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**UCL Institute of Ophthalmology**

**Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship**

**Application Pack**

**September 2022 entry**

**Introduction**

This pack is designed to provide information to applicants on how to apply for the Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship for entry in September 2022. Please read the [course information on the Institute of Ophthalmology website](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioo/advanced-practice-ophthalmology-msc-degree-apprenticeship) and the information included carefully before you start your application. If you have any questions at any point, please email [ioo.admissions@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ioo.admissions@ucl.ac.uk).

**Course Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course, applicants must meet the following requirements:

* Minimum 2:1 UK undergraduate degree or equivalent in Optometry, Ophthalmology or Nursing with an Ophthalmic speciality (Ophthalmic nurses who already have OPT level 1 and 2 competencies desirable).
* Minimum Level 2/GCSE grade C or equivalent in Maths and English
* Employed in UK by employer with access to apprenticeship funding who is willing to support through course both financially and in completing work eg. providing min 20% off the job training time, providing Educational Supervisor to support locally, managing OTJ activities and hours
* Working a minimum of 30 hours per week for the employer hosting the apprenticeship

**How to Apply**

Applications are made via UCL’s Online Application System.

For an application to be considered, applicants must complete the online application form and upload the following as **one** file to the Upload Additional Documents section:

* [**Completed Initial Assessment form (Appendix Two)**,](#InitialAssessmentform) signed by applicant (completed electronically)
* [**Completed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) form (Appendix Three)**,](#RPL) signed by applicant and employer. (completed electronically). This needs to be completed even if no prior learning requests for mapping are being made
* **GCSE grade C Maths and English or equivalent certificates or transcripts**. The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) are very strict about having clear evidence that this level has been achieved – any certificate or transcript must specifically show the GCSE English or Maths subject and the grade given ie. something that literally says Maths grade C or Maths 10/20 etc. Where original certificates aren’t available, the applicant will need to contact the awarding body for a replacement

Applications will not be considered unless/until **all** these documents are fully completed and uploaded.

Allowable document types are PDF, JPG, DOC and DOCX. Maximum file size is 5MB per document. Applicants are advised to only include scans or images of signature pages and certificates where necessary only to help keep the size down. You may need to use free PDF merging software such as PDFSam Basic to combine PDF documents.

**Signatures**

We are required to meet the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) requirement for non-refutable signature so please use either a scanned e-signature or the digital signature feature available in Adobe Reader DC (free version). A guide on using the digital signature feature in Adobe reader can be found in [Appendix One](#Digital_signature) of this document. “Wet” signatures would also be acceptable.

**Completing the Online Application form**

Applications are made via the UCL’s Online Application System.

A link to the application system can be found [here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/adminsys/search/?lTitle=ophthalmology&lDepartment=OPHTH_BRN&lProgrammeGroupID=&lStudyTypeID=&lStartYearID=2022&search=Search+Now&action=search). Applicants should select the option for MSc Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology (integrated degree apprenticeship).

You will need to create an account on the system to start your application. We advise against using NHS email accounts as the correspondent address as there have been issues previously with NHS firewalls blocking emails.

A guide on what the application form entails and the basic documents applicants need to upload can be found [here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/sites/prospective-students_graduate/files/application-form-guide_-_january_2019.doc).

**Additional guidance/instructions**

In the **Education** section, applicants must upload the following as **one** file to the Upload Additional Information section:

* **Completed Initial Assessment form (Appendix Two)**, signed by applicant (completed electronically)
* **Completed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) form (Appendix Three)**, signed by applicant and employer. (completed electronically). This needs to be completed even if no prior learning requests for mapping are being made
* **GCSE grade C Maths and English or equivalent certificates or transcripts**. (The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) are very strict about having clear evidence that this level has been achieved – any certificate or transcript has to specifically show the GCSE English or Maths subject and the grade given ie. something that literally says Maths grade C or Maths 10/20 etc. Where original certificates aren’t available, the applicant will need to contact the awarding body for a replacement)

Applications will not be considered unless/until **all** these documents are fully completed and uploaded.

