

 **Learna** | **Diploma MSc**

Ophthalmology

Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM



Postgraduate Diploma

Delivered over 1 year, the online, part-time, Postgraduate Diploma course is specially developed for busy health professionals. Formatted in 6 modules, each 6 weeks in duration; the course is designed to be practical and clinically focused.

MSc

The MSc runs over 2 calendar years, with the first year consisting of the Postgraduate Diploma. The second year starts with an initial 10 week online module to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the professional project module.

Why Study Ophthalmology with us?

Our flexible, 100% online Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Ophthalmology is designed for GPs, specialists, nurses, allied health professionals, and medical graduates who want to confidently manage eye conditions, cut unnecessary referrals, and deliver faster, better patient care.

You will learn directly from practising clinicians who understand the challenges you face, with teaching grounded in research and evidence-based medicine.

Explore subspecialty areas rarely covered elsewhere - including paediatric and elderly ophthalmology, ocular adnexal disorders, and global health. For aspiring ophthalmologists, this ophthalmology programme provides the academic foundation to strengthen your CV and stand out in competitive training applications.

Ophthalmology Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Ophthalmology Postgraduate Diploma allows you to study for just one calendar year and is a part-time, distance-learning course. The course is worth 120 credits and comprises six modules of 20 credits, each running over a period of six weeks.

Module 1 - Foundations of Clinical Ophthalmology

Aim of the module:

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of the anatomical, physiological, and pharmacological foundations underpinning ophthalmic practice and to enable the critical application of diagnostic tools and clinical reasoning in assessing common ophthalmic presentations.

Synopsis of module content:

- Ocular Anatomy and Visual Pathways: Clinical Correlation
- Principles of Optics, refractive errors and contact lenses in clinical practice
- Comprehensive Ophthalmic Assessment: History-Taking and Examination Skills
- Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Everyday Ophthalmic Care
- Diagnostic Technologies: From Basic to Advanced Investigations
- Integrated Clinical Decision-Making: Common Presentation Scenarios

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an advanced understanding of ocular anatomy, visual pathways, and the physiological principles of refractive errors, as well as the pharmacological principles relevant to ophthalmic care, in order to critically contextualise clinical decision-making.
2. Critically analyse clinical presentations of common ophthalmic conditions using a structured approach to history-taking, ocular examination, and diagnostic technologies, integrating anatomical, physiological, and pharmacological knowledge for accurate assessment and management.
3. Apply advanced interpersonal and professional communication skills to effectively engage with multidisciplinary teams, ensuring the collaborative management of patients with ophthalmic conditions, while maintaining a patient-centred approach across diverse healthcare settings.
4. Employ creativity and reflective practice in formulating management strategies for complex ophthalmic conditions, integrating both innovative and evidence-based approaches to enhance patient care within diverse clinical contexts.

Module 2 - Anterior Segment Disorders and Management

Aim of the module:

- To equip learners with advanced knowledge and clinical reasoning skills for diagnosing and managing anterior segment disorders, including corneal, conjunctival, lens, and intraocular pressure-related pathologies.

Synopsis of module content:

- Red Eye: Differential Diagnosis and Management Approaches
- Corneal Infections, Inflammatory eye conditions and transplants
- Dry Eye Disease and Ocular Surface Disorders
- Cataract Assessment and Perioperative Management
- Glaucoma in Primary Care: Detection and Monitoring
- Glaucoma Treatment: Medical, Laser and Surgical Approaches

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit advanced knowledge of the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and management strategies of anterior segment disorders, including corneal infections, dry eye disease, cataracts, and glaucoma, by synthesising relevant anatomical, physiological, and pharmacological principles.
2. Critically analyse complex clinical presentations of anterior segment disorders by integrating diagnostic findings, patient history, and clinical examination results, enabling advanced decision-making in management plans for conditions such as cataract, glaucoma, and ocular surface disorders.
3. Apply effective communication and collaborative skills within multidisciplinary teams to support the diagnosis and clinical decision-making processes related to anterior segment disorders across a variety of healthcare settings.
4. Integrate reflective practice and innovation in developing management strategies for anterior segment conditions, integrating emerging research, new technologies, and best practices to improve patient outcomes in diverse clinical environments.

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Doing a course, all online is a lot more convenient for me around my clinical role so that's why I chose to study with Learn... I really like how flexible the course was, I liked the freedom I got with the professional project and I was well supported throughout the whole 2 years!

- Lisa Jayne Edwards, Medical Education MSc graduate

Module 3 - Posterior Segment Disorders in Clinical Practice

Aim of the module:

- To provide a critical understanding of posterior segment pathologies, enabling students to integrate imaging, systemic considerations, and evolving therapies for the management of retinal and optic nerve disorders.

