

UHI Optometry

Optometry revision and competency renewal programme 2025-26 (UB51C Certificate of Clinical Competency-Optometry).

Who is this programme suitable for?

This programme is designed for individuals who have timed out on the College of Optometrists Scheme for Registration (SfR) and require revision and renewal of GOC Stage 1 competencies. Applicants must have previously held a certificate of clinical competency to be eligible to apply.

Entry Requirements:

- + Degree in Optometry from a UK University with degree classification of 2:2 or above
- + Evidence of previous certificate of clinical competence
- + Evidence of previous enrolment and progress transcript from College of Optometrists Scheme for Registration

Note: This programme is only suitable for trainees with recent clinical experience. This is defined as follows: your last clinical session or assessment on the scheme (as recorded on the SfR database) must be within 2 years of the course start date.

- + Current Student Registration with the General Optical Council*

*For students that have lapsed GOC registration this must be reinstated prior to commencing on the programme

To ensure that this programme is suitable for each individual, all applicants meeting the above criteria will be invited to a structured interview. Even if you meet the specified entry requirements a place on the course is not guaranteed as selection for this programme is competitive and places are limited.

Acceptance on the programme is subject to PVG and occupational health clearance.

Programme structure

Joining this programme, you will refresh your knowledge alongside undergraduate optometry students and you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate clinical competency as per the GOC stage 1 competencies (GOC Optometry Handbook 2015). Please note it is non-academic credit bearing and there is no academic formal award.

Entry points:

- + August
- + January

Duration: 1 academic semester

Please note you must complete the full academic semester and outstanding competencies cannot be carried over.

Delivery mode: Face to face (please note there is no virtual option for this programme, students will need to be based with reach of UHI House in Inverness for the duration of their studies).

Timetabling/ contact hours: Sessions will run across the week Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Students should expect to be on Campus for a minimum of 20 hours per week (contact time). Over and above this there will be opportunity for clinical skills practice.

Students are required to participate in all taught sessions as timetabled which will include lectures, problem based learning (group work) as well as clinical skills workshops and volunteer patient clinics. It is a condition of participation that all students conduct themselves in a professional manner in accordance with University policy and the GOC Standards for Optical Students and failure to comply may result in University disciplinary action being instigated.

Students will also be able to participate in an optional short external clinical placement. As well as competency assessment, this programme will provide the opportunity for general revision in preparation for return to SfR. This includes formative assessment.

Costs

Programme fees: £2250 which must be paid in full prior to commencement on the programme.

(Note: this programme is not eligible for SAAS or SFE funding)

Additional costs:

- + PVG (currently £59)
- + Clinical tunic: £20
- + GOC student registration
- + There may also be travel and accommodation costs associated with placement.

Further Information:

Course dates for 2025-26 academic year:

- + August intake: 25th August 2025- 19th December 2025
- + January intake: 12th January 2026- 29th May 2026

The final opportunity for competency sign off will be in the resit period following the end of the semester.

Content

Participants will study clinical cases, covering a variety of relevant topics alongside the existing third year cohort. The problem based learning cases, will allow participants to revise a broad range of academic material relating to GOC Stage 1 competencies.

There will be supplementary workshops in Binocular Vision, Dispensing, Ocular Examination, Contact lenses Ocular Pathology and Professionalism.

Participants will take part in Programme Specific Revision Workshops concentrating on core skills in Routine Eye Examination, Contact Lenses and Dispensing There will also be the opportunity to attend unsupervised clinical practice sessions. Volunteer patient sessions are also arranged where simulated patients will be examined under clinical supervision.

GOC Stage 1 Competencies may be achieved whether during clinical sessions, designated clinical assessment sessions, or during volunteer clinics at the discretion of the Clinical Supervision Staff. Competencies may also be signed off during end of Semester examinations period.

Assessment:

Formative Assessment

Weekly Multiple choice tests following each problem based learning task assessed individually and then in teams.

Assessment of clinical competency

Students will be required to upload evidence of each competency attempt and reflection into their personal logbook which is hosted on the University Virtual learning Environment 'Brightspace'.