

# School of Optometry and Vision Sciences

## **Postgraduate** Taught Programmes

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry)



# Welcome

**£22 million**  
purpose-built  
optometry facility  
with on-site  
eye clinic

We **collaborate with leading external institutions** such as Bristol Eye Hospital, UCL, University of Bristol and other GW4 universities as well as Schepens Eye Research Institute (Harvard)

Many of our modules and programmes are **accredited by the General Optical Council (GOC) or the College of Optometrists**

In the latest REF, we **ranked 4th** in the UK with an environmental ranking of **100%** and **90%** of our research deemed 'outstanding'

Our teaching is informed by our **leading research**

**Highly experienced** staff in research, teaching and practice

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## Choose Cardiff

We are delighted to showcase our suite of postgraduate taught programmes and modules for optometrists and other health care professionals who wish to gain further qualifications.

Our postgraduate taught programmes and modules not only offer the opportunity for specialisation in one or more of a wide range of subdisciplines within optometry, but they're also designed to be flexible to your study requirements, relevant to your day to day work in practice and to fit around your home and family life.

Many of our programmes are also accredited by professional bodies and academic institutions so you can be sure that the programmes and modules we provide are of the highest standard.

The School is renowned for delivering excellent teaching with outstanding professional prospects – we place a strong emphasis on vision sciences

and encourage an ethos of enquiry and evidence-based learning and practice. Should you choose to study with us, you will be supported by our highly experienced postgraduate teaching team, many of whom are world-leading experts in their fields.

Completion of a postgraduate optometry qualification provides the springboard for many different types of exciting careers and specialisms within eye care and I very much hope you will decide to enhance your professional career by choosing to study with us. I believe that you will find your postgraduate studies in the School both rewarding and interesting and with excellent support along every step of the way!

**Professor John Wild**  
Head of the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences



# About the School

We are the only optometric training department in Wales and have a world-class reputation for our education and our vision sciences research.

## Courses

As well as our leading optometry undergraduate programme, we offer flexible part-time and full-time postgraduate optometry programmes. Our modules are designed for the modern eye-care professional and are meaningful in everyday ophthalmic practice.

Our teaching activities are further enhanced by our on-site optometry clinic which provides opportunities for studies involving patients in a clinical setting.



## Location

Our School is based in a £22 million purpose-built optometry facility and is situated at the Innovation Campus at Maindy Park.

We are conveniently located close to the other academic buildings, the Students' Union, city centre shops, attractive parkland and several of the student residences.



## Flexibility

Our programmes and modules are flexible and offer you the opportunity to study full-time or part-time. You can choose the modules that suit you and you can study at a distance or in Cardiff. Each mode of study makes use of our virtual learning environment and includes direct contact with your tutors.



## Teaching

Our teaching is informed by evidence based advanced clinical research and many of our teaching staff are leading experts in their fields. Our academics have vast experience in ophthalmic practice and have won prestigious awards for their vision sciences research including the Queen's Anniversary Prize.



## Accreditation

Many of our modules and programmes are accredited by the General Optical Council (GOC) or the College of Optometrists towards Higher Professional Qualifications, and most are accredited for GOC Continuing Education and Training (CET) points.





# Why study with us?

We offer an outstanding teaching and learning experience and studying with us puts you in control of your studies.

### Professional development

Our teaching portfolio aims to further your professional development so that you can provide new patient services, better understand the conditions you encounter and manage your patients' diagnoses, treatment and aftercare more competently.

Many optometrists also choose to pursue further study to develop a clinical specialty, for example, independent prescribing, low vision, paediatrics or glaucoma. In addition to clinical specialties, we also offer modules for eye care professionals interested in developing their expertise in other optometric areas such as research, leadership, eye care governance and clinical teaching.

### Facilities

Our teaching, research and clinical practice are housed in a purpose-built School equipped with outstanding facilities.

We have twelve cubicles designed for our postgraduate programmes. They enable

patient interactions and are equipped with a range of modern optometric equipment and instrumentation including high quality slit lamps.

We have digital facilities in each room so that images from instruments are sent and displayed in the room where patient interactions occur. The Clinical Examination and Research Facility (CERF) also includes teaching space for break out seminars and discussions as well as instrument rooms with visual field screeners and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) instruments.

### Cardiff University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

We make extensive use of Cardiff University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), where you can watch online lectures and complete online tutorials at a time and pace that works best for you. Our courses blend online learning and practical days for when patient contact and clinical teaching is necessary.

