



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Introduction to the ChM (Master of Surgery) in Clinical Ophthalmology

The ChM (Master of Surgery) in Clinical Ophthalmology is one of the Edinburgh Surgery Online suite of postgraduate taught Masters programmes in the surgical specialities offered by the University of Edinburgh's Medical School in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd). The ChM CO was also developed in conjunction with NHS Education for Scotland (NES). This two-year, part-time Masters programme, designed to support advanced ophthalmology trainees in the UK and internationally, is taught entirely online with learning materials and teaching delivered via a password-protected virtual learning environment.

The ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology is studied over 2 years part-time (or up to 4 years) by online distance learning and leads to the award of [Master of Surgery \(Magister Chirurgiae\)](#) [120 credits at Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework (SCQF Level 12), equivalent to European Qualification Framework (EQF) Level 8]).

**ChM CO Launched:** September 2015. Inaugural cohort graduated in 2017. Second cohort graduated in 2018. Third cohort will graduate in November 2019.

**Target audience:** Advanced trainee ophthalmologists (UK ST3/4 grade and beyond or international equivalent) and ophthalmologists in independent practice.

### Programme Director:

**Professor Baljean Dhillon**, BMedSci(Hons), BMBS, FRCS(Ed), FRCPS(Glasg), FRCOphth, FRCPE

Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Deanery of Clinical Sciences, Edinburgh Medical School, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh; Chair of RCSEd's Ophthalmology Speciality Advisory Board & Lead Examiner for FRCS(Ed) (Ophth), leading the collaboration with the International Council of Ophthalmology regarding joint fellowship examinations; President Elect of The Scottish Ophthalmological Club; Executive Officer Council Member of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress.

- [Read more about Professor Dhillon](#)

### Programme Co-Director:

**Professor Roshini Sanders**, MBChB, DO, FRCSOphth(Ed), FRCOphth(Lond)

Consultant Glaucomatologist, NHS Fife, Scotland; NIHR Ophthalmology Lead for Scotland; Honorary Professor in Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Edinburgh; Examiner for FRCS(Ed) (Ophth).

### Course Organiser:

**Dr Heather Ellis**, BA, MA(Hons), PhD (Tel: +44 (0)131 536 2033 / Email: [heather.ellis@ed.ac.uk](mailto:heather.ellis@ed.ac.uk))

Academic eFacilitator, Personal and Academic Tutor, Deanery of Clinical Sciences, Edinburgh Medical School, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, The University of Edinburgh

- [Read more about Dr Ellis](#)

## **ChM Programme structure**

The programme runs on a semester basis following the academic year (September to July) and involves a minimum of 10-15 hours study each week in a flexible, modular manner, following a weekly timetable of learning activities. Compulsory courses covering the sub-specialities in clinical ophthalmology are aligned to the ophthalmology fellowship curricula of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCSEd) and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (FRCOphth). Courses run for either 15 or 30 teaching weeks.

Students are taught by experienced tutors – leading clinicians in their fields – and they have access to well-defined and managed learning resources and educational material, including an unparalleled online library facility. Illustrative cases will cover technical skills and procedures as well as core knowledge and clinical skills.

### **Year 1 courses: 60 credits (at SCQF Level 12) (Equivalent to 600 hours)**

In Year 1, students study six compulsory courses: *Ophthalmology 1; Core Ophthalmology; Applied Basic Sciences, Examination and Surgical Strategies; Clinical Decision Making, Therapeutics, Avoiding and Managing Complications; Diagnostics and Technologies in Clinical Practice; Acute Ophthalmology, Trauma and Advanced Surgical Techniques.*

### **Year 2 courses: 60 credits (at SCQF Level 12) (Equivalent to 600 hours)**

In Year 2, students study two compulsory taught courses: *Ophthalmology 2; and Core Academic Activity* (includes research methods and reflective ePortfolio). They will attend an *Examination (MCQ and EMI)* for the taught courses from Years 1 and 2. They will complete a research project for the compulsory *Specialist Academic Activity* course, the assessment for which is split into phases and includes a final project e-report (7,500-10,000 words).

