



## 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 senior ophthalmology trainees / residents / registrars in the UK and internationally, is taught entirely online with learning materials and teaching delivered via a password-protected virtual learning environment. It also includes an independently conducted research project.

The ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology is studied over 2 years part-time (or up to 4 years) by online 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].

**Target audience:** Senior trainees/residents/registrar in ophthalmology (UK ST3/4 grade and beyond or international equivalent) and early career ophthalmologists in independent practice with leadership potential.

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 Training (CCT). 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 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 20 hours per week to their studies.

### 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 Ophthalmologist, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh; Immediate Past Chair of RCSEd's Ophthalmology Speciality Advisory Board & Lead Examiner for FRCS(Ed) (Ophth); Past President 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).

#### **Deputy Programme Director:**

**Dr Heather Ellis**, BA, MA(Hons), PhD, Senior Lecturer **Email:** [heather.ellis@ed.ac.uk](mailto:heather.ellis@ed.ac.uk)

Deputy Programme Director of the ChM Clinical Ophthalmology and MSc Primary Care Ophthalmology; Academic Cohort Lead: Ophthalmology, 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 June) and involves a minimum of 20 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 (FRCS(Ed)) 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 (Equivalent to 600 learning 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*. These courses are assessed by asynchronous online discussion boards and MCQ examination.

### **Year 2 courses: 60 credits (Equivalent to 600 learning hours)**

In Year 2, students study three compulsory courses: *Ophthalmology 2; Core Academic Activity* (academic ophthalmology, research methods, experimental design and statistics) and one compulsory Masters research project course, *Specialist Academic Activity*. Assessments include asynchronous academic discussion boards, a reflective ePortfolio assessment (10,000-12,000 words), MCQ examination and an independent research project which is assessed across 4 phased assignments including a final project report (7,500-10,000 words).

### **Cumulative credits by the end of Year 2: 120 credits, award ChM**

## **Career opportunities**

The ChM programme provides advanced education for medical and surgical ophthalmologists preparing for the membership and fellowship examinations of the RCSEd and RCOphth 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 or its international equivalents. Applicants should also be based in a supervised ophthalmology specialist 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 at least 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).

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

Articles in RCSEd's membership newsletter, *Surgeon's News*, in the [June 2020 issue \("All Eyes on Future Leaders in Ophthalmology" on pp46-47 in the online version\)](#) and [December 2017 issue \("The Eyes Have It" on pp16-17 in online version\)](#) 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.

## Link and Information for Scholarship Applicants:

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

Nine online learning Masters scholarships are available to support ChM Clinical Ophthalmology offer holders from Africa, Central and South Asia, Caribbean Islands, Pacific Islands, Central and Latin America who have been accepted for admission to the two-year, part-time online ChM (Master of Surgery) in Clinical Ophthalmology in academic session 2024-2025 which commences in September.

#### Award

Each scholarship will cover the tuition fees 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. The deadline for applications is **23:59 DST (Edinburgh time) on 1st June 2024**.

#### Eligibility

The scholarships will be awarded to eligible candidates who are accepted for admission to the online 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, before applying for the scholarship. Applicants should be advanced trainees/residents/registrar in ophthalmology. Applications from early career ophthalmologists may also be considered.

Six scholarships will be allocated to eligible candidates from member countries of The College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (COECSA) (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan (Republic), Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia). In addition, three scholarships will be allocated to eligible candidates from the other countries listed below.

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

Algeria	Chile	Guyana	Mongolia	South Africa
			Morocco	
Angola	Colombia	Honduras	Mozambique	South Sudan
Argentina	Comoros	India	Namibia	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Congo	Indonesia	Nepal	Sudan
Bangladesh	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Ivory Coast	Nicaragua	Suriname
Belize	Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Niger	Swaziland
Benin	Djibouti	Kenya	Nigeria	Tajikistan
Bolivia	Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tanzania

Botswana	East Timor (Timor Leste) Egypt	Laos [Lao PDR]	Panama	Thailand
Brazil	El Salvador	Lesotho	Paraguay	Togo
Brunei [Brunei Darussalam]	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Peru	Tunisia
Burkina (Burkina Faso)	Eritrea	Libya	Philippines	Turkmenistan
Burma [Myanmar]	Ethiopia	Madagascar	Rwanda	Uganda Ukraine
Burundi	Gabon	Malawi	Sao Tome and Principe	Uruguay
Cambodia	Gambia, The	Malaysia	Senegal	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	Ghana	Mali	Seychelles	Venezuela
Cape Verde	Guatemala	Mauritania	Sierra Leone	Vietnam
Central African Republic	Guinea	Mauritius	Singapore	Zambia
Chad	Guinea-Bissau	Mexico	Somalia	Zimbabwe

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 you describe your current contribution to your country's local and national ophthalmology development plans and how you will use the scholarship to further contribute to the development of ophthalmology services in your 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

**The scholarship deadline is 1st June 2024.**

1. 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.
2. If eligible to join the programme, you will be given a conditional or unconditional offer, which you must accept **prior** to applying for a scholarship.

3. Apply online for the scholarship via the Edinburgh Surgery Online (ESO) [scholarships online application form](#)

In the ESO Scholarships section, click on The David and Molly Pyott Foundation Scholarships title and then click on the link to apply online. You will be asked to enter the following information:

**Page 1: University Application Number**

Enter your University application number (UUN) that you will have received from your online EUCLID application for a place on the ChM.

**Page 2: Tell Us Where You Are Based**

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

**Page 3: Personal Statement**

Include a personal statement (maximum 500 words) in which you describe the following:

- your reason for applying for the postgraduate programme of study
- how undertaking this programme of study will benefit your career, and
- how you envisage this programme of study enhances
- your working practices to transform ophthalmology services in your country to improve eyecare.

**Page 4: CV (Resumé)**

Include a copy of your CV (resumé).

**Page 5: Letter of Support**

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

**Final Page**

Acknowledgement of your scholarship application will be provided by the ESO team in due course.

If your application for scholarship is successful and a University-approved English language proficiency test (e.g., IELTS) is required to complete your EUCLID application for admission to the ChM in Clinical Ophthalmology, the cost of the exam will be met by the University of Edinburgh.

For a list of the other English language proficiency tests approved by the University for applicants for postgraduate study, including TOEFL-iBT Home Edition which can be completed online at home, please visit the Entry Requirements section of the [ChM's degree finder page](#) on the University's website

If the University's criteria for English Language are met by your offer letter's stipulated deadline, you 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 you 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 July 2024.

Please note that acceptance for admission to the ChM does not guarantee acceptance for a scholarship. The admission and scholarship applications are two separate online application processes.

## Contact for Applicants

Scholarships email address [eso.scholarships@ed.ac.uk](mailto:eso.scholarships@ed.ac.uk)

The School at [ophthalmology.chm@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ophthalmology.chm@ed.ac.uk)

Ophthalmology Programme Administrator

Edinburgh Surgery Online

Ophthalmology

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## Related Links

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

[Online Learning at the University of Edinburgh](#)

[Applying to Study at Edinburgh](#)

[Entry Requirements](#)

[Ophthalmology Masters](#)

[Edinburgh Surgery Online](#)