### Credit accumulation

We offer a unique and flexible study proposition called Credit Accumulation in which module credits can be accumulated from modules and put towards achieving an MSc in Clinical Optometry.

The system combines our clinical optometry standalone modules, PGCert, PGDip and MSc into one MSc-level clinical optometry programme, providing you with more study options, simplified administrative processes and more flexibility to your studies, ensuring that you can focus on what is important to you – optometry.

### Support

Our administration team are always on hand to resolve any technical issues and the online platform has full Cardiff University support. Our assessments use online tools and quizzes as well as practical assessments, where and when this is necessary.



The School of Optometry and Vision Sciences at Cardiff University is one of the largest providers of optometry postgraduate taught courses in the UK and many of our teaching staff are leading advanced eye care practitioners and experts in their fields.

Our programmes tend to be highly vocational, focused on enhancing the careers and knowledge base of optometrists and other eye health care professionals. We are committed to provide an outstanding teaching and learning experience and we aim to provide our professional learners with enhanced clinical and academic skills and an understanding of the evidence base that can inform working practices.

This brochure will give you more information about us, the programmes that we offer, and our admissions requirements. If you would like further information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

**Professor Barbara Ryan**  
Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes



# Postgraduate

## Our modules and programmes

Our postgraduate programmes provide opportunities to engage in advanced study in a dynamic, stimulating and research-led environment.

### Modules

We offer a wide portfolio of over thirty modules providing routes for pursuing specialist interests and for continued professional development. Many are accredited for College of Optometrists' Higher awards and you can combine them to achieve a number of different qualifications.

Our modules provide specialist training in a wide range of areas in optometry, including glaucoma, independent prescribing, acute eye care, paediatrics, medical retina, clinical teaching and leadership among others.

### Programmes

Our programmes provide pathways for eye care professionals studying single modules for continuing professional development (CPD), and for those pursuing a university award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or MSc.

Clinical Optometry (MSc, PgDip PgCert)  
- Full time or part time

Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists (PgCert) - Part time

Eye Care Governance (PgCert)  
- Part time

# Modules






Our modules have been designed with you in mind – a busy professional who needs postgraduate studies to be flexible, to fit in with your work and home life, to fulfil CET requirement and to achieve something worthwhile.

OPT001: Low Vision 1 - Theory	OPT008: Study and Research Skills 1	OPT018: Primary Care Update - Theory	OPT029: Clinical teaching, education and assessment
OPT002: Low Vision 2 - Practical	OPT009: Glaucoma Foundation	OPT019: Primary Care Update - Practical	OPT034: Ocular Therapeutics
OPT030: Low Vision - Advanced	OPT010: Glaucoma 1	OPT021: Leadership Skills for Optical Professionals	OPT035: Practical Prescribing
OPT004: Acute Eye Care 1	OPT031: Glaucoma 2	OPT025: Medical Retina	OPT036: Independent Prescribing
OPT005: Acute Eye Care 2	OPT032: Glaucoma 3 (Advanced)	OPT026: Cataract and Refractive Surgery	OPT039: Ocular Therapeutics for minor eye conditions
OPT006: Paediatric Optometry	OPT013: Legal Aspects of UK Optometry	OPT027: Anterior Segment - Clinical Examination and Management	OPT040: Contact lenses
OPT033: Paediatric Optometry - Practical	OPT014: Management of Tear Film Disorders	OPT028: Research Skills 2	OPT060: MSc Research Project
OPT037: Advanced Paediatric Eye Care	OPT016: Evidence-based Eye Care and Clinical Audit		

Our part-time programmes provide flexibility and fit around your busy schedules.

Here are some examples of pathways to achieving credits:



Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Graduate
30 credits 30 credits		10 credits 20 credits	30 credits 	60 credits	MSc
20 credits 20 credits	20 credits 20 credits	20 credits 20 credits	60 credits		MSc
10 credits 20 credits	30 credits 30 credits		20 credits 	10 credits	PG Dip
10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	20 credits	PG Cert
20 credits 	30 credits 10 credits	10 credits 30 credits	30 credits 20 credits	60 credits	MSc



Having completed courses at other institutions, I have found the courses at Cardiff University are very professionally run and deliver the course aims that have allowed me to extend both the breadth and depth of my practice. I feel that the higher qualifications I have undertaken have allowed me to take a solid step forward in my professional career and have enabled me to deliver a much higher level of care than I had prior to studying at Cardiff.