### **Cumulative credits by the end of Year 2: 120 credits (at SCQF Level 12), award ChM**

#### **Career opportunities**

The ChM programme provides advanced training for medical and surgical ophthalmologists preparing for the fellowship examinations of the RCSEd, RCOphth and International Council of Ophthalmology and for those approaching consultancy. It will also prepare them to integrate academia or research into their career without having to take time out of training or practice. The award of ChM will highlight their commitment to continuing professional development and will ensure a competitive edge when applying for consultant positions.

#### **Entry requirements**

A medical degree (MBChB or equivalent) recognised by the General Medical Council. Applicants should also be based in a supervised training programme.

UK applicants should have completed initial specialist training (ST 1/2) or core training (CT 1/2) and early intermediate training (ST 3), and will normally be starting their intermediate training (ST 4).

Applicants from outside the UK, and applicants who are not in a recognised training programme, must demonstrate that the course is directly relevant to their ophthalmic specialist training.

They should have completed a minimum of 24 months of core training in the surgical specialties and 18 months of specialty training in ophthalmology before enrolling. We will also consider applications from established ophthalmologists in independent practice.

### **Useful links:**

[ChM CO introductory video by Professor Bal Dhillon](#) is available to view on the UoE website.

[ChM CO Graduate testimonial videos](#) (UoE website).

[UoE Degree Finder Page for the ChM CO](#) (UoE website; hosts link to apply online for the ChM CO).

[Edinburgh Surgery Online](#) marketing website (external website to UoE but which is run by our university colleagues who can answer any queries from potential applicants about the ChM CO and scholarships).

[The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships in Ophthalmology](#) (UoE website)

Article in [RCSEd's Surgeon's News \(December 2017, pp16-17 in online version\) – "The Eyes Have It"](#) on the ChM CO and our MSc in Primary Care Ophthalmology.

[Definition and level of Master of Surgery \(ChM\)](#) (on Wikipedia website, external to UoE).

[Introduction to Online Learning](#) video by The University of Edinburgh's College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine (YouTube). Our flexible, part-time, online Masters programmes are academically equivalent to on-campus postgraduate degree programmes. Visit the [Postgraduate Online Learning](#) section of the University's website.

### **In Summary:**

The ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology has been designed to support, supplement and advance clinical learning, develop clinical research skills and provide a platform from which ophthalmologists in training are mentored by consultants during this postgraduate programme. The general and subspeciality content follows the curricula of RCSEd and RCOphth and the learning objectives are mapped to competencies required of UK trainees sitting exit examinations for the certificate of completion of specialist training (CCST). The format of our ChM programme delivery incorporates a multimedia mix of learning tools and activities including asynchronous discussion boards, video lectures, virtual clinics, e-portfolio reflective diaries and an unparalleled online library facility. Illustrative cases cover technical skills and procedures as well as core knowledge. Students apply their academic skills to produce an original piece of applied research in their second year which is written up as a project report and which contributes to their assessment.

The international ophthalmology teaching Faculty has the experience and expertise to deliver clinically-relevant content across the range of medical and surgical ophthalmology to a global studentship. The Faculty are mindful of the varied culture, climate and geographic contexts in which students practise ophthalmology and the limitations in resources available in less affluent settings. This has shaped the way in which didactic and discursive topics are prioritised and practised within the bespoke virtual learning environment (VLE) which hosts and delivers all of the learning content. This is one of the unique features of the ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology.

The online, distance-learning nature of this programme is perfect for doctors working unsociable shift patterns and there is no need for them to take time out of practice or their training programmes to study with us. It is accessible to individuals with access to a computer and internet connection anywhere in the world. We recommend that students commit a minimum of 10-15 hours per week to their studies.

Information on The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships in Ophthalmology can be found on the next page.

## The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships in Ophthalmology

Online distance learning Masters scholarships are available in the field of Ophthalmology for students from Africa, South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands, Central and South America who have been accepted for admission to the two-year, part-time online ChM (Master of Surgery) in Clinical Ophthalmology in academic session 2019/20.

### Award

Each scholarship will cover the tuition fee for the entire programme of study and funding towards a laptop and internet service. The award is tenable for two academic years, subject to academic progress.

The scholarship is funded by the generous support of The David and Molly Pyott Foundation.

### Eligibility

The scholarships will be awarded to students who are accepted for admission on to the online distance learning Master of Surgery (ChM) in Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of Edinburgh, one of the Edinburgh Surgery Online suite of Masters programmes. Applicants should already have been offered a place at the University of Edinburgh and should have firmly accepted that offer or be intending to do so. Applicants should be advanced trainee ophthalmologists. Applications from ophthalmologists in independent practice may also be considered.

