



The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

---

Postgraduate Medical Training

# Research and Scholarship syllabus

OST Curriculum domain

DRAFT

---

*The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a registered charity in England and Wales (299872) and in Scotland (SC045652)*

Level 1	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Adopt an evidence-based approach to clinical practice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand GMC guidance on good practice in research.</li> <li>Understand the difference between audit and research.</li> <li>Understand some of the following areas: research ethics, research design, literature / database searching, evidence appraisal skills, statistical approaches, funding for research.</li> <li>Undertake one audit, which can take the form of leading a local departmental audit or demonstrating involvement in a national audit.</li> </ul>
<b>Critically appraise existing published research.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand principles of qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods.</li> <li>Critically appraise one published clinical trial and present to clinical supervisor.</li> </ul>
<b>Distil research and deliver oral presentations.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one presentation to local postgraduate teaching / Journal Club.</li> <li>At least one presentation at regional annual trainees' research symposium.</li> </ul>

  

Level 2	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Implement an evidence-based approach to shared decision making and enhancing patient outcomes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate secure understanding of principle qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods.</li> <li>Identify a research question relevant to clinical practice and undertake a literature review to identify what is known on the topic.</li> <li>Publish at least one peer-reviewed review (systematic or literature) on subject of trainee's choice (in close collaboration with clinical supervisor).</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrate competencies for commencing clinical research.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect evidence for portfolio that demonstrates ability to apply knowledge encompassing research ethics, research design, literature/database searching, evidence appraisal skills, statistical approaches, funding for research.</li> </ul>

<b>Distil research, deliver poster presentations and improve oral presenting.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Present a poster at national/international research meeting (e.g. College congress, Oxford congress, ARVO, WOC, WGA, EuRetina, UKEGG BEVRS, etc.).</li> <li>▪ Critically appraise one published clinical trial and present to local postgraduate teaching / Journal Club.</li> </ul>
---	---

<b>Level 3</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Descriptors</b>
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Implement service improvement by revision and development of guidelines, treatments and practical procedures using current clinical research and contemporary evidence.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire additional research skills relevant to own clinical or research interests.</li> <li>▪ Develop and commence a research study to address research question identified at Level 2.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead research sessions and critically appraise oral presentations.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chair and organise local postgraduate teaching at least once.</li> <li>▪ Give formative feedback to presenters at above session.</li> </ul>

<b>Level 4</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Descriptors</b>
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Understand the principles of research methods, research governance, application of ethics to research and the translation of research into practice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apply advanced knowledge of principles of qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods.</li> <li>▪ Apply involvement in research governance and research ethics applications, e.g. Health Research Authority and Research Ethics Committee (REC) for a clinical research project.</li> <li>▪ Apply adherence to GMC and other guidance on ethical conduct in research and consent for research.</li> <li>▪ Apply service improvement by revision/development of guidelines based on: contemporary clinical research/evidence; own research.</li> </ul>
<b>Promote innovation in ophthalmology.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have undertaken evidence review to inform own research.</li> <li>▪ Continue own research to completion – at least two peer-reviewed papers as first or lead author.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate collaboration and participation in research led by others.</li> </ul>

DRAFT