Andy Britton - Optometrist Director Specsavers Haverfordwest



# Professional Higher Qualifications



Many of our modules are accredited by the College of Optometrists meaning that as well as working towards a Cardiff University part-time or full-time award, you can also achieve Professional Higher Qualifications. The College of Optometrists' higher qualifications enable optometrists to offer enhanced services, take on more responsibility, and progress in their careers.

Candidates complete a blended learning course comprising coursework and assessments and, at higher levels, a portfolio of clinical experience. This means that the qualifications are highly accessible and fit in with busy lifestyles. Successful candidates can also use the appropriate affixes.

## Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Cert Glauc)

This course is made up of two 10 credit modules, OPT009 and OPT010. It aims to prepare eye care practitioners to participate in services to manage patients with OHT and suspect COAG who have a management plan. Practitioners that have completed LOCSU Glaucoma or EHEW accreditations may be eligible for accreditation of prior learning.

## Professional Higher Certificate in Glaucoma (Prof Higher Cert Glauc)

This course comprises one 20 credit module, OPT031, and takes nine months to complete. It aims to prepare eye care practitioners to participate in community or hospital-based schemes involving autonomous diagnosis and management of ocular hypertension (OHT) and suspect glaucoma, and preliminary diagnosis of glaucoma. It requires a hospital placement.

## Professional Diploma in Glaucoma (Prof Dip Glauc)

This course comprises one 20 credit module, OPT032, and takes nine months to complete. It aims to prepare eye care practitioners to work autonomously in community or hospital-based glaucoma clinics involving management of patients with glaucoma and glaucoma related conditions. It requires a hospital placement.

## Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Prof Cert Paed Eye Care)

This course is made up of two, ten credit modules OPT006 and OPT033 that take 9 months to complete. The course aims to prepare optometrists to be able to provide a high standard of eye care for child patients.

## Professional Higher Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care (Prof Higher Cert Paed Eye Care)

This course builds on the core knowledge Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care to enable practitioners to deliver eye care to more complex paediatric cases and specialist populations, and to understand the evidence for developing management options.

## Professional Certificate in Low Vision (Prof Cert LV)

This course is made up of two 10 credit modules, OPT001 and OPT002, that take four or nine months to complete. It aims to prepare eye care practitioners to be able to provide a high standard of low vision care (in a hospital or community setting) for non-complex cases. Practitioners that have completed LOCSU low vision accreditation may be eligible for accreditation of prior learning.

## Professional Higher Certificate in Low Vision (Prof Higher Cert LV)

This course comprises one 20 credit module, OPT030, and takes nine months to complete. It is aimed at providing eye care practitioners with the knowledge and skills to provide a high standard of advanced low vision care. It builds on the core knowledge acquired in the Low Vision Certificate to develop an ability to deliver low vision care to more complex low vision cases and specialist populations.

## Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (Prof Cert Med Ret)

This course is comprised of one 20 credit module, OPT025, and takes four months to complete. It aims to provide community and hospital-based optometrists with knowledge to enable them to make accurate and appropriate referral and management decisions for patients with medical retina conditions.



# Clinical Optometry

(MSc,PgDip PgCert) - Full time or part time

This programme is for eye care practitioners in primary, secondary and tertiary settings who wish to advance their specialist clinical and leadership skills whilst achieving a higher degree.

Available to study part-time and full-time, this course has been designed to be completely flexible to suit the needs of the modern eye care practitioner.

The aim of this programme is to provide you with the opportunity to undertake a challenging and rewarding level seven programme in clinical optometry that focuses on your personal development as professionals leading, managing and developing ophthalmic practice roles and models of care delivery.

A deliberately wide portfolio of modules is offered in order to recognise the increasing desire for specialist training within optometry, including glaucoma, acute eye care, paediatrics, dry eye, medical retina, clinical teaching and leadership, amongst others. Specific programme pathways are suggested for those wishing to focus on certain areas of practice. Successful students on this programme will have an advanced standing both clinically and academically, taking them to the forefront of the profession, and enhancing their personal and professional development

Student records stay open for five years, in which time you can complete between 10 and 120 taught credits. You can finish studying with a PGCert if you have between 60 and 110 credits, a PGDip if you have 120+ and the full MSc if you have 120, including OPT008, and a research project. You will need to enrol each year, but may choose not to study any modules for up to two consecutive years.

Part time student records stay open for five years, so you can study without disrupting employment. You can study just one module or finish with an award. Full time students study in Cardiff and take just one year to complete a Master's.

Full time students study in Cardiff and take just one year to complete a Master's.