Applicants must be both nationals of and resident in the following countries:

Algeria	Chile	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique	Somalia
Angola	Colombia	Guyana	Namibia	South Africa
Argentina	Comoros	Honduras	Nepal	South Sudan
Bangladesh	Congo	India	Nicaragua	Sri Lanka
Belize	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Indonesia	Niger	Sudan
Benin	Costa Rica	Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Suriname
Bolivia	Djibouti	Kenya	Pakistan	Swaziland
Botswana	Ecuador	Laos [Lao PDR]	Panama	Tanzania
Brazil	Egypt	Lesotho	Paraguay	Thailand
Brunei [Brunei Darussalam]	El Salvador	Liberia	Peru	Togo
Burkina (Burkina Faso)	Equatorial Guinea	Libya	Philippines	Tunisia
Burma [Myanmar]	Eritrea	Madagascar	Rwanda	Uganda

Burundi	Ethiopia	Malawi	Sao Tome and Principe	Uruguay
Cambodia	Gabon	Malaysia	Senegal	Venezuela
Cameroon	Gambia, The	Mali	Seychelles	Vietnam
Cape Verde	Ghana	Mauritania	Sierra Leone	Zambia
Central African Republic	Guatemala	Mauritius	Singapore	Zimbabwe
Chad	Guinea	Morocco	Somalia	

Also eligible are applicants (nationals and residents) of the: [Caribbean Islands](#) , Pacific Islands

### Criteria

Selection is based on academic merit and the personal statement in which applicants describe their current contribution to their country's local and national ophthalmology development plans and how they will use the scholarship to further contribute to the development of ophthalmology services in their country.

Successful applicants will be committed to working in their country's ophthalmology service on completion of their studies; to using their new found skills to further enhance and develop the service; and to fostering clinical and academic links between their country's medical universities, ophthalmology teaching hospitals and research institutes and The University of Edinburgh.

### Applying

1. Applicants complete an online EUCLID application for the ChM (Master of Surgery) in Clinical Ophthalmology – instructions on full application process can be found on the University's degree finder page [here](#). Wait for decision on application via EUCLID. (Deadline for applications for a place on the ChM is **30 August 2019**. The ChM commences in September 2019.)
2. If eligible to join the course, applicants will be given a conditional or unconditional offer, which they must accept prior to applying for a scholarship.
3. **Applicants email the ChM programme team to declare their wish to apply for a scholarship at: [chm.info@ed.ac.uk](mailto:chm.info@ed.ac.uk) by 23:59 BST on Monday 29th July 2019**

Applicants should clearly state 'Application for Scholarship' in the subject line of their email and follow instructions a-d below, completing the email with the following information:

a) Do you reside in and are you a national of one of the LMIC countries listed above? (Yes/No) Please state which one(s).

b) Include a personal statement (maximum 500 words) in which the applicant describes the following:

- their reason for applying for the Masters programme
- how undertaking this course of study will benefit their career, and

- how they envisage this course enhancing their working practices to transform ophthalmology services in their country to improve eyecare.

c) Include a copy of their CV.

d) Include a letter of support for scholarship application from their Ophthalmology Educational / Training Programme Supervisor or Director in their locality. It is important to us that our scholars are supported in their workplace whilst studying with us.

If their application for scholarship is successful and an IELTS exam is required to complete their EUCLID application for admission to the ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology, the cost of the exam will be met by the University of Edinburgh.

If the University's criteria for English Language are met, they will be issued with an unconditional offer of a place on the course, which must also be accepted.

Please note that these scholarship awards are likely to be oversubscribed and there is no guarantee applicants will be successful.

Further information about the ChM programme is available from the University's degree finder webpage for the [ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology](#). Video testimonials from some of our ChM graduates can be viewed on the [Ophthalmology Masters](#) webpages, along with an introductory video by the ChM's Programme Director, Professor Baljean Dhillon.

#### **Notification**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by the end of August 2019.

#### **Related Links**

[The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships in Ophthalmology](#)

[ChM \(Master of Surgery\) Clinical Ophthalmology](#)

[Ophthalmology Masters](#)

[Edinburgh Surgery Online](#) web pages (external website)

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