

PGCert

Ophthalmic Nursing

Study mode

Part-time

Duration

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Ophthalmic Nursing programme is a part-time, online and work based programme designed to develop qualified registered nurses with the knowledge and skills required to work effectively in an ophthalmic unit.

Introduction

The Ophthalmic Nursing PGCert has been developed in collaboration with St. Paul's Eye Unit and Ophthalmic Nursing Curriculum Framework drafted by NHS England.

You will learn and develop the knowledge and skills required to work effectively in an ophthalmic unit through work based learning. the programme includes two modules; "Foundations of ophthalmic nursing practice" (20 credits) and a further "Advancing ophthalmic practice" module (40 credits) designed in partnership with an ophthalmic nurse and ophthalmologist to provide an authentic learning experience.

The programme is delivered in a flexible manner where you can register and undertake one of the modules as Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Alternatively, you can register for the PGCert programme and undertake both modules. The theoretical content is delivered online in a synchronous and asynchronous manner. It is expected that you will have regular protected study time during which the synchronous content will be delivered. This will also be recorded to increase accessibility for working nurses. The programme also includes work-based learning specifically around developing clinical competencies in an ophthalmic unit.

A varied range of assessments are used throughout the programme, for example, online exams to test knowledge and understanding, a critical reflective summary, work-based clinical competencies and case studies to demonstrate reflection and professional development. We aim to enhance your employability in ophthalmic practice and provide a platform for you to advance and develop through postgraduate study to advance your career.

Who is this course for?

Nurses registered with the Nursing Midwifery Council.

What you'll learn

- Critically analyse normal ocular anatomy and physiology, and how this may be altered in disease.
- Critically evaluate and interpret ophthalmic history to plan, perform and record clinical investigations relevant to the ophthalmic setting within their scope of practice in a non-discriminatory, culturally sensitive manner recognising differences in patient needs.
- Critically reflect on own experiences, with prompting, to identify areas for personal development and multidisciplinary collaboration.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FOUNDATIONS OF OPHTHALMIC NURSING PRACTICE (HEAL492)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Year two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ADVANCING OPHTHALMIC NURSING PRACTICE (HEAL493)	40

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The programme is delivered online (synchronous and asynchronous) and also includes work-based learning for which you will need to identify a mentor in their workplace. Work-

based learning and clinical E-portfolio development of competencies is key for the your success and supports authentic and active learning.

You will be directed to videos and guidance to support the acquisition and refinement of a range of clinical competencies as identified within the syllabus.

There will be scheduled online and asynchronous e-lectures delivered by a range of clinical experts and researchers across the themes identified in the syllabus. Interactive synchronous Q&A sessions will facilitate opportunities for students to interact with each other, ask questions, share experiences, and discuss concepts, thereby facilitating active learning.

There will be opportunities for online discussions related to anonymised patient presentations which will facilitate the integration of theoretical content with some of the more practical and patient-focused aspects of this module.

These clinical vignettes will also enable authenticity in learning and will encourage collaborative learning and develop digital fluency and allow clinical and academic experts to discuss anonymised clinical presentations synchronously with students online.

These facilitate understanding; clinical reasoning and synthesis but also enable you to reflect on your own experience, through active learning, and create communities of learning and practice to support one another during this online module and promote motivation and engagement.

How you're assessed

HEAL492 (20 credits) will be assessed through three components:

1. An online examination consisting of quiz like questions in the format of vignettes (scenarios) and some short answer questions which will address the theoretical aspect of the module. The questions will also include images and diagrams representing the module content. This is weighted at 80% of the module.
2. Practical clinical assessment of required clinical competencies (including nursing procedures) through the use of an e-portfolio. This is a pass/fail assessment based on the attainment of specified clinical competencies.
3. A 1000-word critical reflective summary commentary of your learning. This is weighted at 20% of the module.

HEAL493 (40 credits) will be assessed through the following four components:

1. Online examination: Consisting of a range of question formats including, short answer questions, clinical case scenarios, labelling and Multiple-Choice Questions. The variety in questioning approach will ensure all relevant aspects of module content can be covered

and a range of interpretation, analysis and diagnostic knowledge and skills can be assessed in a clinically authentic manner. The format of case scenarios with short answer questions will address the theoretical aspect of the module. The questions will also include images, representing the module content. A formative opportunity will be provided during the module. This is weighted at 40% of the module.

2. Case Studies submission (4000 words in total): You will be required to submit 2x 2000 word case studies of a patient selected from the your professional practice area. Case studies will include details around presentation, history and differential diagnosis; demonstrating clinical reasoning and how you helped attain a diagnosis or management. You will be required to explore the psychosocial impact of ophthalmic disease on the patient and examine the role of the multidisciplinary team in the patients care. You must demonstrate critical reflection on your own role and limitations to ensure demonstrate self-awareness and personal development.

You must ensure anonymity of all information pertaining to the case study. You will be given the opportunity for formative feedback and peer discussion via an online support webinar during the module. Each case study will be submitted separately to allow feedback from the first to be used to inform submission for the second. This is weighted at 60% (30% each).

3. Practical clinical competency assessment. This is a continuous assessment where you will be required to upload documented evidence of achievement of competency in each of the clinical skills required for the role. Workplace mentors will be required to provide guidance and feedback on performance of these skills throughout the module and you can reattempt the skill until you achieve competence. This is a pass/fail assessment based on the attainment of specified competencies by the end of the module. (Pass/fail).

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

This qualification will allow you to develop your digital fluency whilst improving confidence and global citizenship through authentic learning. Consequently it will enhance your employability as a nurse in an ophthalmic unit and provide a platform to advance your career.

Completing this course will help you in your career to become an:

- Ophthalmic Nurse
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Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Part-time place, per year - £2,300

International fees

Part-time place, per year - £2,300

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

Registered NMC Nurse

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

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