

Moorfields Eye Hospital & UCL Institute of Ophthalmology

Advanced Clinical Optometry and Ophthalmology

Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (Level 1)

2026

PRE - COURSE INFORMATION LEAFLET

The information contained in this leaflet is correct when published but no guarantees can be given that it will not be amended before the commencement of, or during, the course to which it refers.

THE COURSE AIMS

This certificate provides community and hospital based (eligible) non-medical practitioners with knowledge of common medical retina conditions and includes topics covering screening, referral and treatment pathways, with an emphasis on optical coherence tomography (OCT) interpretation, AMD and diabetic retinopathy grading.

It will enable community and hospital based non-medical practitioners to make accurate and appropriate referral decisions for patients with medical retina conditions. It prepares them to commence working under supervision in medical retina new patient triage clinics and AMD treatment-retreatment clinics and to commence working in photography based diabetic retinopathy screening services.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum will be delivered via a series of units, which will include:

1. Anatomy and physiology of the retina and macula
2. Communication and examination skills
3. Retinal imaging, with an emphasis on OCT imaging
4. Age-related macular degeneration
5. Retinal vein occlusions and other retinal vascular conditions
6. Retinal and macular pathology
7. Diabetes and diabetic retinopathy
8. Treatments for medical retina disorders
9. Referral management of acute retinal pathology
10. Current clinical management guidelines.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible non-medical practitioners working at this level should

- Possess a minimum of a BSc(Hons) in Optometry or Orthoptics **or equivalent**
- Possess relevant professional body registration

THE COURSE STRUCTURE

ONLINE TAUGHT COMPONENT

This will include online lessons, self-test activities, informal assessments and forum discussions. The online component will be delivered in the form of interactive lessons. You will have approximately three months to complete the online component.

At the end of each unit, you will be expected to carry out a self-test assessment or activity to reinforce what has been learned in that unit for which there will be instant feedback.

In addition to this, you will be required to research two assignments during the three months, and one medical retina case study, which will be discussed during the face to face days. You will be expected to spend approximately 10 hours a week studying the online component.

FACE TO FACE COMPONENT

Face to face lectures, patient case discussion sessions, tutorials, practical sessions and group case study discussions will form the content of the face-to-face day. This will be undertaken after the online component.

SELF STUDY

You will then get 4-6 weeks after the face to face day to revise what you have learned during the online component and face to face day before undertaking the summative (formal) assessments.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (EXAMS)

These will consist of a written exam made up of MCQs, Station Exams, patient management case scenarios in the form of key features, and visual recognition of clinical signs. Results of the summative assessment will be released within 6 weeks of the written exam. Should you fail any component of the summative assessments, you would have to re-sit that component only. You would have one re-sit opportunity to complete the summative assessment and complete the course.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS ACCREDITATION

This course has been accredited by the College of Optometrists for General Optical Council (GOC) registered optometrists and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered orthoptists. You can gain the College's Professional Certificate in Medical Retina on completion of this qualification.

The College of Optometrists will provide full college members with a UK address a certificate upon completing the Professional Certificate in Medical Retina. The college will not provide certificates to students who are international practitioners (non-UK, Channel Islands, or Isle of Man). Upon successful completion of the course, students will be provided a transcript of completion.

KEY DATES*

Launch of online course: Monday 5th October 2026

Face to face day: Tuesday 1st December 2026

Exams: Tuesday 26th January 2027 & Wednesday 27th January 2027

FEES

£1350.00

CONTACT DETAILS

General enquiries and registration:

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