Allowable document types are PDF, JPG, DOC and DOCX. Maximum file size is 5MB per document. Applicants are advised to only include scans or images of signature pages and certificates where necessary only to help keep the size down. You may need to use free PDF merging software such as PDFSam Basic to combine PDF documents.

In the **funding** section, applicants should select Employer.

Applicants should make sure they highlight their commitment to the course and what they feel they will gain from it in their personal statement.

**APPENDIX ONE: Creating a Digital Signature**

**Overview**

This document explains how to create a digital ID and digitally sign a document.

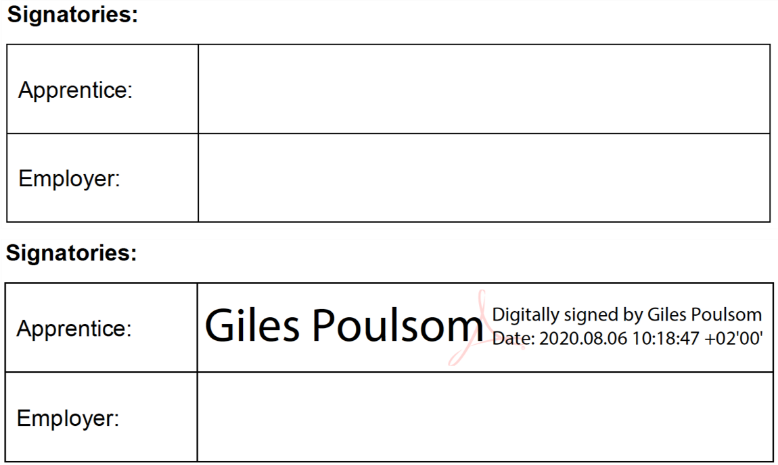
**Creating a digital ID**

Prior to signing a document, ensure you have [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](https://acrobat.adobe.com/uk/en/acrobat/pdf-reader.html) (or equivalent) installed. The free version provides all the necessary functionality to create digital signatures.

Once installed, complete the instructions in [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9fAlMeQ2sM&feature=youtu.be&t=84) to create a digital ID. You will be asked to create a password which is required each time you sign a document.

**Signing the document**

1. Open the pdf document in Adobe Acrobat Reader DC.
2. Navigate to Tools > Certificates
3. Select ‘digitally sign’.
4. Drag box over the signature box (see figure 1).
5. Select your signature.
6. Enter the password you provided when creating your signature.
7. Save document.



**Figure 1: Example of the signature box unsigned (top) and signed (bottom)**

**APPENDIX TWO: DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS**

**Initial Assessment of Apprentice’ Prior Learning**

1. Introduction

The following sets out the process of initial assessment to identify degree apprentice applicants’ skills, knowledge and experience prior to their degree apprenticeship start.

1. Purpose of initial assessment

The purpose of initial assessment onto UCL Degree Apprenticeship programmes is to build a clear, accurate and realistic picture of an applicant’s capability to undertake a degree apprenticeship through an appraisal of:

* Current attainment
* Suitability to undertake the degree apprenticeship programme
* Identification of any specific learning needs or adaptions
* Identification of prior learning related to the degree apprenticeship

The initial assessment will take place with the candidate and tutor through a structured dialogue. The initial assessment questionnaire record will be held on the candidate’s file for the purpose of the evidence pack and feed into the development of an individual learning plan.

1. Current level of attainment

Prior to commencement of the degree apprenticeship the course tutor must review the candidate’s personal learning record with the candidate to determine the highest levels of attainment they have for English and Maths. The highest levels of attainment for other qualifications must also be considered to determine relevant prior learning against the degree apprenticeship standard.

Candidates who cannot access the personal learning record[[1]](#footnote-1), must provide evidence of certificates or refer to <https://www.gov.uk/replacement-exam-certificate>. For English and Maths, certificates must be retained on the learner file to satisfy end point assessment gateway requirements. If the candidates cannot provide a record of at least Level 2 English and Level 2 Maths (Level 2 is the same as GCSE grades 9 to 4 and A\* to C), then assessment of the level of English and Maths will need to be undertaken.

