledge and critical understanding of the principles of research design and statistics

Skills:

- Justify appropriate clinical decision making and evaluate and assess the undertaking of appropriate clinical examinations
- Synthesise information from a number of complex, incomplete or contradictory sources in order to gain knowledge and understanding
- Apply the independent skills required for academic study and enquiry
- Interpret and critically review research and methodologies and argue alternative approaches
- Demonstrate, given certain clinical data, the most appropriate patient management strategy
- Self-evaluate in order to improve practice
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of optometric topics and be critically aware of research and theoretical issues surrounding clinical practice
- Analyse with critical professional awareness in order to solve clinical issues
- Competently undertake research tasks with minimum guidance
- Demonstrate transparent leadership and critically informed actions
- Apply clinical expertise to development service to maximise patient experience and resource allocation
- Practice as an autonomous and advanced health and/or social care practitioner capable of leading professional developments
- Develop research designs appropriate to research questions/hypotheses, and
select and implement appropriate statistical analyses of data

• Undertake either an empirical research investigation, or a systematic review of the literature
• Demonstrate written and verbal communication skills appropriate to Masters level

Values and attitudes:

• Show an insight into and respect for the experience of service users and participants in research
• Understand the importance of complying with ethics requirements for conduct of research with human participants
• Provide advice for colleagues, patients and their carers that is value free and non-discriminatory
• Have developed precision and rigour in collecting and working with clinical data
• Be effective when working in a range of environments (NHS and non-NHS)
• Construct and manage a personal and professional development plan which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning
• Be able to 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.

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?

Time commitments

Full-time: one/two years for taught modules. It is recognised that some students who attend the taught part of the programme full time may undertake the dissertation on a part time basis; such students may be allowed up to a year to complete their dissertation.

Part-time: up to four years for taught modules, plus up to one year for dissertation.
Postgraduate taught and distance learning modules offered by the Division are designed to satisfy the rapidly changing academic, clinical and professional development needs of hospital and community optometrists working in specialist practice. Teaching and assessment methods are tailored to the learning objectives of each module component.

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 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. Postgraduate taught and distance learning modules offered by the Division are designed to satisfy the rapidly changing academic, clinical and professional development needs of hospital and community optometrists working in specialist practice. Teaching and assessment methods are tailored to the learning objectives of each module component.

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?

A three-hour examination is normally held some 8-10 weeks after the module and you have two opportunities to sit the assessment. Methods of assessment vary between modules, to reflect their differences in structure and content. The modular examinations may include any combination of the following:-

- A multiple choice question (MCQ) paper (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)
- An objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) examination
- 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 City 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 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
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:

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 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.

In the event of a fail mark being awarded, 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 that 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

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?
Master's Degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
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Postgraduate Diploma:

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<th>Part</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
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<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Without classification</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Clinical Optometry, 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.

If you successfully complete any of the following four taught modules (60 credits), you qualify for a PG Certificate in Therapeutics Prescribing (PGCTP).
  - Principles of Therapeutics (via Moodle)
  - Principles of Prescribing
  - Independent Prescribing
  - Learning in Practice (via APEL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>With Merit</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Without classification</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study two core modules, and you can choose a further five modules from a choice of five discipline-specific modules and two 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.

This list is 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. 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. You will find your core, discipline specific and some elective 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 [www.city.ac.uk/health/courses](http://www.city.ac.uk/health/courses). If you wish to take an elective module that is not listed below, please do so in consultation with your programme director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/ Discipline specific elective/ Elective</th>
<th>Can be compensated?</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis (on-line)</td>
<td>HRM011</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</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>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Therapeutics (via Moodle)</td>
<td>OVM050</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discipline – specific elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Prescribing</td>
<td>OVM051</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discipline – specific elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Prescribing</td>
<td>OVM053</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discipline – specific elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Certificate in Glaucoma</td>
<td>OVM006</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discipline – specific elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Certificate in Low Vision</td>
<td>OVM013</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Discipline – specific elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership for Practice and Service Delivery</td>
<td>NMM015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Leadership in Health Care</td>
<td>HMM022</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

This programme is aimed at hospital optometrists or community optometrists working in specialist practice. The programme will provide you with an opportunity to enhance your career prospects in the context of hospital or specialist community optometry through gaining both an academic qualification and professional qualifications with the College of Optometrists and the General Optical Council.

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 – See below:

1. **The College of Optometrists**
The glaucoma module is accredited by the College of Optometrists as providing ‘The Professional Certificate in Glaucoma’. Additional ‘Professional Certificate’ modules are currently being developed including Low Vision, Contact Lenses and Medical Retina (currently under development).

   The College of Optometrists' Independent Prescribing Common Final Assessment is a means by which candidates demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to be eligible for specialist registration with the GOC.

   Further information can be found at: http://www.college-optometrists.org/

2. **The General Optical Council**
The General Optical Council accredits the following modules which make up the prescribing programme:
   - Principles of Therapeutics
   - Principles of Prescribing (exit for Additional Supply)
   - Independent Prescribing
   - Learning in Practice (via APEL)

   You must be qualified for at least two years prior to completing the final prescribing examination.

   Following successful completion of the theoretical component of the prescribing
programme, trainees are eligible to undertake a 5 day (Additional Supply) or a 12 day (Independent Prescribing) clinical placement. The Learning in Practice via APEL component of the training is examined by the College of Optometrists during the Common Final Assessment (CFA) for specialist qualifications in therapeutics (Additional Supply/Independent Prescribing). The credits associated with this module can be transferred onto the programme upon successful completion of the assessment (see APEL requirements).

Completing all parts of the prescribing programme including the College of Optometrists’ Final Assessment enables you to be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Therapeutic Prescribing.

Further information can be found at: http://www.college-optometrists.org/

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The MSc is a flexible, taught postgraduate programme based on a modular design. Candidates are usually UK-registered optometrists working in specialist practice who must satisfy all legal requirements to be eligible to practise as optometrists in the UK, and should be registered with the General Optical Council. Overseas candidates will be accepted on an ad hoc basis providing the individual's undergraduate syllabus and clinical responsibilities are similar to those of a UK Optometrist.

All entrants to the Programme must 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.
- A satisfactory academic reference and a satisfactory clinical reference.

Applicants will be able to bring to the programme recent studies (up to 45 credits) taken elsewhere, and thereby be exempted from two or more modules.

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 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/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.