



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)
2. Programme code	HEST029
3. QAA FHEQ level	7
4. Faculty	Medicine, Dentistry and Health
5. Department	Health Sciences School
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 Health Education England)
8. Date of production/revision	April 2023, March 2026

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	MMedSci	36 months
10. Intermediate awards	PG Diploma	24 months
	PG Certificate	12 months

### 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	Distance learning
14. Mode of delivery	Mixed - face to face, distance learning and work-based learning.

## 15. Background to the programme and subject area

This is a Health Education England (HEE) initiative as part of the transformation of the workforce with a 5 year forward plan. The delivery of a bespoke Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) programme in Paediatric ophthalmology will enable clinicians to fulfil this 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 programme in the newly formed Health Sciences School (HSS) and multi-professional provision is a priority of this merger. The professional programmes with the HSS responds to service need.

This programme will provide a new route, encompassing work-based learning, with collaboration across many professions. The method of delivery and assessment will be mixed incorporating face to face, work-based and distance learning.

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 paediatric practitioners, who are forward-thinking, independent learners and who wish to pioneer new or improved services for 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. Paediatrics practitioners desiring to implement patient-led improvements by means of reflective practice and service-user input and those wishing to reach advanced clinical practitioner status in Paediatrics (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 and clinical skills.
<b>A2</b>	To advance the skills of independent learning and reflective practice required for continuing professional development and advanced practice.
<b>A3</b>	To advance the critical evaluation skills and encourage their application to all areas of clinical practice and education in paediatric 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 knowledge base of this subject area.
<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 of the issues surrounding paediatric care.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>K2</b>	The effective application of clinical leadership and implementation of clinical change in delivering optimal paediatric care.	A1, A2, A4, A5
<b>K3</b>	The issues surrounding effective clinical management of paediatric patients, integrating theoretical and scientific concepts in relation to paediatric vision care.	A1, A4, A5
<b>K4</b>	Effectively diagnose and manage a broad range of paediatric eye disease, synthesising relevant research findings regarding their causes and management.	A1, A2, A5
<b>K5</b>	Apply analytical and problem-solving skills to select diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for autonomous and 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 and practises relating to paediatric vision care, with reference to clinical practice and recent literature.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>S2</b>	Discuss the management of paediatric ophthalmology patients, appreciating the multidisciplinary 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 for a key area of paediatric care and apply this effectively and efficiently to service provision.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
<b>S5</b>	Reflect on current practice and suggest new changes to service provision to deliver effective, efficient and optimum care to paediatric patients.	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5

## 18. Learning and teaching methods

The programme will be primarily delivered by distance learning with the support of an introductory weekend of teaching, delivered by the University of Sheffield online or face to face. 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 an MMedSci in advanced clinical practice (ACP), the qualification will uphold the four pillars of practice: 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 advancing practice)

OPH401 Clinical Leadership & Education in Ophthalmology:

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).

They must then choose one of the following elective modules

### **ORT6002 Insight into Disease**

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)

### **ORT6033 Exemptions**

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)

### **ORT6100 Research Methods module**

Assignment: One research project protocol (2500 words, but with fully documented appendices) (K5, S4)

#### **Year 3:**

Students study the 60 credit research project module, already approved and for which assessments are already written.

**ORT6005 Research Project** (this can be either a clinical research project and write up or literature based dissertation) **12,000 words** (K1, K3, K4, K5, S1, S2, S4, S5) or

#### **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 which facilitates students to reach the most advanced levels of current clinical practice for eye care professionals within this field. This module is therefore compulsory and is the foundation to the course.

### **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 the of advanced practice set out by the accrediting body. These pillars are in leadership and education and the accrediting body is HEE's Centre for Advancing Practice)

Students then have the option to select an elective module from the following list. The selection allows for students from different professional backgrounds and skill-mixes to choose the module most suited to them.

ORT6002 Insight into Disease – this allows students to study in depth, various pathologies which significantly contribute to vision impairment in both children and adults and 'eye to vision' which

discusses in depth neuro-anatomy and neuro-physiology for the entire ORT6022 Low Vision which allows students to study vision impairment and give attention to vital areas of specialty such as integrating health and education and communication needs, for vision impaired children.

ORT6003 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.

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 clinical study for their final year.

### **Year 3:**

#### **ORT6005 Research Project**

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 pursued as an empirical research design or as a literature-based dissertation.

The foundational first year of study in paediatric ophthalmology and the skills and knowledge learned, will be enhanced and developed and applied to clinical leadership, education in the second year, and finally research as students' progress through the programme.

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 eg. 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).

## 22. Reference points

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

Programme Benchmark Statements

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 HEE)

<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>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2016-21)

[https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly\\_fs/1.661828!/file/FinalStrategy.pdf](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.661828!/file/FinalStrategy.pdf)

## 23. Additional information

None

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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>.