“

What I like about the course is that it encourages me to read around the subject which develops a broad knowledge base. As for Cardiff, I'm in love with this city! It's lovely, quiet, friendly and the people are kind.

**Bader Almagren**, MSc Clinical Optometry (full-time)

”

Designed to meet the continuing education and training needs of the **modern eye care professional** whilst at the same time achieving a higher degree

This programme is part of our **unique credit accumulation** offering which combines our clinical optometry standalone modules, PGCert, PGDip and MSc into one MSc-level clinical optometry programme

Many of the modules available are **accredited by the College of Optometrists**





# Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists

(PgCert) - Part time

This programme has been designed to prepare you for extended eyecare roles as a GOC registered independent prescribing optometrist.

**Independent prescribing optometrists in the UK commonly use their enhanced skills in medical management of patients with acute anterior eye problems and post cataract surgery, and for those with additional relevant glaucoma qualifications (Higher Certificate or Diploma), in autonomous management of patients with ocular hypertension (OHT) and glaucoma.**

At Cardiff, we use a range of blended learning methods including face to face contact days, online lectures and articles, online interactive tutorials and facilitated online discussion boards. Case-based learning is a feature throughout the programme to help contextualise and integrate theory with practice. You will learn how to approach clinical diagnosis and management across a range of anterior segment and glaucoma related conditions that you may encounter in practice. We place a

strong emphasis on helping you learn how to appraise evidence and use high quality sources and clinical guidelines to inform your practice. This helps future-proof your qualification and enhances ongoing professional development throughout your career.

This programme consists of three 20 credit modules which run consecutively over one academic year. They are studied via blended distance learning, primarily online but with one face to face teaching day at Cardiff University per module. Attendance at Cardiff is required to sit the written exam at the end of each module. There is no practical exam.

The three modules are:

**OPT034: Ocular therapeutics 20 credits**

**OPT035: Practical prescribing 20 credits**

**OPT036: Independent prescribing 20 credits**

Please note: after completing the three university taught modules, you will need to arrange a twelve day clinical placement in accordance with GOC regulations, and pass a common final assessment run by the College of Optometrists. In line with other UK courses, the clinical placement is not part of the University provision.

Information about the placement and common final assessment can be obtained from the College of Optometrists website.



This course meets the standards set by the **General Optical Council** for the taught element of the therapeutic prescribing qualification,

The only **Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists** course available in Wales

Course design and delivery features **advanced clinical eyecare practitioners** who are leaders in their field.



# Eye Care Governance

## (PgCert) - Part time

A professional qualification for UK clinical governance practitioners who provide advice to eye care commissioners or providers.

**This 60 credit Level seven qualification seeks to provide those involved in the governing of eye care in the UK with a professional qualification.**

Whilst we also run highly successful qualifications for those involved in clinical practice, this qualification is aimed at those who undertake clinical governance and advisory roles in the sector. This course consists of three core modules – leadership skills, evidence-based eye care and audit, and legal aspects of UK optometry – as well as a free choice of 20 credits to allow you to follow your interests and increase your knowledge and understanding of a specific area.

The aim of this course is to provide you with the skills required to successfully oversee ophthalmic services, with the opportunity to become an effective leader within the sector. The course also aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the legal obligations in optometric practice in the UK.

Several modules are aligned with nationally agreed competency standards – for example, the Low Vision Service Wales and the MECS (Minor Eye Condition Services) scheme among others.

Students who have evidence of achieving such standards within the last three years can present this to the Director of the programme for consideration for approved prior learning (APL) accreditation, where module credits would be given to the student in recognition of their prior achievements.

### Structure

Three of the modules are compulsory, and the further twenty credits can be taken from a wide variety of over twenty modules available.

Examples modules include:

**Low Vision 2: Practical**

**Acute Eye Care in Optometry 1**

**Paediatric Optometry**

**Glaucoma 1**

**Cataract and refractive surgery**

Please view our website for full list of modules available.

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry)

### How is the course delivered?

The majority of the course will be delivered via Learning Central, the University's e-Learning system. You will have access to multimedia lecture presentations, supporting resources and discussions led by course tutors. On many of the modules leading educators in the field also provide practical skills workshops and tutorials. Formative and summative assessment is via online multiple choice questions, submitted written coursework and assignments (including group wikis and blogs) plus practical exams where appropriate.