Synopsis of module content:

- Diabetic Eye Disease: Screening, Detection and Management
- Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Definition, diagnosis and management including gene therapy
- Retinal Vascular Disorders: Recognition and management
- Vitreoretinal Interface Disorders and surgical management
- Posterior Segment disease: Manifestations of Systemic Disease
- Managing Patients with Progressive Vision Loss: from poster segment disease

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an advanced understanding of the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and management strategies for posterior segment disorders, including diabetic eye disease, age-related macular degeneration, retinal vascular disorders, and vitreoretinal interface disorders, with consideration of systemic implications.
2. Critically analyse complex clinical presentations of posterior segment disorders using advanced diagnostic imaging, patient history, and clinical examination findings, while incorporating evolving therapeutic approaches and the systemic context of the conditions.
3. Apply advanced communication and teamwork skills in multidisciplinary settings to facilitate shared learning, promote understanding of complex posterior segment conditions, and support the integration of diverse therapeutic approaches in the context of progressive vision loss.
4. Critically appraise and integrate innovative diagnostic tools, evolving therapies, and research findings to inform the design of management strategies for posterior segment disorders, enhancing clinical outcomes in diverse practice settings.

Module 4 - Ocular adnexal and Functional Visual Disorders

Aim of the module:

- To enable learners to identify and manage disorders affecting ocular adnexa, binocular vision, and neuro-ophthalmic function, and to explore the role of visual rehabilitation and low vision support in improving patient quality of life.

Synopsis of module content:

- Eyelid Disorders and Periocular Abnormalities: Assessment and Management
- Orbit and systemic disease
- Lacrimal System: Diagnosis, Investigation and Management
- Binocular Vision Disorders and Adult Strabismus
- Neuro-ophthalmic Emergencies in Primary Care Settings
- Visual Rehabilitation and Low Vision Aid and Support Strategies

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an advanced understanding of the pathophysiology, assessment, and management strategies for ocular adnexal disorders, including eyelid abnormalities, lacrimal system diseases, and orbital pathologies, in the context of systemic health and functional visual disorders.
2. Critically evaluate diagnostic findings from clinical examination, imaging, and systemic investigations to form management plans for patients with ocular adnexal disorders, binocular vision dysfunctions, and neuro-ophthalmic emergencies, considering the complexities of multi-system involvement.
3. Apply advanced interpersonal and communication skills within multidisciplinary teams to support collaborative care for patients with ocular adnexal and functional visual disorders, while also contributing to visual rehabilitation and low vision aid strategies to enhance patient quality of life.
4. Employ reflective practice and creative problem-solving in the design of personalised management strategies for patients with ocular adnexal and functional visual disorders, integrating innovative diagnostic approaches and low vision rehabilitation techniques to improve patient outcomes.

Module 5 - Special Population Ophthalmology

Aim of the module:

- To examine the ophthalmic needs of diverse populations, including children, the elderly, and individuals in occupational or global health settings, and to critically evaluate strategies for prevention, screening, and care delivery.

Synopsis of module content:

- Paediatric Eye Examination and Common Childhood Eye Disorders
- Ocular Trauma Management and Prevention Strategies
- Managing Eye Conditions in the Elderly: Multimorbidity Considerations
- Occupational Eye Health and Environmental Eye Disorders
- Infectious and Inflammatory Eye Disease: Global Perspective
- Community Eye Health Screening and Preventive Ophthalmology

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Articulate an advanced understanding of the key ophthalmic conditions and specific management strategies for special populations, including paediatric, geriatric, occupational, and global health settings, with a focus on multimorbidity, preventative screening, and care delivery.
2. Critically evaluate the epidemiology, risk factors, diagnostic approaches, and treatment options for ophthalmic conditions in special populations, considering the complexities of multimorbidity, age-related changes, and environmental or occupational factors.
3. Apply advanced communication and collaborative skills in multidisciplinary settings to manage ophthalmic care for diverse populations, integrating prevention, screening, and treatment strategies while ensuring patient-centred care and effective team collaboration.
4. Critically appraise and integrate emerging research, technologies, and community-based interventions to develop innovative strategies for screening, prevention, and management of ophthalmic conditions in special populations.

Module 6 - Advanced Clinical Practice and Professional Development

Aim of the module:

- To synthesise advanced clinical competencies with emerging technologies and leadership principles, enabling learners to contribute to service innovation, quality improvement, and ethical excellence in ophthalmic care.

Synopsis of module content:

- Ophthalmic Emergencies: Triage, Referral and Management Pathways
- Surgical Decision-Making and Post-Operative Care
- Digital Health Technologies and Teleophthalmology Applications
- Collaborative Care Models in Ophthalmology
- Quality Improvement and Patient Safety in Ophthalmic Services
- Professional Ethics and Clinical Leadership in Eye Care

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an in-depth understanding of the key principles and practices in ophthalmic emergencies, surgical decision-making, postoperative care, and the integration of digital health technologies in clinical practice.
2. Critically analyse complex ophthalmic clinical scenarios, integrating patient safety protocols, quality improvement initiatives, and collaborative care models to enhance decision-making in ophthalmic emergencies and postoperative care.
3. Apply leadership, ethical principles, and collaborative care models within multidisciplinary teams and drive quality improvement initiatives in ophthalmic practice, demonstrating a proactive approach to service innovation and patient-centered care.
4. Integrate innovation and creativity in the use of digital health technologies and teleophthalmology applications, while contributing to the advancement of ophthalmic services through evidence-based practice and strategic service development.



