

Ophthalmic Practitioner Training (OPT) - Regional lead Volunteer Opportunity

Name of position: OPT Regional Lead

Start date: February 2025

Term: 3 years

Time commitment: Timing is flexible, and dependent upon the size of the programme – and particularly the number of learners. Some of the activities will be performed during existing working time (eg: training), whereas others will require separate time allocation (eg: portfolio assessment).

Number of vacancies: 6 (1 in each of the following regions: East Midlands North, East Midlands South, Northern Ireland, Oxford, South West Peninsula, South West Severn).

Meetings: Time will be spent: • Planning and supporting aspects of the OPT Programme • Meeting with Learners or Trainers • Training, supervising and assessing Learners

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About the position

Ophthalmic Practitioner Training (OPT) is a competency-based training programme founded on the Ophthalmic Common Clinical Competency Framework (OCCCF). It develops nonmedical ophthalmic practitioners in secondary care, enabling them to take on extended roles to support the delivery of ophthalmology.

The Regional OPT Lead is responsible for the quality control of the award of the OPT Certificates. They oversee the OPT Programme and the quality of assessment of its learners in their region. They oversee and support the Unit OPT Leads in their region, and the supervisors and trainers in those units. They:

- Support the enrolment of Learners onto the Programme
- Advise on the delivery of OPT Training according to the OCCCF Curriculum
- Quality control the assessment of Learners to uniform standards
- Support and develop OPT Trainers Regional

One Regional OPT Lead is identified for each of the regions.

Eligibility

- Ophthalmologist, Orthoptist, Optometrist or Ophthalmic Nurse
- Member of their professional organisation (RCOphth, BIOS, CoO, RCN)
- Registration with their professional regulatory body (GMC, HCPC, GOC, NMC)
- Undertaking active secondary ophthalmic clinical care in the region
- Recognised postgraduate trainer for their own profession

Criteria for position

Essential:

- Detailed understanding of the curriculum, portfolio and assessment structure of OPT
- Detailed understanding of educational processes including planning, delivery, supervision and evaluation of curriculum-based teaching and its assessment
- Detailed understanding of processes for global supervision of Learners, including feedback, appraisal, portfolio review, personal support and managing Learners in difficulty
- Detailed understanding of standards required for certification as an OPT Practitioner
- Current certificate in equal opportunities and diversity training
- Training in educational supervision, feedback, appraisal and assessment
- Delivery of postgraduate teaching and supervision for one or more ophthalmic professions

- Ability to communicate using good written and verbal skills with all stakeholders, eg: learners, trainers and colleagues
- Ability to work to tight timescales
- Agreement from NHS Trust to give support to fulfil the role

Desirable:

- Attendance at an RCOphth OPT TTT course or other RCOphth TTT course
- Familiarity with the principles of mentoring and buddying
- Organisation of an educational programme Significant leadership role in the department, region or nationally
- Support of learners/colleagues through appraisal, educational supervision or mentoring
- Appointment to recognised educational roles, eg: educational lead, clinical or educational supervisor.

Benefits

By volunteering with the College as an OPT Regional Lead, you can play an active role in quality assuring, and developing the OPT programme in your region. You will have the opportunity to work with colleagues, staff and external organisations to develop your leadership, teamwork and subject knowledge, as well as building your professional network. As part of this, we will also provide you with professional development opportunities to support you in your role.

How to apply

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the [volunteer application form here](#) or on our website and include your summary CV.

Please feel free to email Gareth Brennan at gareth.brennan@rcophth.ac.uk if you have any questions.

All eligible individuals will be contacted via email. Eligible individuals will be asked to attend an online interview.