Specifically, the candidates need to demonstrate that they meet the entry requirements prior to joining the degree apprenticeship programme. Please refer to the individual entry requirements as agreed by the UCL Education Committee for the relevant degree apprenticeship standard. These can be found in the document relating to EN-6.

1. Suitability to undertake the degree apprenticeship programme

From ascertaining the current level of attainment, the tutor can start building a picture academically about the candidate’s capability.

The next stage of the initial assessment process is to determine the candidate’s skills, knowledge and experience related to the occupational job role to ensure that they are able to apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours in the job role sufficiently to pass the end point assessment.

To determine the candidate’s suitability to undertake the degree apprenticeship, the tutor will ask each candidate to complete a questionnaire, contained in Annex 1, to test their knowledge and understanding. This will include questions about what their current job involves, how long they have been in post, their previous employment experience and a self-assessment of their ability against each of the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the degree apprenticeship standard.

Through engagement with the employer, the degree apprenticeship standard will have already been mapped to the job role to ensure that the job role has sufficient occupational breadth to meet the degree apprenticeship standard. This will ensure that the candidate will be able to generate sufficient evidence of knowledge, skills and behaviours to successfully meet the requirements of the end point assessment.

Based on the responses the tutor will appraise if the candidate’s current levels of knowledge, skills and experience, and current levels of attainment are sufficient to admit them onto the degree apprenticeship programme.

1. Identify any specific learning needs or adaptions

Through initial assessment the tutor should determine whether there any particular additional support is required by the candidate e.g. disability or learning difficulty that would require additional support from the department.

1. Identification of prior learning related to the degree apprenticeship

Through the appraisal of suitability, the tutors must determine, through an appraisal of the information gathered, whether the candidate is already demonstrating any knowledge, skills and behaviours identified within the degree apprenticeship standard.

Where previous qualifications, knowledge, experience or behaviours are related to the apprenticeship requirements, a detailed comparative analysis will be undertaken at module/unit level to identify what prior learning, if any, can be accredited towards the apprenticeship.

It is a requirement of funding that the Apprenticeship Levy must not pay for skills, knowledge and experience where this already exists, and funding should be reduced accordingly to reflect this.

**Annex 1: Initial Assessment Questionnaire** (to be held as part of evidence pack)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **APPRENTICE NAME** | | | | | | |
| **Title: (Please highlight)** | **Mr** | **Mrs** | **Miss** | **Ms** | **Dr** | **Other: (Please Specify)** |
| **Family Name:** |  | | | | | |
| **First Name(s):** |  | | | | | |

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| **2a. PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUR STUDIES** (please tick all that apply) | |
| **Definition** | Code |
| Learner considers himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. | [1] |
| Learner does not consider himself or herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. | [2] |
| No information provided by the learner. | [9] |

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| Visual impairment |  | Hearing impairment | |  | Disability affecting mobility | |  | Profound complex disabilities | |  | Social and emotional difficulties |  | |
| Other medical condition (e.g. epilepsy, asthma) |  | Other specific learning difficulty | |  | Moderate learning difficulty | |  | Temporary disability after illness | |  | Speech, language and communication needs |  | |
| Dyslexia |  | Dyscalculia | |  | Asperger’s syndrome | |  | Autism spectrum disorder | |  | Other physical disability |  | |
| Other learning difficulty |  | Severe learning difficulty | |  | Other disability | |  | Mental health difficulty | |  | I do not have a learning difficulty or health problem |  | |
| **2b. STUDENT SUPPORT** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| It is important to us that we ensure your safety and are aware of any support needs that you may have whilst you are on your course. Please note this does not automatically entitle you to access additional learning support. If any of the following apply to you, please tick: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Medical Condition** | |  | *Please give brief details here. Primary listed first* | | | | | | **Young person looked after or care leaver** | | | |  |
| **Disability** | |  | **Educational Health Care Plan** | | | |  |
| **Learning Difficulty** | |  | **None of these** | | | |  |
| **LEARNING SUPPORT REQUIRED:** | | | | | | **YES /NO/ DECLINED** *(delete as appropriate)* | | | | | | | |

