The ROYAL COLLEGE of OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

OST Curriculum

Research and Scholarship syllabus

Implementation date: **August 2024**

This document outlines the descriptors for this domain and accompanies the Curriculum 2024 document. Version numbers will be changed after each update, and content changes noted in the table below.

Version number	Date issued	Summary of changes
1.0	1 August 2024	

Level 1	
Learning Outcome	**Descriptors**
An ophthalmologist achieving this level will:	
Adopt an evidence-based approach to clinical practice.	▪ Understand GMC guidance on good practice in research. ▪ Understand the difference between audit and research. ▪ Understand some of the following areas: research ethics, research design, literature / database searching, evidence appraisal skills, statistical approaches, funding for research. ▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the audit process (for example, by undertaking an audit).
Critically appraise existing published research.	▪ Understand principles of qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods. ▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the audit process (for example, by undertaking an audit).
Understand research and deliver oral presentations.	▪ At least one presentation to local postgraduate teaching / Journal Club. ▪ At least one research presentation at a regional meeting.

Level 2	
Learning Outcome	**Descriptors**
An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:	
Implement an evidence-based approach to shared decision making and enhancing patient outcomes.	▪ Demonstrate understanding of principle qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods. ▪ Identify a research question relevant to clinical practice and undertake a literature review to identify what is known on the topic. ▪ Demonstrate ability to scientifically review a subject and communicate the methodology and results in a written form to peers.
Demonstrate competencies for commencing clinical research.	▪ 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.
Understand research, deliver poster	▪ Demonstrate an understanding of critical appraisal (for example, by critically appraising a published clinical trial).

presentations and improve oral presenting.	

Level 3	
Learning Outcome	**Descriptors**
An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:	
Implement service improvement by revision and development of guidelines, treatments and practical procedures using current clinical research and contemporary evidence.	▪ Acquire additional research skills relevant to own clinical or research interests. ▪ Develop and commence a research study to address research question identified at Level 2.
Lead research / teaching sessions and critically appraise oral presentations.	▪ Chair and organise local postgraduate teaching at least once. ▪ Give formative feedback to presenters at above session.

Level 4	
Learning Outcome	**Descriptors**
An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:	
Understand the principles of research methods, research governance, application of ethics to research and the translation of research into practice.	▪ Apply advanced knowledge of principles of qualitative, quantitative, bio-statistical and epidemiological research methods. ▪ Apply involvement in research governance and research ethics applications, e.g. Health Research Authority and Research Ethics Committee (REC) for a clinical research project. ▪ Apply adherence to GMC and other guidance on ethical conduct in research and consent for research. ▪ Apply service improvement by revision/development of guidelines based on contemporary clinical research/evidence and own research.
Promote innovation in ophthalmology.	▪ Have undertaken evidence review to inform own research. ▪ Continue own research to completion – producing peer-reviewed papers as first or lead author is one way to demonstrate competence. ▪ Demonstrate collaboration and participation in research led by others.