

# **Institute of Optometry/London South Bank University**

## **Doctor of Optometry Programme**

The Institute of Optometry in partnership with London South Bank University invites applications for the Doctor of Optometry programme. This part-time programme is designed for optometrists who work in community practice, hospital practice, professional services, or as university teaching staff. The programme comprises interdisciplinary taught modules in years 1 & 2 followed by a three years research study relevant to professional practice and culminating in a doctoral thesis.

The programme offers participants the opportunity to develop research skills and to apply them to professional practice by independent research. The doctoral programme, therefore, provides participants with an opportunity to make a significant contribution to practice and to improve delivery of professional service and practice performance.

### **Entry requirements**

Applicants will be required to have the following qualifications and experience:

1. a recognised professional qualification in optometry and registration with the General Optical Council
2. normally, a Masters degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK University (or overseas Masters degree of equivalent standard) *and* at least three full years full-time experience (or equivalent) in a relevant professional area OR a first or upper second class Honours degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK University (or overseas degree of equivalent standard) *and* evidence of ability to produce work at Masters level (see below) *and* at least four years of full-time experience (or equivalent) in a relevant professional area.

Applicants who have not completed a Masters degree should provide evidence of their ability to produce work of an academic standard at the equivalent of Masters level. Evidence should be appropriate to their individual and other professional circumstances, and may include C. Optom higher diplomas, MSc modules, achieving independent prescriber status, articles in journals or clinical magazines, or reviews or other documents (e.g., PCT commissioning documents), surveys, or audits.<sup>1</sup>

Applicants are required to have some previous knowledge of research methods before starting the programme. A research methods module, completed as part of an Honours or Masters Degree (or equivalent), is likely to be acceptable. Students must have sufficient command of the English language to complete the taught component and to prepare and defend a thesis in English. Applicants for whom English is not their first language are expected to have attained a certain level of English language, both written and spoken, usually through a recognised English language qualification. The minimum IELTS score would be Level 8 with no element below 7.5.

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<sup>1</sup> If you have any queries about entry requirements, please contact Bruce Evans at the Institute of Optometry ([bjwe@bruce-evans.co.uk](mailto:bjwe@bruce-evans.co.uk)) and Rishi Agarwal ([agarwalrishik@gmail.com](mailto:agarwalrishik@gmail.com)).

## **Programme structure**

The professional doctorate programme is delivered in part-time mode over five years. The generic framework consists of eight taught modules, delivered in years one and two, followed by a research study and thesis in year three to year five.

The taught modules are shared by all students on the programme, regardless of the professional award they are registered for. The assessments of the modules in Year 2 are designed to allow students to apply their learning to their own professional area of interest and, in particular, to their proposed area of research for their doctoral thesis.

The programme will be delivered at London South Bank University within the Faculty of Health and Social Care. The Faculty has subject expertise in nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, radiography, midwifery, and social work. The subject expertise to support the Dr. Optometry award will be provided in collaboration with the Institute of Optometry.

Details of the programme structure, attendance days, and course fees are given in the appendices to this document.

## **Application process**

Candidates interested in applying for the Dr Optometry programme should initially contact Professors Bruce Evans and Rishi Agarwal at the Institute of Optometry, ([bjwe@bruce-evans.co.uk](mailto:bjwe@bruce-evans.co.uk) and [agarwalrishik@gmail.com](mailto:agarwalrishik@gmail.com)), to state their interest and so that they can be provided with up to date information. Any enquiries about eligibility, fees, or the course content should be addressed to Professors Agarwal and Evans.

Once applicants are ready to apply this should be done via the LSBU website: [http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/professional-doctorate-health-social-care#course tab how to apply](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/professional-doctorate-health-social-care#course_tab_how_to_apply). If you have any problems with this, contact Simon Watts, the programme administrator ([wattss5@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:wattss5@lsbu.ac.uk) or 020 7815 8443).

Applications received are forwarded to the Institute of Optometry team for review. Please notify Profs Agarwal and Evans (details above) when you apply. The Institute of Optometry Professional Doctorate Team check applications to determine whether they meet the entry requirements and to consider whether the candidate will be able to meet the academic requirements of the course. In some cases, recommendations are made for additional qualifications to help the applicant meet the course requirements. Suitable applicants will be invited to attend an interview with Profs Agarwal, Evans, and with the LSBU Course Director (Prof Nicola Thomas). The purpose of the interview will be to give applicants an opportunity to find out if the programme is suitable for them and for the academic team to ensure that applicants are suitably qualified and experienced. Consideration will be given at interview as to whether relevant supervisory experience can be provided for the research component.

## **Professional Doctorate Team**

### **(a) Institute of Optometry**

Professor Rishi Agarwal; Director of Post Graduate Education, Institute of Optometry;  
Visiting Professor, London South Bank University

Professor Bruce Evans; Director of Research, Institute of Optometry; Visiting  
Professor, London South Bank University

### **(b) London South Bank University**

Dr Susie Sykes; Programme Director  
Prof Nicola Thomas; Course Director

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: Details of Programme Structure**

#### **Year 1: Research Principles, Data Collection Methods and Analysis**

##### **Modules**

1. Research Principles	40 credits (level 7)
2. Practical Issues in Data Collection	20 credits (level 7)
3. Quantitative Data Analysis	20 credits (level 7)
4. Qualitative Data Analysis	20 credits (level 7)

#### **Year 1: Total of 13 days attendance (Semesters 1 & 2)**

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#### **Year 2: Developing the Proposal for Doctoral Research**

##### **Modules**

6. Health and Social Care Research Contexts	20 credits (level 8)
7. Research Methodologies	20 credits (level 8)
8. The Doctoral Research Proposal and Ethics	40 credits (level 8)

#### **Year 2: Total of 12 days attendance (Semesters 1 & 2)**

**Total 180 credits**

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#### **Years 3-5: The research component and submission of doctoral thesis (50,000-70,000 words)**

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## Appendix 2: Dates for 2019/20

- Application deadline: 31 August 2019
- Interview date: TBA, first half of September 2019
- Enrolment/induction date: 30 September 2019

**Induction – 30th September, when required to attend LSBU**

### Year One Modules.

Module	Teaching dates	Submission dates.
<b>PRD-7-005 Research Principles</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct, am, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct pm, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6th Feb (whole day)	Written (part one) Jan 2020 Written (part two) June 2020
<b>PRD-7-013 Practical Issues in Data Collection</b>	1st Oct pm, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct am 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov (whole day)	Written Jan 2020
<b>PRD-7-004 Quantitative Data Analysis (am)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb, 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> March, 10 <sup>th</sup> March (AM session)	Presentation March 2020 Written June 2020
<b>PRD-7-015 Qualitative Data Analysis (pm)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb, 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> March 10 <sup>th</sup> March (PM session)	Presentation March 2020 Written June 2020

## Appendix 3: Course fees

The course fees below are for 2019/20. Please note that fees are reviewed annually and may increase year on year.

Cost of year 1:	£5075
Cost of year 2:	£4060
Cost of year 3 & each subsequent year:	£2595