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| **3a. MY PRIOR ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS (mandatory)** |

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| **Qualification Type** | **Subject** | | | | | | | **Transferrable**  **Skill**  **Y/N** | **Actual Grade** | | | **Date Achieved** | | | **Date Certificate seen** | | **Copy of Certificate Y/N** | | |
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| **3b. Previous Education** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Highest Qualification to date:** | | | | **No qualifications** | |  | **Entry Level** | | |  | **Level 1** | | |  | | **Full Level 2** | | |  |
| **Full Level 3** | |  | **Level 4** |  | **Level 5** |  | **Level 6** | | |  | **Level 7+** | | |  | | **Other** | | |  |
| **3c. English and Maths attainment** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Have you achieved L2 or equivalent in English and Maths? (Please tick as appropriate) | | | | | | | | | | | | | **English** | | | | |  | |
| **Maths** | | | | |  | |

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| **4. Prior learning self-assessment against degree apprenticeship standard (Please Complete)** | | |
| Please rate your ability against each of the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the degree apprenticeship standard:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Rating** | **Example** | | **1** | No knowledge and/or experience. | | **2** | Some awareness and/or worked on projects where this was done. | | **3** | General awareness and/or limited contribution as part of a team. | | **4** | Good awareness. Some experience leading applicable activities. | | **5** | Subject Matter Expert. Highly experienced practitioner. | | | |
|  | | |
| **Knowledge** | **What is required** | **Rating**  **(1-5)** |
| **1.Advanced Clinical Practice** | 1.1 Local, national policies and procedures within your scope of practice, the professional and regulatory codes of conduct relevant to your advanced clinical practice; the importance of working within boundaries of practice; the range of physical, psychological, pharmacological, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions within your scope of practice |  |
|  | 1.2 The range of physical, psychological and population based assessment methods used within your area of practice and the application of pathophysiology to underpin assessment and diagnosis |  |
|  | 1.3 The causes, signs, symptoms and impact of physical and mental health conditions within your scope of practice; how to draw on a diverse range of knowledge and critical thinking in your decision-making to determine evidence- based therapeutic interventions |  |
|  | 1.4 How to assess risk in relation to health and wellbeing; the principles of health promotion and prevention; strategies to engage and influence people; the range of health promotion tools available including the importance of therapeutic communication and behavioural change |  |
|  | 1.5 How to plan and manage a defined episode of care within your area of clinical practice, which may include admission, referral or discharge, to other services; methods and techniques to evaluate interventions and how to use the outcomes to instigate service development |  |
|  | 1.6 Local and national policies, regulatory frameworks and guidelines for prescribing where appropriate; knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics relative to your scope of practice |  |
|  | 1.7 Strategies to mitigate risk |  |
|  | 1.8 The importance of evidence-based practice and technology, such as genomics, to underpin and inform decisions made about care and treatment. |  |
| **2. Education** | 2.1 Motivational theory and how to apply it to participation in health and social care; the value of empowerment and co-design |  |
|  | 2.2 Your role, responsibility and motivation to manage your own learning; the range of tools and techniques that can be used to direct own learning, set goals and evaluate learning |  |
|  | 2.3 The application of teaching and learning theories and models in health and care; how to identify learning needs; organisational and professional roles and responsibilities in relation to life-long learning |  |
|  | 2.4 The importance and impact of organisational culture in learning and development; techniques to influence organisational culture. |  |
| **3. Clinical Leadership** | 3.1 Methods and systems to measure impact of advanced clinical practice |  |
|  | 3.2 The implications and applications of epidemiological, demographic, social, political and professional trends and developments appropriate to your clinical practice |  |
|  | 3.3 Theories, techniques and models of leadership and teamwork and how these can be applied across professional boundaries in health and social care |  |
|  | 3.4 The importance and impact of peer review and evaluation in advanced clinical practice |  |
|  | 3.5 Theories, models and techniques which can be deployed across health and social care systems to affect change at individual, team and organisational level |  |
|  | 3.6 The range of legal, ethical, professional and organisational policies, procedures and codes of conduct that apply to your practice |  |
|  | 3.7 The range of evidence-based strategies to manage risk in clinical practice. |  |
| **4. Research** | 4.1 National and international quality standards; the effect of policy on health and social care |  |
|  | 4.2 The range of valid and reliable evaluation and audit methods used in clinical practice |  |
|  | 4.3 The range of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies relevant for use in health and social care; the roles and responsibilities of those involved in research; the range of legal, ethical, professional, financial and organisational policies and procedures that will apply to your research activities; the importance and impact of research on advancing clinical practices |  |
