
Levels of competence/capability (based on OPT Framework) used in this document are –

- Ability to participate in triage/screening and to monitor low risk patients with an established diagnosis to a clearly defined clinical protocol in a specific condition(s)

- Ability to make preliminary diagnosis within a specific area and manage under specific protocols

- Ability to independently diagnose and manage patients – this may be within specific areas of practice or diagnostic categories performed by an Advanced Care Practitioner (ACP).

Ophthalmologists are medically qualified doctors and apply for competitive entry to a minimum 7 year-long ophthalmology postgraduate training after a minimum of 2 years foundation training.

The training is comprehensive, under strict governance with continuous assessments and high stakes examinations. It covers all aspects of the medical and surgical care of ophthalmic patients

Orthoptists are allied health professionals (AHPs) who are trained in the diagnosis and management of eye movement disorders. Following graduation (3-4 year degree with clinical placements), they are fully qualified autonomous practitioners in the core competence areas and do not require any post graduate pre-registration training.

The core competencies of orthoptists are highlighted in the HCPC standards of proficiency (generic and orthoptist specific) and the British and Irish Orthoptic Society orthoptic curriculum framework, found here:

https://orthopticsorg.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Curriculum%20Framework_July%202016.pdf

The mapping of some of these courses and qualifications described to the level of practice are shown below*:

Level	Definition	Course
	Ability to participate in triage/screening and to monitor low risk patients with an established diagnosis to a clearly defined clinical protocol in a specific condition(s)	Post-graduate certificate (PGCert) in ophthalmic practice with a clinical component Level 1 OPT
	Ability to make preliminary diagnosis within a specific area and manage under specific protocols	Post graduate diploma in ophthalmic practice with a clinical component Higher Qualifications from the College of Optometrists. Professional & Higher Certificates eg Glaucoma (Broadly the Prof Cert Glaucoma and Higher Cert Glaucoma map to OPT2) Level 2 OPT
	Ability to independently diagnose and manage patients – this may be within specific areas of practice or diagnostic categories performed by an Advanced Care Practitioner (ACP).	Masters in ophthalmic practice degree with embedded clinical training Higher Qualifications from the College of Optometrists Diploma In Glaucoma (Dip Glaucoma) Level 3 OPT

N.B. There is cross over between OPT Framework and Post Graduate College of Optometry Qualifications therefore this table shows broad competence equivalents. Please refer to mapping document for detailed competence equivalents.

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Independent Prescribing enables optometrists and nurses to clinically assess a patient, establish a diagnosis, determine the clinical management required and prescribe where necessary.

Provided by the Cardiff University School of Optometry and Vision Sciences for individuals who have full GOC registration.

The

WOPEC also offers a delivered over 16 weeks with a mix of online
teaching material, discussion forums and assessment. They are aimed at optometrists developing
enhanced skills to prepares for extended roles within primary care and hospital optometry.

These are available for all
more details.

See the appendix for

- Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Cert Glau):
- Professional Higher Certificate in Glaucoma (Higher Cert Glau):
participation in community or hospital-based care involving the diagnosis of OHT and
preliminary diagnosis of COAG and referral refinement including gonioscopy. Develop ability
to detect change in clinical status, and subsequent decision making and management of
patients with glaucoma.
- Professional Diploma in Glaucoma (Dip Glau): provision of a glaucoma
service in the community, network, or shared care.
- ability to make accurate and appropriate referral decisions for patients
with medical retina conditions.
- ability to manage low risk medical retina conditions autonomously.
- enables practitioners to deliver eye care to more complex Paediatric
cases and specialist populations, and to understand the evidence for developing
management options.
- prepares for extended roles within community and hospital optometry.

(secondary care based). The delivery of the OPT curriculum is

Glaucoma <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-glaucoma.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Cert Glauco)

This higher qualification is designed to prepare you to participate in formal 'referral refinement' and OHT/ suspect COAG monitoring schemes. You will develop your clinical expertise and decision-making skills regarding managing glaucoma in clinical practice and manage and advise your patients with confidence.

Provider: University of Bradford, Cardiff University, City University of London, University of Manchester, Moorfield Eye Hospital, Ulster University

Who is this for- GOC-registered, postgraduate, community or hospital optometrists and registered allied health professionals

2. Professional Higher Certificate in Glaucoma (Higher Cert Glauco)

This qualification is designed to prepare you for participation in community or hospital-based

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Medical Retina <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-medical-retina.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (Prof Cert Med Ret)

This qualification provides community and hospital-based optometrists with knowledge of common medical retina conditions needed to make accurate and appropriate referral decisions for patients with medical retina conditions and prepares them for supervised roles in medical retina, new patient triage clinics and AMD treatment-retreatment clinics.

Providers: Cardiff University, Aston University, City University of London, Moorfield's Eye Hospital, Ulster University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists and clinicians in the field of optometry

Paediatric eye care <https://www.college-optometrists.org/cpd-and-cet/training-and-qualifications/higher-qualifications/courses-and-providers/higher-qualifications-in-paediatric-eye-care.html>

1. Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Prof Cert Paed Eye Care)

This qualification provides optometrists with confidence and practical skills needed for working with infants and children and helps prepare them for extended roles within community and hospital optometry. There is a particular emphasis on child-

GOC-registered optometrists and dispensing opticians and eye care professionals

2. Professional Higher Certificate in Low Vision (Higher Cert LV)

This qualification enables optometrists in a hospital or community setting to provide an enhanced standard of low vision care for specialist groups of patients.

Providers: Cardiff University

Who is it for: GOC-registered optometrists and dispensing opticians and eye care professionals

Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship level 3

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/iao/advanced-clinical-practice-ophthalmology-msc-degree-apprenticeship>

This master's degree apprenticeship has been developed by practicing clinicians and will allow an understanding of clinical care in the context of the latest ophthalmic research and treatments. This course incorporates the OPT to deliver the clinical competences of level 3 (decision making)

Who is it for: non-medical ophthalmic professionals; optometrists, ophthalmic nurses and orthoptists only

WOPEC - individual modules

<https://www.locsu.co.uk/wp->

UCL- Ophthalmology MSc

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/study/ophthalmology-msc>

Led by consultants and specialists at Moorfield's Eye Hospital, our flagship Ophthalmology MSc

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- o Cardiff University
 - o City University
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