



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from The University of Sheffield

### Programme Details

1. Programme title	Ophthalmology Advanced Clinical Practice (Paediatrics) Apprenticeship
2. Programme code	OPHT08
3. QAA FHEQ level	7
4. Faculty	Health
5. Department	School of Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery
6. Other departments providing credit bearing modules for the programme	Not applicable
7. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	The Centre for Advancing Practice (part of National Health Service England, NHSE) Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
8. Date of production/revision	November 2023 / January 2024

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	MMedSci	36 months
10. Intermediate awards		

### Programme Codes

11. JACS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the <a href="#">HESA website</a>.</i>	B500		
12. HECoS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the <a href="#">HECoS vocabulary</a>.</i>	100261		

## Programme Delivery

13. Mode of study	Blended learning
14. Mode of delivery	Online synchronous, asynchronous, independent and work-based learning.

## 15. Background to the programme and subject area

Ophthalmology is the busiest outpatient department and paediatric ophthalmology is critically understaffed (Royal College of Ophthalmologists, 2022). This new apprenticeship delivery of a bespoke MMedSci in Advanced Clinical Practice degree programme in paediatric ophthalmology (<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2024/ophthalmology-advanced-clinical-practice-paediatrics-mmedsci>) is an NHSE initiative as part of the transformation of the workforce with a five-year forward plan and is entirely streamlined to the NHS Long Term workforce plan (2023). The delivery of a bespoke Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) programme in Paediatric ophthalmology will enable clinicians to fulfil the acute workforce shortage in paediatric ophthalmology and meet service-need. It will also provide education in eye-care for a range of professionals in line with the integrated care system pillars. This will be the first collaborative apprenticeship programme in the School of Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery (AHPNM) and multi-professional provision is a priority of this merger. The professional programmes within the school of AHPNM respond to service need.

This programme will provide a new apprenticeship route, meeting the standards of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education for the level 7 Advanced Clinical Practice integrated degree standard. As such, it will encompass work-based learning, with collaboration across many professions. The method of delivery and assessment will be mixed incorporating synchronous and asynchronous online teaching, independent and work-based learning, supported by a local mentor who is a paediatric ophthalmologist in the student's own healthcare Trust.

The programme is ideal for eye-care practitioners who want to advance their ophthalmic practice skills, to reach the highest levels of innovative and cutting-edge practice for paediatric ophthalmology practice. The module is suitable for forward-thinking, independent learners, who wish to pioneer new or improved services for paediatric patients with ophthalmological conditions. The programme will allow students to gain comprehensive and advanced knowledge of the issues surrounding paediatric development and optimal vision care. As well as studying the core elements of how to investigate, diagnose and manage paediatric patients within Ophthalmology departments, students will also explore the issues around holistic, evidenced based and person-centred care. Paediatric practitioners desiring to implement patient-led improvements by means of reflective practice and service-user input and those wishing to reach ACP status in paediatric ophthalmology, would benefit from this programme.

## 16. Programme aims

MMedSci Ophthalmology Advanced Clinical Practice (Paediatrics) aims to:	
<b>A1</b>	To provide an academic postgraduate course enabling practising orthoptists and other eye care professionals to further their academic knowledge, clinical skills and the impact of their practice.
<b>A2</b>	To advance the skills of independent learning, reflective practice and reception to feedback, required for advanced practice; acting as a role model and mentor, to support a culture of continued professional learning and development.
<b>A3</b>	To advance the critical evaluation skills and encourage their application to all areas of clinical practice, leadership, education, governance and research in paediatric ophthalmology patient care.

<b>A4</b>	To give the qualified practitioner advanced knowledge of clinical practice and leadership for paediatric ophthalmology patients and to increase awareness of the role that research can play in strengthening the evidence-base implementing effective and transformational change.
<b>A5</b>	To provide an advanced understanding of the holistic approach to investigating, diagnosing and managing paediatric ophthalmology patients, using evidenced based practice and person-centred care.

## 17. Programme learning outcomes

<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:		
		<b>Links to Aim(s)</b>
<b>K1</b>	Advanced practice in the area of paediatric ophthalmology, by enhancing knowledge and developing a comprehensive understanding quality standards, clinical skills required for high impact, quality paediatric ophthalmology care.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>K2</b>	The effective application of clinical leadership, education, and quality governance, for implementing clinical change and delivering responsive, appropriate and optimal paediatric care.	A1, A2, A4, A5
<b>K3</b>	The issues surrounding effective clinical management of paediatric patients, recognising and minimising risk and integrating theoretical and scientific concepts in relation to paediatric vision care.	A1, A4, A5
<b>K4</b>	the effective diagnosis and management of a broad range of paediatric eye disease, synthesising relevant research findings regarding their causes and management.	A1, A2, A5
<b>K5</b>	the application of analytical and problem-solving skills to select diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for autonomous, evidence-based effective paediatric care in ophthalmology.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>Skills and other attributes</b>		
On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:		
<b>S1</b>	Discuss in depth, current theories, codes of practice and advanced skills, in relation to leading and educating others in evidence-based, clinical practice in paediatric ophthalmology.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>S2</b>	Discuss the management of paediatric ophthalmology patients, appreciating the multidisciplinary, safe and holistic approach to service provision, and so enabling advanced paediatric clinical practice.	A1, A4, A5
<b>S3</b>	Utilise advanced communication skills to relate sensitively to patients and their parents and carers, including those with complex needs and facilitate advanced support where necessary.	A2, A4, A5
<b>S4</b>	Critically evaluate the current literature and the impact of current practice for a key area of paediatric care and apply this effectively and efficiently to service provision and healthcare development.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5