Teaching Methods

Our courses are conducted entirely online through our online learning platform. However, you will receive guidance throughout with tutor-stimulated academic discussions, which are based on clinically-rich case scenarios. These usually occur within groups of 10-15 students, allowing you to clearly communicate with both your tutor and fellow students.

You will participate in a combination of group and individual activities, which are recorded in a reflective journal. This innovative teaching method enables you to envisage the translation of your studies into your every day work and practice.

Our dedicated Student Support Team are also available to help with any problems you may face. From navigating our online platform to advising you on deadlines, our team can assist with any questions or challenges you may have along the way.

Study skills week

Once you have secured your place on the course, you will be required to attend our Study Skills week. This will give you the opportunity to participate in workshops on Harvard referencing, scientific and reflective writings, and levels of evidence in preparation for your studies. It is compulsory for you to attend this induction, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Ophthalmology

Postgraduate Diploma

Entry Requirements

Documents required:

- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- A copy of your undergraduate degree certificate.
- The name and email address of someone who is able to provide a reference, this can be a work colleague, employer or former tutor.
- A detailed personal statement explaining why you would like to undertake the course.

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

Proficiency in the English language is also essential to completing our courses. If English is NOT your first language, we ask for proof of competency during the application process. We are able to accept an IELTS overall score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 for each band) or an equivalent qualification.

Health professionals working within a clinical setting, both UK and overseas, with a related Healthcare Science degree (including international qualifications) are eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in

Ophthalmology

Applicants without the above academic criteria but relevant/ suitable experience can apply. Applications will be judged on the individual specifics of background and qualifications including ability to work at Postgraduate level (applicants may be asked to submit a piece of work for assessment to confirm that they are able to work comfortably at postgraduate level and demonstrate requisite clinical/professional knowledge).



Ophthalmology MSc

Course Modules

Module 7 (MSc): Professional Project

Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

- Qualitative research methods.
- Fundamentals of evidence-based practice and its application into the clinical setting.
- Principles of health economics, audit and quality improvement/assurance systems.
- Establishing patient registers and the value of disease-specific registers.
- Research into educational principles for both healthcare practitioner and patient.

Learning outcomes

1. Select and apply different methodological perspectives and tools to answer research questions in the field.
2. Critically analyse and interpret relevant research in the subject area.
3. Design and undertake a research/development project.
4. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
5. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

Professional Project

This module will depend on the creation of a piece of work based upon a specific clinically related project relevant to the student's practice. This project may comprise:

- Literature review and appraisal of the evidence.
- Audit of practice including organisational or clinical.
- Review and implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Qualitative or quantitative research (formal research involving human subjects is not anticipated).
- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.

Teaching Methods

Module 7

MSc teaching methods for this module are similar to the Postgraduate Diploma course modules, however it is run over 12 weeks.

To produce the professional project, students continue to use the online course; however much of the work is self-directed. Students are expected in the first 8 weeks to interact with their tutor on a weekly basis. Students select a specific project and submit a project summary/ proposal (approximately 1500 words).

Once the proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,500 words) itself is then completed through online guidance and supervision offered by the tutor. The student and tutor will interact regularly (weekly) on the dedicated students/ tutor discussion area or through any other means of communication deemed appropriate by both parties (telephone/ SKYPE/ email). Note of any verbal communication with the tutor is recorded in the student's journal by the student.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the one year Ophthalmology MSc will require successful completion of the Ophthalmology Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc, the University of Buckingham or another UK university (having completed similar modules). We can discuss this with you during your application.

Individuals who have not completed the postgraduate diploma can apply for the Ophthalmology MSc as a two year course consisting of eight modules (180 credits) with the first 120 credits deriving from the postgraduate diploma.

Entry requirements for the two-year course are as for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Applicants should be working in a clinical setting, either in the UK or overseas, and have a science degree in a relevant subject.

You will also need to submit copies of the following with your application:

- Qualification certificates
- A maximum of two professional and/or academic references
- IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 6.5 for each band (or an equivalent qualification)

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award from the University of Buckingham, Diploma MSc's collaborative partner. The Ophthalmology MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Ophthalmology.



What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 6000 students have progressed their medical career by enrolling in one of our qualifications. We ourselves have learned a lot during this time and continually seek to improve the student learning experience. Here is what some of our previous students have said:

"I found the online learning very interesting. It enabled me to save money and time."

Dr Imad Eddin Rahamtalla, Doctor

"I strongly recommend Diploma MSc to all those busy physicians who are working in remote areas and wish to upgrade their knowledge."

Dr Junaid Zaffar, Diabetologist

"The learning was fun and enjoyable. The course was awesome and it increased my confidence."

Dr Sankar Nath Jha, Assistant Professor

"I found learning with Diploma MSc interesting, it helped to update my academic knowledge."

Dr Prasanth Kinattupurayil, Doctor

"I love that it was flexible and that I could log in at my convenience. I found this course to be very in-depth, informative, challenging and stimulating."

Kerri-Ann Best PGDip, RD



Diploma MSc

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For more information on applications email
admissions@learna.ac.uk
or call +44 (0) 29 2192 1312