|  | 4.4 Critical appraisal techniques and how to apply new knowledge effectively to own and others’ clinical practice; the importance of integrating research into clinical practice; the range of evidence-based standards, policies and clinical guidelines which apply to own and others’ practice |  |
|  | 4.5 The importance of effective governance systems and methods that can be used to ensure systematic documentation is in place |  |
| **Skills** | **What is required** | **Rating**  **(1-5)** |
| **1.Advanced Clinical Practice** | 1.1 Practise with a high level of autonomy and be accountable for your decisions and omissions; work in line with your code of professional conduct, professional standards and scope of practice |  |
|  | 1.2 Assess individuals and families using person-centred approaches and a range of assessment methods, for example including history taking, holistic examination, requesting and interpreting diagnostic tests or conducting health and care needs assessments |  |
|  | 1.3 Use multi-agency and inter-professional resources, critical thinking, independent decision-making skills, problem solving skills and professional judgement to formulate and act on potential diagnoses |  |
|  | 1.4 Assess individuals for risk factors and their impact on health and wellbeing; facilitate and encourage individuals to manage their own health and make informed choices; support individuals with an ongoing plan for preventative and rehabilitative measures |  |
|  | 1.5 Use expertise in clinical reasoning to plan and manage day to day, complex and unpredictable episodes of care; evaluate events to improve future care and service delivery; discharge or refer appropriately to other services |  |
|  | 1.6 Initiate and evaluate a range of interventions which may include prescribing of medicines, therapies and care |  |
|  | 1.7 Ensure safety of individuals and families through the appropriate management of risk |  |
|  | 1.8 Seek out and apply contemporary, high-quality evidence-based resources and existing and emerging technology as appropriate. |  |
| **2. Education** | 2.1 Recognise and respond to individuals’ motivation, development stage and capacity; work in partnership to empower individuals to participate in decisions about care designed to maximise their health and wellbeing |  |
|  | 2.2 Assess own learning needs and engage in self-directed learning to maximise potential to lead and transform care and services |  |
|  | 2.3 Work collaboratively to identify and meet the learning and development needs of health or care professionals; support practice education; act as a role model and mentor |  |
|  | 2.4 Advocate and contribute to the development of an organisational culture that supports life-long learning and development, evidence-based practice and succession planning |  |
| **3. Clinical Leadership** | 3.1 Demonstrate the impact of advanced clinical practice within your scope of practice and the wider community |  |
|  | 3.2 Use your advanced clinical expertise to provide consultancy across professional and service boundaries; drive service development and influence clinical practices to enhance quality productivity and value |  |
|  | 3.3 Provide professional leadership and supervision in situations that are complex and unpredictable; instill confidence and clinical credibility in others; work across boundaries to promote person-centred care |  |
|  | 3.4 Actively seek and participate in peer review of your own and others’ practice across traditional health and social care boundaries |  |
|  | 3.5 Identify the need for change; generate practice innovations; act as a role model; lead new practice and service redesign solutions in response to individuals’ feedback and service need |  |
|  | 3.6 Establish and exercise your individual scope of practice within legal, ethical, professional and organisational policies, procedures and codes of conduct to manage risk and enhance the care experience |  |
|  | 3.7 Identify and manage risk in own and others’ clinical practice; be receptive to challenge and demonstrate the ability to challenge others. |  |
| **4. Research** | 4.1 Engage in research activity; develop and apply evidence-based strategies that are evaluated to enhance the quality, safety, productivity and value for money of health and care |  |
|  | 4.2 Evaluate and audit your own and others’ clinical practice and act on the findings |  |
|  | 4.3 Alert individuals and organisations to gaps in evidence; initiate and/or lead evidence-based activity that aims to enhance clinical practice and contribute to the evidence base; support others to develop their research capability |  |
|  | 4.4 Critically appraise and synthesise the outcomes of research, evaluation and audit; apply this within your own and others’ practice; act as a bridge between clinical and research practice; promote the use of evidence-based standards, policies and clinical guidelines |  |
|  | 4.5 Develop and implement robust governance systems and systematic documentation processes |  |
|  | 4.6 Disseminate your work through appropriate media to further advance clinical practices. |  |
| **Behaviours** | **What is required** | **Rating**  **(1-5)** |
| 1. **You will be caring, compassionate, honest, conscientious and committed** | 1.1Treat people with dignity, respecting people’s diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, values, privacy and preferences and show respect and empathy for those you work with |  |
|  | 1.2 Have the courage to challenge areas of concern and work to best practice |  |
|  | 1.3 Be adaptable, reliable and consistent, show discretion, resilience and self-awareness. |  |