**The only eye care governance course available in the UK**

**A wide variety of modules on offer**

**The flexibility of open learning**



# Cardiff: a capital city

# Why Cardiff University?



## Dynamic. Friendly. Affordable.

Contemporary, welcoming and easy to get around, Cardiff is a city with character, heritage and ambition. Bursting with culture, cuisine, architecture, entertainment and history, Cardiff is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live, work and study. The city is also budget-friendly: Cardiff was recently ranked as the UK's most affordable university city (Natwest Student Living Index 2019).



“With an exhilarating mix of heavyweight cultural sights, exciting regeneration projects, world-class sport, a prolific music scene and some seriously banging nightlife, it’s easy to see why Cardiff now ranks alongside London and Edinburgh as one of the UK’s most compelling destinations.”

ROUGH GUIDES, 2018



## World-leading research

Cardiff is in the top tier of Britain’s research universities and is a member of the prestigious Russell Group. We’re ranked second nationally for research impact, and in the top 5 universities for research excellence in the UK.

95%

The most recent DLHE\* survey shows that 95% of our postgraduate research students and 93% of our postgraduate taught students progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduation.

\*Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (2016/17)

£600 million

We’re undertaking our biggest campus upgrade for a generation by investing £600m to improve and develop our facilities and infrastructure.

## Teaching excellence

We have a long history of providing outstanding research-led teaching. We’re ranked among the top 40 universities in Europe for teaching excellence (Times Higher Education Europe Teaching Rankings, 2019).

## An international community

With over 7,900 international students from more than 130 countries, you’ll be part of a vibrant community that celebrates its diverse culture.

7

We’ve been awarded seven Queen’s Anniversary Prizes, which recognise world-class excellence in UK Higher Education. We’re also home to a large cohort of distinguished staff, including two Nobel Prize winners and 13 Royal Society Fellows.



# Entry requirements

## MSc Clinical Optometry

This Programme is suitable for graduates or experienced practitioners in optometry.

### Students are normally expected to hold:

**UK/EU Students:** BSc (Hons) Optometry or GOC registration.

**Overseas Students:** Honours degree in Optometry or a professional optometric qualification.

**English language requirements:** A score of 6.5 IELTS (with 5.5 in all subskills) or equivalent qualification.

## Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists (PgCert) - Part time

### Students are normally expected to hold:

**UK/EU Students:** Full GOC registration.

**Overseas Students:** Honours degree in Optometry or a professional optometric qualification.

Applicants must have been in practice for two years before commencing the Therapeutic Prescribing course.

**English language requirements:** A score of 6.5 IELTS (with 5.5 in all subskills) or equivalent qualification.

## Eye care governance

### Students are normally expected to hold:

**UK/EU Students:** BSc (Hons) Optometry, GOC registration or equivalent national qualification.

**Non UK/EU Students:** Honours degree in optometry or Professional optometric qualification of home country.

**English language requirements:** A score of 6.5 IELTS (with 5.5 in all subskills) or equivalent qualification.

# Next steps

## When to apply

Applications will be considered throughout the year. However, early application is advisable especially if you are seeking funding. Some funding opportunities have early deadlines and you may be required to secure an offer from your chosen institution prior to applying for funding.

## Submitting your application

Postgraduate programmes start in September each year, but applications are considered as they arrive throughout the year. You can submit your application directly using our online application service, which allows you to save your progress and return at a later time. You can track the progress of your application in our online applicant portal.

## International students

The University recognises qualifications from all over the world. To know if you would be considered for entry you can visit our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international). We have a dedicated section for many countries, international agents and contact details for further information. When accepting your offer, you'll need to pay a deposit to secure your place.

## Your offer

There are two types of offer:

- **Conditional:** you have been offered a place but you'll need to submit additional evidence such as qualification certificates when available.
- **Unconditional:** you have been offered a place – congratulations!

## Equality and diversity

We are committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all of our practices and activities. We aim to establish an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect. We recognise the right of every person to be treated in accordance with these values.

We are committed to advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, gender, reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation and to fostering good relations between different groups.

For further information, please visit: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity)

## Funding

A variety of funding options are available for our postgraduate courses.

For more information, please visit:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/funding](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/funding)

## Important Legal Information

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is correct at the time of going to press in March 2020. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to and processed by Cardiff University.

Please check our website at [www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk) before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

**Your degree:** Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855.

## Further information

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**CARDIFF**  
UNIVERSITY

**PRIFYSGOL**  
**CAERDYDD**

To find out more about the  
School of Optometry  
please visit our website:  
**[www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry)**

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## Stay in touch



SchoolOfOptometryandVisionSciences



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