<b>S5</b>	Reflect on current practice and technological advances suggest new changes to service provision to deliver quality, safe, effective, efficient and optimum care to paediatric patients.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
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## 18. Learning and teaching methods

The programme will be primarily delivered by online learning, both synchronous and asynchronous, with the support of an introductory day of online learning, interactive tutorials and workshops and work-based learning. The introductory lectures will inform students in both didactic and interactive styles about the background to paediatric care, clinical assessment and the objectives of the higher level of patient management required of advanced clinical practitioners in this field. Practical demonstrations will be given. This foundational learning will be expanded on and further explored in written units, delivered by blended learning through Blackboard, in which students will work through both practical, theoretical and work-based areas of practice and reflect on current and future practice, both in-patient and out-patient based.

## 19. Assessment and feedback methods

### Year 1: 60 credit module in Paediatric (Ophthalmology)

As a MMedSci in Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) (by apprenticeship), the qualification will uphold the four pillars of practice set out in the NHS England Multidisciplinary framework: clinical practice, facilitating learning; leadership; and evidence, research and development. Formative feedback is provided throughout the course in the format of model answers for self-marking and also in the generic feedback and feed forward documents given to each cohort in advance of and following each assignment. Summative feedback is given as follows:

Critical evaluation of a published article (2000 words): This is a key skill and receiving feedback on this assignment at the beginning of the course will be helpful for the completion of all other assignments. Although the course is designed for those currently working in paediatric care, Masters' level academic study may be unfamiliar to some students initially and this will support students as they undertake this level of academic study. (K1, K4, S1, S4).

Practice portfolio (minimum 7000 words):

The largest component of the assessment and will encompass both theoretical and practical evaluation of clinical practice. Students will be directed to pertinent literature to evaluate, to practical tasks to carry out with patients including holding their own patient focus groups, to reflect on their own and local areas of practice and to write up their reflections as well as detailed case studies of interventions with patients. Work-based assessment will also be encompassed (K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5).

Implementation plan (3000 words):

This is an information resource intended for fellow professionals and developed from service user input, to identify a current need or resource or plan for their own area of practice. A resource must be developed to meet this area of need. (K1, K2, K3, K5, S1, S2, S4, S5).

### Year 2:

Students must take the core first semester module (mandatory as fulfils two core pillars of advanced practice)

OPH401 Clinical Leadership & Education in Ophthalmology (30 credits):

Assignment 1: Recorded PowerPoint Screencast Presentation. (Maximum 10 minutes) - 10 credits.

In this screencast assignment students are required to create and record a 10-minute Power Point presentation, which gives detailed, educating direction to service improvements for patients. Possible areas of focus could be making the most of vision; improving earlier and accurate diagnoses; improved patient pathways; improved allied services. (K1, K2, K3, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Assignment 2: Screening service written assignment (Maximum 3000 words) - 12 credits

In this written assignment students present the case for or against a proposed new ophthalmology screening service, including the potential impact of the new screening service and the anticipated impact to patients, balanced with the risks of displaced appointments secondary to the increased workload. (K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Assignment 3: Leadership Portfolio (maximum 1500 words)

In this assignment students reflect on a small number of clinical situations where they have provided clinical leadership and education to others (K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Students then choose one of the following elective modules:

ORT6100 Research Methods module (30 credits)

Assignment: One research project protocol (2500 words, in addition to fully documented, comprehensive appendices) (K5, S4)

ORT6033 Exemptions (30 credits)

Assignment 1 Kaltura screencast (5 minutes) (K1, K3, K5, S1, S3, S4)

Assignment 2: Multiple-choice Question online assessment

Assignment 3: Reflective diary (K4, S4, S5)

ORT6002 Insight into Disease (30 credits)

Assignment 1: Written report - 2000 words (K5, S4, S5)

Assignment 2: Extended essay - 3000 words (K5, S4, S5)

ORT6022 Low Vision

Assignment 1: Written report - 2000 words (K5, S4, S5)

Assignment 2: Online examination of practical Low Vision patient cases

Assignment 3: Reflective diary (K4, S4, S5)

**Year 3:**

OPH402 Research Project ACP Apprenticeship (40 credits)

(Approached as a clinical service-evaluation, or a literature-based dissertation).

Assignment: 8,000 word dissertation (K1, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S4, S5)

HES61002 Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprentice End Point Assessment (EPA) (20 credits)

Open book examination on Advanced Clinical Practice: 2 hours (10 credits)

Presentation of practice Advanced clinical practice, education, clinical leadership & research.