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| 5a. EMPLOYMENT DETAILS: (start date as of first day of learning) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **On the day you start your apprenticeship:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **I am in paid employment** |  | **I am self employed** | | | **dd/mm/yy** | | | | | | | **My employment start date** | | | | | |
|  | **Employed for 0-10 hrs per week** |  | **Employed for 11-20 hrs per week** | | |  | **Employed for 21-30 hours per week** | | | | | |  | | | **Employed for 31+ hours per week** | | |
| **I have worked at this employment for: (months)** | | | | | |  | **0-3** | | |  | **4-6** | |  | | | **7-12** |  | **12+** |
| **My contracted hours identified in my contract of employment/apprentice agreement are:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | **Per week** | |
| **The hourly rate I am paid is:** | | | **£** | | **I am paid at least the hourly rate for my age and apprenticeship:** | | | | | | | | | **Yes** | |  | **No** |  |
| **EITHER: My job role is new (in last 12 months) and started on:** | | | | | | | | | **dd/mm/yy** | | | | | | | | | |
| **OR: I require substantive new skills for my existing job and the content of the apprenticeship is materially different from any prior training or previous apprenticeship undertaken by me: (please tick if applicable)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| **\**  **Name of Employer/Organisation:** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Premises Street and Number:** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Area/Town/City:** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **County:** | | | |  | | | | **Postcode:** | | | |  | | | | | | |
| **Employer/Mentor Contact Name:** | | | |  | | | | **Employer Job Title:** | | | | | | |  | | | |
| **Employer Telephone No.:** | | | |  | | | | **Employer/Mentor Email address:** | | | | | | |  | | | |
| **Apprentice Job Title:** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **5b. In the box below list the duties and responsibilities of the learner and together with the modules in the programme that the skill(s) relate to. This will evidence the value of the apprenticeship to the learner and the employer** | |
| **Duties/Responsibilities** | **Qualification Unit(s)/Skills** |
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| **5c. Other relevant employment experience provide below:** | |
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| **6. PREVIOUS APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION** |
| 6a. I have previously successfully completed an apprenticeship at the same level as, or higher, than that identified on these documents  Yes/No (delete as appropriate)  **If you have answered ‘YES’ to 6a;**  6b. Is the framework/Standard identified on this document   * Occupationally relevant to the apprentice Yes/No (delete as appropriate) * Materially different to any apprenticeship already achieved Yes/No (delete as appropriate) |
| 6c. Is the apprenticeship identified on this document supporting the learner in an extended role with additional duties and responsibilities?  Yes/No (delete as appropriate) |

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| **Learner declaration:**  **The details on this form have been completed by:** Me/Someone else*(delete as appropriate)*  **LEARNER SIGNATURE:** ………………………………………………………………………….……….  **PRINT NAME:**  **Date:** |

