

Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Programme Plan – Ophthalmology Pathway

Duration: 8-14 months + End-Point Assessment (EPA)



CORE PROGRAMME DELIVERY

All learners complete a core Healthcare Science programme covering:

- Being a Successful Student & Scientist
- Health, Safety and Security
- The Role of the Healthcare Scientist
- Quality, Research and Innovation
- Principles and practice of Patient Care
- Health and Disease (dependant on pathway)

These sessions provide the foundations required to work safely and effectively within Healthcare Science services.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 apprenticeship develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to work safely and effectively within Healthcare Science services.

The Ophthalmology pathway is designed for learners working within ophthalmic and vision science services. Apprentices develop an understanding of eye health, visual impairment, diagnostic testing and patient-centred care whilst building workplace competence in ophthalmology settings.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Remote interactive workshops
- Specialist Ophthalmology pathway sessions
- Workplace competency development
- Portfolio-based assessment through OneFile
- Regular coaching and progress reviews
- Gateway and End-Point Assessment preparation

Learning is applied directly within healthcare environments to support diagnosis, treatment and patient care.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment is portfolio-based and demonstrates competence in both knowledge and workplace practice.

Examples include:

- Knowledge workbooks
- Professional discussions
- Reflective accounts
- Workplace observations
- Witness testimonies
- Photo diaries
- Work logs
- Competency records
- Presentations

All evidence is uploaded and reviewed through the OneFile e-portfolio system.



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Total off the Job Hours: 326

OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learners complete approximately 326 hours of Off-the-Job Learning throughout the apprenticeship. This learning takes place during paid working hours and supports the development of apprenticeship knowledge, skills and behaviours.

Activities include:

Core Learning

- Workshops and tutorials
- Independent research and study
- Reflective practice
- Portfolio development

Workplace Learning

- Shadowing ophthalmic practitioners
- Observation of diagnostic procedures
- MDT activities
- Competency development
- Service improvement activities

Specialist Learning

- Visual acuity assessment activities
- Eye clinic observations
- Patient pathway reviews
- Ophthalmic diagnostic testing
- Observation of corrective procedures and treatments
- Quality meetings and audit activities
- PPE and decontamination procedures
- Vision science and eye health studies

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – OPHTHALMOLOGY

Specialist learning focuses on the knowledge and skills required to support ophthalmology and vision science services.

Topics include:

- Causes of disease and maintaining health
- Infection prevention and control
- Eye health and visual impairment
- Measuring visual acuity
- Ophthalmic diagnostic procedures
- Patient preparation and support
- Clinical pathways within eye care services
- Corrective treatments and procedures
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Decontamination and waste management
- Team working and professional practice

Specialist technical training is delivered in partnership with ophthalmology specialists, supporting learners to develop practical workplace skills within eye care services.

END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The apprenticeship concludes with an independent End-Point Assessment delivered by the National School for Healthcare Science (NSHCS).

Assessment includes:

- Observation of Practice with Questions
- Professional Discussion
- Portfolio Review

Successful apprentices achieve the nationally recognised:

- Healthcare Science Assistant Level 2 Apprenticeship Standard.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Following successful completion, learners may progress to:

- Senior Healthcare Science Assistant roles
- Ophthalmic Support Worker roles
- Ophthalmic Technician pathways
- Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeships
- Ophthalmic and Vision Science specialisms
- Other Healthcare Science pathways

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Support ophthalmology and vision science services
- Assist with visual acuity assessments and diagnostic procedures
- Apply infection prevention and control measures
- Support patients throughout the ophthalmology pathway
- Apply quality and safety standards in practice
- Work effectively within multidisciplinary teams
- Deliver person-centred care
- Contribute to positive patient outcomes