Assessment: Change report (1500 words) & 35 minute presentation (10 credits)

(K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

**Feedback:**

Students will receive regular and timely feedback on their assignments. Double blind marked and external examiner verified will be given at an individual level within three weeks of submission and students will also receive generic feedback on the cohort's assignments as a whole within six weeks. The generic feedback will be used to inform 'feed forward' documents which will be given to subsequent cohorts. The individual feedback is comprised of a general comment, specific comments on aspects of the work and within a grading rubric.

## 20. Programme structure and student development

### Year 1

Core 60 credit module in Paediatrics (ophthalmology) which facilitates students to reach the most advanced levels of current clinical practice for eye care professionals within this field. This module is compulsory and is the foundation for the programme.

### Year 2

Core 30 credit module in Clinical Leadership and Education in Ophthalmology is essential for students to gain the necessary skills needed for ACPs to practise at an advanced level of clinical practice and fulfils two of pillars of advanced practice, set out by the accrediting body. (Leadership and education pillars, accredited by NHS England's Centre for Advancing Practice).

Students then select one of the following elective modules, the choice of which should be agreed between employer, apprentice and the University, based on the student's professional development plan and the employer's service needs. The provision of an elective module recognises regional and professional background variability in service provision and allows the programme to be crafted according to developmental need.

Research Methods ORT 6100- this module prepares and equips students in their research development, to be ready to undertake an empirical clinical research study in their final year of the degree programme. Research is another of the core pillars of advanced practice and therefore this module is highly encouraged for students who wish to pursue an empirical service evaluation study for their final year.

ORT6033 Exemptions – this module allows students who have the base profession of Orthoptist, to study the medicines exempted for Orthoptists to supply, administer and sell to patients. This is a vital area of advanced practice for those students who don't currently have this annotation or ability, to be able to do more for their patients in advanced practice.

ORT6002 Insight into Disease (30 credits) - this module allows students to study in depth pathologies around many of the conditions commonly seen in ophthalmology clinics.

ORT6022 Low Vision - for apprentices who are deeply involved in the care of children with vision impairment, who may have cerebral vision impairment or low vision clinics, this module will be extremely valuable.

### Year 3

#### OPH402 Research Project ACP Apprenticeship (40 credits)

This module builds on all previous learning and requires a greater level of autonomy than the previous years of study. The module allows students to undertake a piece of clinical research that has the potential to benefit patient care and clinical practice. It can be approached as a clinical service evaluation or as a literature-based dissertation.

The EPA is a fundamental component of the level 7 advanced clinical practitioner integrated degree standard, required by the Institute for Apprenticeships.

The foundational first year of study in paediatric ophthalmology and the skills and knowledge learned, will be developed, advanced and applied to clinical leadership and clinical education with particular attention to issues surrounding ophthalmology. Later in the second year, students can gain a qualification in medical exemptions which is a requirement from NHSE if not previously held or can study a module most bespoke to their own profile and service needs such as low vision, insight into disease, or research methodology. Finally, in their third year, the research pillar is the primary focus, as students apply their learning to complete an independent, pioneering piece of work, which can critically evaluate and offer investigative findings to a clinical setting for paediatric ophthalmology.

#### HES61002 Advanced Clinical Practitioner Apprentice End Point Assessment (EPA) (20 credits)

Open book examination on Advanced Clinical Practice: 2 hours (10 credits)

Presentation of practice Advanced clinical practice, education, clinical leadership & research.  
Assessment: Change report (1500 words) & 35 minute presentation (10 credits)  
(K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5)

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available online at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/>.

## 21. Criteria for admission to the programme

Detailed information regarding admission to programmes is available from the University's On-Line Prospectus at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/courses/>.

Applicants must hold a degree in an eye-care related profession e.g. optometry, orthoptics, nursing and must be in current clinical practice within the speciality of Stroke. Applicants should usually have a 2.i classification or better and have the minimum English language qualification of IELTS 7.0 overall or 6.5 in each component (or equivalent).

A minimum of three years (ideally five years) professional eyecare experience is required.

Applicants must also English and mathematics qualification at a minimum of level 2 as per general apprenticeship requirements and have five years minimum experience as a qualified professional in either optometry, orthoptics or ophthalmic nurse.

## 22. Reference points

**The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:**

Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Advanced clinical Practitioner (Integrated Degree) Level 7 Version 1.0. Available at: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/advanced-clinical-practitioner-integrated-degree-v1-0>

The Ophthalmic Practitioner Training Programme (previously OCCCF) by HEE  
<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/advanced-clinical-practice/ophthalmology-common-clinical-competency-framework-curriculum>

The Centre for Advancing Practice (part of NHSE)  
<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/advanced-clinical-practice>

[The Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Practice by HEE](#)  
[multi-professionalframeworkforadvancedclinicalpracticeinengland.pdf \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

Subject Benchmark Statements  
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)  
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

University Vision  
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision>

The University of Sheffield Education: Vision and Strategic Plan.  
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision/our-pillars/education>

## 23. Additional information

None

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.