**For UCL USE Only:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Appraisal of suitability for the degree apprenticeship:**  **1) Based on the above information, are the candidate’s current levels of knowledge, skills and level of attainment sufficient to admit them on to the degree apprenticeship?**  **2) Based on the above information, is the candidate already demonstrating knowledge and skills at the degree apprenticeship level that would lead to a reduction in apprenticeship funding (if yes, please state how the content, duration and price will be reduced and how the price reduction has been calculated)?**  **UCL Declaration:**  **UCL SIGNATURE:** ………………………………………………………………………….…….…  **PRINT NAME:**  **Date:** |

**APPENDIX THREE: UCL Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship**

**Apprenticeship RPL Background and Guidance Notes**

**BACKGROUND**

The UCL Advanced Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship is an integrated degree apprenticeship awarded by UCL.

There are a number of [programme eligibility](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeship-funding-rules-for-employer-providers/what-is-an-apprenticeship) requirements provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) which apprenticeship providers must meet which include:

* The apprenticeship levy is a UK tax on employers which can be used to fund apprenticeship training. Funds from the levy must not be used to pay for training for skills, knowledge and behaviours already attained by the apprentice (EP58).
* Prior learning and experience must be accounted for when calculating the actual cost of the apprenticeship. The content, duration and cost must be reduced where the individual has prior learning necessary to achieve the apprenticeship (EP59).
* A thorough appraisal of the apprentice’s existing knowledge, skills and behaviours must be included against those required to achieve the apprenticeship (EP62).
* The initial assessment must be documented in the evidence pack must demonstrate how prior learning has been taken into account to adjust the training content, duration and cost (EP63).

**GUIDANCE NOTES**

1. RPL Eligibility

The programme consists of modules that are:

Eligible for RPL:

* Clinical modules – 90 credits (consisting of six 15 credit modules)
* Clinical Leadership – 15 credits
* Research Methods and Statistics – 15 credits

Not eligible for RPL:

* Research Report – 30 credits
* Journal Article and End Point Assessment – 30 credits

***Please refer to the appendix for learning outcomes of modules***

* 1. **RPL of Clinical modules**

1. RPL of clinical modules will only be considered if the apprenticeship student has undertaken a clinical module which has the same aims, objectives and learning outcomes as the module being offered as part of the programme. (Please refer to appendix four). The *maximum* credits that can be RPL’d will be the same as the credit value of the module being offered.
   1. The module should have been undertaken in the last two years if the apprenticeship student has not worked or carried on working in that clinical area to ensure current knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSB)
   2. The module could have been taken more than two years ago if the apprenticeship student is currently working in that particular clinical area and has been doing so for the past 1 year, at least half a day a week, as a minimum requirement. This would need to be evidenced by the student.
2. Other ACP clinical modules
   1. Other ophthalmology modules which are not offered as part of this programme that have been undertaken as part of an MSc Advanced Clinical Practice programme can be RPL’d up to a total of sixty credits. An example of this would be a neuro-ophthalmology module from the ACP Neurological Rehabilitation. The same timeframes would apply.
3. The aim of the programme is to train non-medical professionals to undertake advanced practice clinical care with a degree of autonomy. In the interests of patient safety, the following will not be considered for RPL:
   1. Part of a clinical module. Learning outcomes are designed so that they can all be drawn upon and related to one another when making clinical decisions i.e. they are not meant to be learned in isolation
   2. Prior experience – clinical experience varies from individual to another and depending on the type and setting of the clinic, depth of KSBs, will be inconsistent and difficult to quantify. A standardised and evidence-based approach to acquisition of KSBs will be provided during the programme.
   3. **RPL of non-clinical modules (Clinical Leadership and Research Methods & Statistics)**

RPL of the above modules will be considered if the apprenticeship student has undertaken other courses in those areas as long as the learning outcomes of the modules offered have been covered. The *maximum* credits that can be RPL’d will be the same as the credit value of the module being offered.

