POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>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>PSCOPM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Full time (within two years) Part Time (within five years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>90</td>
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PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The key purpose of the MSc in Clinical Optometry programme is to provide optometrists with up-to-date research-based and theoretical knowledge of a wide range of fields, particularly in primary care optometry. Emphasis is placed on 'shared-care' or 'co-management' of patients with other medical disciplines and the expansion of the optometrist's role in ocular therapeutics. The programme integrates clinical and theoretical knowledge, making extensive use of expert practitioners. The programme enables optometrists to continue development and accumulation of knowledge and expertise relating to ocular health care and vision science during their professional careers.

The programme will provide you with an opportunity to enhance your career prospects in this field through gaining both an academic qualification and a professional qualification with either the General Optical Council or the College of Optometrists (where appropriate).

Aims

The overall educational aim of the MSc is to provide postgraduate education which:-
Is underpinned by clinical practice and research
Integrates the development of scientific/theoretical knowledge and clinical skills
Enables you to contribute to the development of your profession
Uses a variety of teaching and clinically appropriate assessment methods
Is enjoyable and intellectually challenging
Provides a supportive environment and uses appropriate learning resources
Further develops your analytical, critical and problem-solving faculties and your ability to produce original work: and to foster your personal development
Develops reflective 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 optometric practice

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

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

**Knowledge and understanding:**

- Provide enhanced clinical care to your patients  
- 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

**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  
- Act appropriately given certain clinical data, implementing guidelines and deciding on the most appropriate patient management strategy  
- Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional study  

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  
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in professional practice, making use of other professional disciplines where necessary  
- Competently undertake research tasks with minimum guidance  
- Communicate effectively with individuals, academics and other healthcare professionals  
- Develop new clinical skills and procedures
Values and attitudes:

- Use appropriate interpersonal and communication skills
- Show an appropriate professional attitude towards patients and colleagues
- Show an awareness of ethical practice

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for generic masters level programmes.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

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.

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.

Distance learning modules may be applied for at any time and you should spend at least 8 hours per week over 17 weeks studying the material.

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

Any support required during the programme should be directed to the Programme Director. A Personal Tutor is allocated at the start of the programme.

The MSc may be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis.

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.

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
- Assignment

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

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

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 an assessment 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.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback is usually provided in a verbal or written format for each module.

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In
particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. 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 complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

*Each module of this programme is weighted in relation to the module credit for the purpose of providing your final classification.*

The Pass mark for each module is 50%. *Where more than one assessment component is required to pass, how this contributes to your final module mark is outlined in the module specification.*

If you fail an assessment component or a module, you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first/second 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part</td>
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5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>(%)</th>
<th></th>
<th>With Distinction</th>
<th>With Merit</th>
<th>With Pass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>50</td>
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Postgraduate Diploma:

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<tr>
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<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>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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
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Postgraduate Certificate:

<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>60</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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
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</table>

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Part 1 - Taught component

You will study two core module (Research methods and data analysis (30 credits) and dissertation (60 credits)) and can choose a further six modules from a choice of twelve discipline specific modules.

The MSc in Clinical Optometry is a Masters programme (of 180 credits). In order to gain the award of MSc in Clinical Optometry, students must complete 6 MSc modules (15 PG credits each) totalling 90 PG credits, the Research methods and medical statistics on-line course (30 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits).

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.
You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation.

<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis (on-line)</td>
<td>HRM011</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binocular Vision</td>
<td>OVM033</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Lens Practice</td>
<td>OVM032</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetic Eye Disease</td>
<td>OVM005</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>OVM006</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmic examination</td>
<td>OVM054</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Eye Care</td>
<td>OVM055</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles of Therapeutics (via Moodle)</td>
<td>OVM050</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Prescribing</td>
<td>OVM051</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Prescribing</td>
<td>OVM053</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractive Surgery</td>
<td>OVM022</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Impairment</td>
<td>OVM013</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</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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Part 2
Dissertation component

You are required to complete either the research project or the dissertation module to complete the MSc.

<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>Dissertation</td>
<td>APM002</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
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TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

This programme is aimed at optometrists who work in community or hospital
optometric practice. The programme will provide you with an opportunity to enhance your career prospects in the field of clinical optometry through gaining both an academic qualification and a professional qualification with either the General Optical Council or the College of Optometrists (where appropriate).

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?

1) 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
Students completing the final examination must be qualified for at least two years.
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 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).
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/

1. The College of Optometrists
The glaucoma module is accredited by the College of Optometrists as providing ‘The Professional Certificate in Glaucoma’.
Further information can be found at: http://www.college-optometrists.org/

2. City and Guilds
The Diabetic eye disease module is accredited by City and Guilds – Unit 302. Further information can be found at http://www.city.ac.uk/optometry

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 (2:1 class or above) and have at least one years’ relevant clinical experience with a satisfactory academic reference and/or a satisfactory clinical reference.

Where the candidate has less than a second class degree we will consider applications where there is substantial relevant experience (that is, clinical, teaching or other relevant professional experience). This will be at the discretion of the programme director and Associate Dean for Postgraduate Study.

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
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (computer based) score 107 required.
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

APL/AP(E)L Requirements
In line with Senate Regulation 19, accreditation of prior learning (APL) will 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): APL 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.