

Call for Scholarship Applications:

All Eyes on Future Leaders in Ophthalmology

The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships in Ophthalmology and The University of Edinburgh

Application Deadline: Tuesday 1st June 2021, 23:59 DST

The University of Edinburgh is delighted to announce that they plan to award twelve [scholarships](#) this summer for successful applicants to their online Master of Surgery (ChM) in Clinical Ophthalmology programme, thanks to the very generous support of The David and Molly Pyott Foundation.

Trainees/residents/registrar in Ophthalmology and qualified early career ophthalmologists (generalists and specialists) from Africa, Central and South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands, Central and Latin America who are accepted for admission to the online ChM programme commencing in September 2021 are eligible to apply for the scholarship award which will cover all tuition fees as well as internet access and a laptop. **The deadline for scholarship applications is Tuesday 1st June 2021, 23:59 DST.**

The part-time, online two-year ChM programme is offered by the University of Edinburgh in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and is designed to support specialist trainees/residents/registrar in ophthalmology in the United Kingdom and internationally by providing advanced education for those preparing for the fellowship examinations of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) and those approaching consultancy.

The David and Molly Pyott Foundation has been funding this highly successful programme of scholarships in partnership with the University since 2016. This initiative has seen trainee and qualified ophthalmologists (generalists and specialists) from a range of developing countries being educated and trained at Masters level, online, as part of their journey to becoming consultant/specialist ophthalmologists. The online, part time nature of the ChM means that students can study in their home countries without having to take time out of practice or training, whilst continuing to deliver critical care in regions with ophthalmic workforce capacity issues and adapting to training and working on the frontline in the battle against COVID-19.

Six of the twelve scholarships on offer will support trainees/residents/registrar in ophthalmology and qualified early career ophthalmologists with leadership potential who are nationals of and are resident/working in member countries* of the College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (*as defined on COECSA website, March 2021). It is anticipated that, by seeding a cohort of well-trained, motivated and supported professionals in areas of greatest need, patients of the future will have access to the eye-care that they need to save their sight.

A total of 36 students have been enrolled in the ophthalmology scholarship programmes to date. This includes the first cohort of sponsored students from Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, representing Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia, who began their studies in September 2020.

Further ChM programme information is [available online](#), along with an [introductory video](#) by Baljean Dhillon, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of Edinburgh and Chair of RCSEd's Ophthalmology Speciality Advisory Committee, and [video testimonials](#) by ChM graduates. The ChM is one of a number of Edinburgh Surgery Online Masters programmes in the surgical specialities

delivered by the University in partnership with RCSEd. Applications for admission to the ChM close on **27th August** for September 2021 entry.



Professor Baljean Dhillon (left) and Mr David Pyott (right)



Dr Julia Furtado-Heringer (left), Pyott Scholar from Brazil, after receiving the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Medal in Clinical Ophthalmology from RCSEd President, Professor Michael Griffin (right) in November 2019 in Edinburgh. This medal is awarded to the ChM's top performing graduate. Dr Heather Ellis (centre), Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, is co-founder and course organiser of the ChM.

Quotations from Dr Julia Furtado-Heringer (from her video testimonial):

"It is really, really interesting because although it is an online programme you feel like you are in the university because you have access to library, papers, professors, teachers so you don't feel abandoned in your home all the time. I could interact with the teachers and I could interact with the

facilitators so although it was online you could feel like I was doing a Master's degree in the University."

"I think you learn a lot about yourself too and about ophthalmology and how to relate to your patients. It is really interesting that you learn with other people from different backgrounds in different protocols so it is not only the way you do it in your country but how it is done in Edinburgh or London, Africa, Asia so you have contact with people from all over the world and it definitely enhances your practice."

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