**1.3 Credits in lieu**

This ACP Ophthalmology programme offers several optional modules. Apprenticeship students have the option to undertake extra modules in lieu of RPL’d modules of equivalent credit-value. Such modules still develop KSB's that directly support the apprenticeship standard.

**2.0 THE RPL PROCESS**

RPL involves four stages:

1. ***Filling out and submitting*** ***the RPL assessment form attached to this document and submitting the evidence required. In addition to the assessment form, the following evidence is required for modules*** *which students would like to be considered as part of the Recognition of Prior Learning process*
2. ***:***
   1. Learning outcomes of the module undertaken
   2. Transcript of results
   3. If the module was taken more than two years ago, evidence that KSBs have been kept up to date by working in that particular clinical area (see Section 1.1a)ii). A letter from a clinical supervisor or employer will be required, confirming their employment history and responsibilities in that particular area.
3. ***Review of assessment by programme leads*** – The application will be reviewed and the apprenticeship student may need to provide further evidence and / or attend a face-to-face or remote interview with the programme leads if any aspect of the assessment needs to be clarified.
4. ***Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning*** – This will be communicated to the apprenticeship student and Employer by the University’s education administration team.

**MSc Advanced Clinical Practice in Ophthalmology (integrated degree apprenticeship)**

**Apprenticeship RPL Assessment Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Does the apprentice have any prior experience of qualifications to RPL?** | **Yes/No (delete as appropriate)** |

If yes, please enter the details of the relevant modules and qualifications in the relevant section below. If no, skip straight to last page and sign

**Credits in lieu**

To be completed where an apprentice wishes to take an additional optional module in place of a compulsory module.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module 1** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |
| Name of UCL specialist module to be taken in place |  | |
| **Module 2** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |
| Name of UCL specialist module to be taken in place |  | |

**Credits towards award**

To be completed where an apprentice wishes to use previously obtained credits towards their award in place of a module (compulsory or optional).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module 1** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |
| **Module 2** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |
| **Module 3** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |
| **Module 4** | | |
| Name of UCL module to be considered for recognition of prior learning |  | |
| Name of module previously undertaken to be put forward as RPL |  | |
| Institution where module was undertaken |  | |
| Credit value of previous module |  | |
| Date awarded |  | |
| Evidence provided (please tick as necessary and attach evidence to this application form) |  | Learning Outcomes (Official course brochure or document) |
|  | Results of module (certified copy of qualification) |

**Signatures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of apprentice | Signature | Date |
| Name of employer | Signature | Date |

**Outcome (for internal use only)**

**Credits in lieu**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Module 1** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |
| **Module 2** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |

**Credits towards award**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Module 1** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |
| **Module 2** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |
| **Module 3** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |
| **Module 4** | |
| Outcome: | Accept/Reject (delete as appropriate) |
| Name of staff member: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Comments: |  |

**APPENDIX FOUR: List of modules in Advanced Practice in Ophthalmology MSc Degree Apprenticeship programme diet**

**Compulsory Modules**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module code** | **Module name** | **Credit value** |
| OPHT0047 | Advanced Practice in Cataract | 15 |
| OPHT0048 | Fundamental Medical Retina | 15 |
| OPHT0058 | Research and Statistics for Non-Medical Professionals | 15 |
| OPHT0059 | Clinical Leadership for Non-Medical Professionals | 15 |
| OPHT0061 | Research Report\* | 30 |
| OPHT0062 | Journal Article and End Point Assessment\* | 30 |
| OPHT0087 | Fundamental Glaucoma | 15 |
| OPHT0088 | Fundamental Ocular Emergencies | 15 |
| OPHT0090 | Principles of Advanced Practice | 15 |

**\* denotes a module that forms part of the apprenticeship end point assessment and cannot be RPL’d**

**Optional Modules**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module code** | **Module name** | **Credit value** |
| OPHT0049 | Specialist Medical Retina | 15 |
| OPHT0089 | Specialist Ocular Emergencies | 15 |
| OPHT0091 | Specialist Glaucoma | 15 |

1. Only formal school and further education learning and achievement records starting from the 2007/08 academic year are stored by the Skills Funding Agency in a ‘personal learning record’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)