

Moorfields Eye Hospital & UCL Institute of Ophthalmology

*Professional Higher Certificate in Medical Retina (Level
2) – September 2026*

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

The course is designed to build up from Medical Retina level 1 to further develop skills in screening, diagnosing, and managing a variety of medical retina conditions.

THE CURRICULUM

Following completion of the course you should be able to demonstrate:

- An ability to use and interpret OCT imaging software and fundus photography to review data and make accurate diagnoses.
- An understanding of the principles of fluorescein/ICG angiography and autofluorescence in the differential diagnosis of macular disorders
- An ability to differentially diagnose retinal and macular conditions and manage or refer as appropriate, including AMD, RVO/RAO, diabetic eye disease and inherited retinal disorders.
- An ability to diagnose and make re-treat decisions for wet AMD according to local protocols in a consultant ophthalmologist-led pathway in the UK as an example, including the ability to determine when further investigations are required in the event of atypical or sub-optimal responses to treatment.
- An ability to detect the features needed to accurately grade diabetic retinopathy according to modified ETDRS criteria in addition to United Kingdom National Screening protocols used as a case example.
- Communication skills to discuss with patients and other colleagues about diagnosis and potential management options.
- Clinical history taking and interpretation.
- Practical fundus examination skills

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible non-medical practitioners working at this level should.

- Possess a minimum of a BSc (Hons) in Optometry or Orthoptics **or equivalent**. Other qualifications or experience may be accepted and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Possess relevant professional body registration.
- Completion of Medical Retina Level 1, or equivalent qualification.
- Please enquire to determine whether you are suitable to apply.

ONLINE TAUGHT COMPONENT

This will include online lessons, self-test and self-learning 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 complete research assignments and case studies during the three months, 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 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.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

If you wish to complete the College of Optometrists Professional Higher Certificate in Medical Retina, the clinical placement is a requirement. You will be expected to see a minimum number of patient episodes and conditions. You have two years from the date of your written exam to complete this and submit your case records. You will be required to

arrange the placement yourselves with your local Hospital Eye Department and arrange for a clinical mentor (Consultant Ophthalmologist) to support your placement.

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 Higher 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 7th Sept 2026

Face to face day: Tuesday 17th November 2026

Practical Skills Day: Monday 23rd November 2026

Exams: Monday 11th January 2027

OSCES: Tuesday 12th January 2027

*The above dates may change if there are circumstances beyond our control

FEES

£1,350.00

CONTACT DETAILS

Clinical enquiries:

General enquiries and registration: moorfields.hq@nhs.net