

Institute of Optometry/London South Bank University

Doctor of Optometry Programme

The Institute of Optometry invites applications for the 2013 intake to the Doctor of Optometry programme, in partnership with London South Bank University. The programme is part time and should be suitable for optometrists who work in: community practice, hospital practice, university teaching staff, and professional services. The programme comprises inter-disciplinary taught modules in Years 1 & 2 followed by a three year research study relevant to professional practice and culminating in a 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 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.¹

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 satisfactorily 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

¹ If you have any queries about entry requirements, please contact Bruce Evans at the Institute of Optometry (bjwe@bruce-evans.co.uk) or Rishi Agarwal (agarwalrishik@gmail.com).

a certain level of English language, both written and spoken, usually through a recognised English language qualification. The minimum IELTS score to satisfy both the academic requirements and the registration councils for the health and social care professions requirements would be Level 8 with no element below 7.5.

Accreditation of prior learning (APL)

Accreditation of prior learning, from within LSBU or from other institutions, may be considered against the taught component of the programme only, excluding modules 8 (Research Ethics in Health and Social Care) and 9 (Development of the Doctoral Research Proposal; See Appendix 1). The amount of transfer credit awarded may NOT exceed 50% of the total value of the taught modules (i.e. 90 level 7 credits). For credit to be transferred, the learning must be relevant to the modules for which the claim for credit is being made. Claims for accreditation will be assessed against whole modules and not part thereof. The approval of transfer credit will follow the process outlined in the *LSBU Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes*.

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 and radiography. 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 and 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 through the LSBU website via the Faculty of Health and Social Care page. On this page, the link should be followed to the CPPD prospectus. On the CPPD prospectus page, type “professional doctorate” in the search page and open the “Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care (new in 2013)”. On the next page, select “apply for this module”, ignoring the fact that it talks about “module” rather than “programme”. If you have any problems with this,

contact Joseph Okitikpi, the programme administrator (okitikjo@lsbu.ac.uk or 020 7815 7998).

Applications received are forwarded to the Institute of Optometry team for review. 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 at a later stage. Suitable applicants will be invited to attend an interview with Profs Agarwal, Evans, and with the LSBU Programme Director. The purpose of the interview will be to give applicants an opportunity to find out if the programme is suitable for them and also for academic staff to ensure that applicants are suitably qualified and experienced. Applicants will be expected to show how their proposed area of interest for the thesis will relate to their professional and/or work-based interests. 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

Professor Pam Eakin and Professor Nicola Crichton; Programme Director,
Professional Doctorates in the Allied Health Professions; Pro Dean Research;
London South Bank University

Appendices

Appendix 1: Details of Programme Structure

Year 1: Research Principles, Data Collection Methods and Analysis

Modules

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| 1. Research in Health & Social Care (TAR-7-011) | 20 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 12 days attendance (Semesters 1 & 2)

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| 5. Literature Review for Doctoral Research (Summer Semester)
(level 8) | 20 credits |
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Year 2: Developing the Proposal for Doctoral Research

Modules

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| 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 (40,000-50,000 words)

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Appendix 2: Dates for 2013-14

YEAR 1, SEMESTER 1

BLOCK 1	1ST WEEK OF OCTOBER
Preliminary day Mon 30 Sept 2013	Induction (pm)
Day 1 Tues 1 Oct 2013	Module 1 (am) Module 1 (pm)
Day 2 Wed 2 Oct 2013	Module 1 (am) Module 1 (pm)
Day 3 Thurs 3 Oct 2013	Module 2 (am) Module 2 (pm)
BLOCK 2	3RD WEEK OF NOVEMBER
Day 4 Mon 18 Nov 2013	Module 1 (am) Module 1 (pm)
Day 5 Tues 19 Nov 2013	Module 2 (am) Module 2 (pm)
Day 6 Wed 20 Nov 2013	Module 2 (am) Module 2 (pm)
ASSESSMENT SEMESTER 1	FOR FEBRUARY EXAM BOARDS
Module 1	Assignment January
Module 2	Assignment January

YEAR 1, SEMESTER 2

BLOCK 3	1ST WEEK OF FEBRUARY
Day 7 Mon 3 Feb 2014	Module 3 (am) Module 4 (pm)
Day 8 Tues 4 Feb 2014	Module 3 (am) Module 4 (pm)
Day 9 Wed 5 Feb 2014	Module 3 (am) Module 4 (pm)
BLOCK 4	2ND WEEK OF MARCH
Day 10 Mon 10 March 2014	Module 3 (am) Module 4 (pm)
Day 11 Tues 11 March 2014	Module 3 (am) Module 4 (pm)
Day 12 Wed 12 March 2014	Module 5 (am) Module 5 (pm)
ASSESSMENT SEMESTER 2	FOR JUNE EXAM BOARDS
Module 3	Assignment May
Module 4	Assignment May

YEAR 1-2, SUMMER SEMESTER

SELF-DIRECTED STUDY	JUNE-AUGUST
Literature Review	Module 5
ASSESSMENT	FOR SEPTEMBER EXAM BOARD
Module 5	Assignment August

Health and Social Care Professional Doctorate Programme

Dates for 2014-15 (To be confirmed)

YEAR 2, SEMESTER 1

BLOCK 1	2ND WEEK OF OCTOBER	
Day 1	Module 6 (am)	Module 6 (pm)
Day 2	Module 6 (am)	Module 6 (pm)
Day 3	Module 7 (am)	Module 7 (pm)
BLOCK 2	4TH WEEK OF NOVEMBER	
Day 4	Module 6 (am)	Module 6 (pm)
Day 5	Module 7 (am)	Module 7 (pm)
Day 6	Module 7 (am)	Module 7 (pm)
ASSESSMENT SEMESTER 1	FOR FEBRUARY EXAM BOARDS	
Module 6 Module 7	Assignment January	

YEAR 2, SEMESTER 2

BLOCK 3	2ND WEEK OF FEBRUARY	
Day 7	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
Day 8	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
Day 9	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
BLOCK 4	4TH WEEK OF MARCH	
Day 10	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
Day 11	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
Day 12	Module 8 (am)	Module 8 (pm)
ASSESSMENT SEMESTER 2	FOR JUNE EXAM BOARDS	
Module 8	Mock ethics panel March (formative) Assignment May	

YEARS 3-5

RESEARCH COMPONENT (2015 -18)

Supervision	By arrangement with supervisors
Postgrad Research Student Support Group	Half day per month
Research Summer School & Conference	One week per year in June

Appendix 3: Course fees

The course fees have now been set for 2013/14 and are as follows:

Cost of year 1:	£3150
Cost of year 2:	£2520
Cost of year 3 & each subsequent year:	£2090

These fees are subject to an annual increase that is expected to be approximately in line with inflation. In other words, the fees for years 2 and beyond will increase from those above by the time students currently enrolling reach successive years.