

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION				
Programme Title	MSc Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research			
Final Award	MSc Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research MSc Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research (Diabetes)			
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University			
School	Health and Life Sciences			
Department	Vision Sciences			
Mode of Study	Full-time Part-time (UK students only)			
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus			
UCAS Code	n/a			
Accreditations (PSRB)	n/a			
Period of Approval	From:	September 2026	To:	August 2031

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

The MSc Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research aims to:

- Provide students with advanced knowledge in vision science
- Develop the students' specialist skills and knowledge
- Provide training in the formulation of a research project based on the logical development of hypotheses
- Produce graduates who have developed the skills, knowledge and opportunity to pursue careers in research or more senior roles on the optometric and eye care industry
- Produce graduates who are able to integrate theory and clinical practice and who are critical, reflective thinkers
- Foster an ethos of career-long self-directed learning through continuous professional development
- Develop further the student's ability to critically analyse published material including supportive data
- Develop the student's ability to analyse complex scientific research
- Increase the proficiency of the student in effective communication of scientific knowledge
- Provide students with a supportive learning environment
- Be inclusive of all sectors of society and be responsive to the needs of individuals, employers and stakeholders

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1 Be able to critically evaluate advanced theoretical concepts and current evidence underpinning practice within the field of vision sciences.
- A2 Demonstrate systematic understanding of specialist knowledge, including developments at the forefront of the discipline.
- A3 Integrate and apply comprehensive knowledge to inform clinical reasoning and decision-making in complex professional contexts.
- A4 Be able to critically evaluate sources of information taking into account principles of evidence-based practice.
- A5 Demonstrate enhanced knowledge to critically interpret experimental findings.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Have the ability to think logically, to analyse problems, both routine and novel, and plan strategies and techniques for their solution.
- B2 Be able to critically evaluate, interpret and review scientific information and data, including information and data contained within medical and research-based material.
- B3 Demonstrate critical awareness of evidence and its application within a professional and academic context.
- B4 Demonstrate the conceptual understanding required to integrate research findings into clinical practice
- B5 Demonstrate self-direction in evaluation and solving problems while undertaking academic tasks

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Critically analyse, synthesise, and evaluate complex information from diverse sources to support coherent and well-substantiated arguments.
- C2 Demonstrate the ability to apply advanced statistical and computational skills used in the acquisition and treatment of data.
- C3 Apply critical interpretation of data in terms of their significance and the underlying theory.
- C4 Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship.
- C5 Exercise critical judgement in the appraisal of assumptions, methodologies, and conclusions, recognising limitations and alternative perspectives.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Have enhanced time management and task prioritisation skills as evidenced by the ability to plan and implement efficient and effective modes of working.
- D2 Demonstrate the ability to work independently and display the self-discipline required for professional development and the desire to go on learning.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Have enhanced interpersonal skills relating to the ability to display leadership and interact with other people as evidenced by effective team performance.
- E2 Demonstrate advanced interdisciplinary skills reflecting the increasing inter-related cross-discipline nature of clinical work.

- E3 Be able to identify personal goals and conduct a review of their skills, considering their strengths and weaknesses and a reflection of their learning achievements.

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (e.g. essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (e.g. presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical assessment (viva, laboratory work)
- Group work
- Portfolio presentations
- Formal examinations and class tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is:
<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-investigative-ophthalmology-and-vision-research-glasgow>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

The programme offers a full-time route for international students and a part-time route for UK-based and GOC-registered optometrists. The part-time route is specifically designed to enable practising UK-based optometrists to pursue and complete an MSc qualification whilst continuing to work in clinical practice.

Part-time Option 1: Candidates who have completed the CPD course Therapeutics Prescribing for Optometrists (60 credits)

A prerequisite for this part-time MSc study option is prior completion of the CPD course Therapeutics Prescribing for Optometrists.

Part-time Option 2: Candidates who are undertaking or have completed the PgD Independent Prescribing for Optometrists programme (120 credits)

A prerequisite for this part-time MSc study option is prior completion of the PgD Independent Prescribing for Optometrists.

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹ - MSc IOVR Full-time route

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQ F Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
MMB526590	Advanced Research Methods Vision Sciences*	Core	11	20	50/50		
MMB521440	Advanced Binocular Vision*	Core	11	20	50	50	
MMB530316	Advanced Clinical Investigation*	Core	11	20	50		50
MMB521441	Research Project*	Core	11	60	10/70/20		
MMB527184	International Contact Lens Practice	Optional	11	20	50/50		
M3B530341	Further Ocular Disease [#]	Optional	9	20	30	70	
MMB527190	Myopia Management	Optional	11	20	50/50		
MMC126416	Diabetes Care - A Multi Professional Approach ^{##}	Optional	11	20	50/50		
MMB726806	Health Economics	Optional	11	15	100		
MMB725029	Principles and Theory of Public Health	Optional	11	15	100		
MMB130821	Pathophysiology and Chronic Complications of Diabetes ^{##}	Optional	11	15	50	50	

[#]Replaces M3B525791 Clinical Ophthalmology (30 credits)

^{##} Core modules for all students undertaking the MSc IOVR (Diabetes)

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will select and undertake optional in addition to the core modules (core modules provide 120 of the 180 credits required for an MSc). The choice of optional modules may vary between students and be subject to students' professional requirements.

MSc IOVR (Diabetes)

Students undertaking the diabetes stream of the programme are required to complete the two diabetes-related modules, i.e. the modules are not optional for these students:

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here:

www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

- MMC126416 Diabetes Care - A Multi Professional Approach
- MMB130821 Pathophysiology and Chronic Complications of Diabetes

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Master of Science in Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research

- *achieved upon successful completion of 180 credits which must include the modules asterisked (*) above*

Master of Science in Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research (Diabetes)

- *achieved upon successful completion of 180 credits which must include the modules asterisked (*) (##) above*

Postgraduate Diploma in Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Research

- *achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits which must include the modules asterisked (*) above*

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at: <https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

The programme has one exception to the assessment regulations: The PAB can allow a student to sit an assessment as a discretionary third attempt for a single 15-or 20-credit module.

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)

Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
2.0	Sep 2026	Sep 2026	Sep 2026