MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

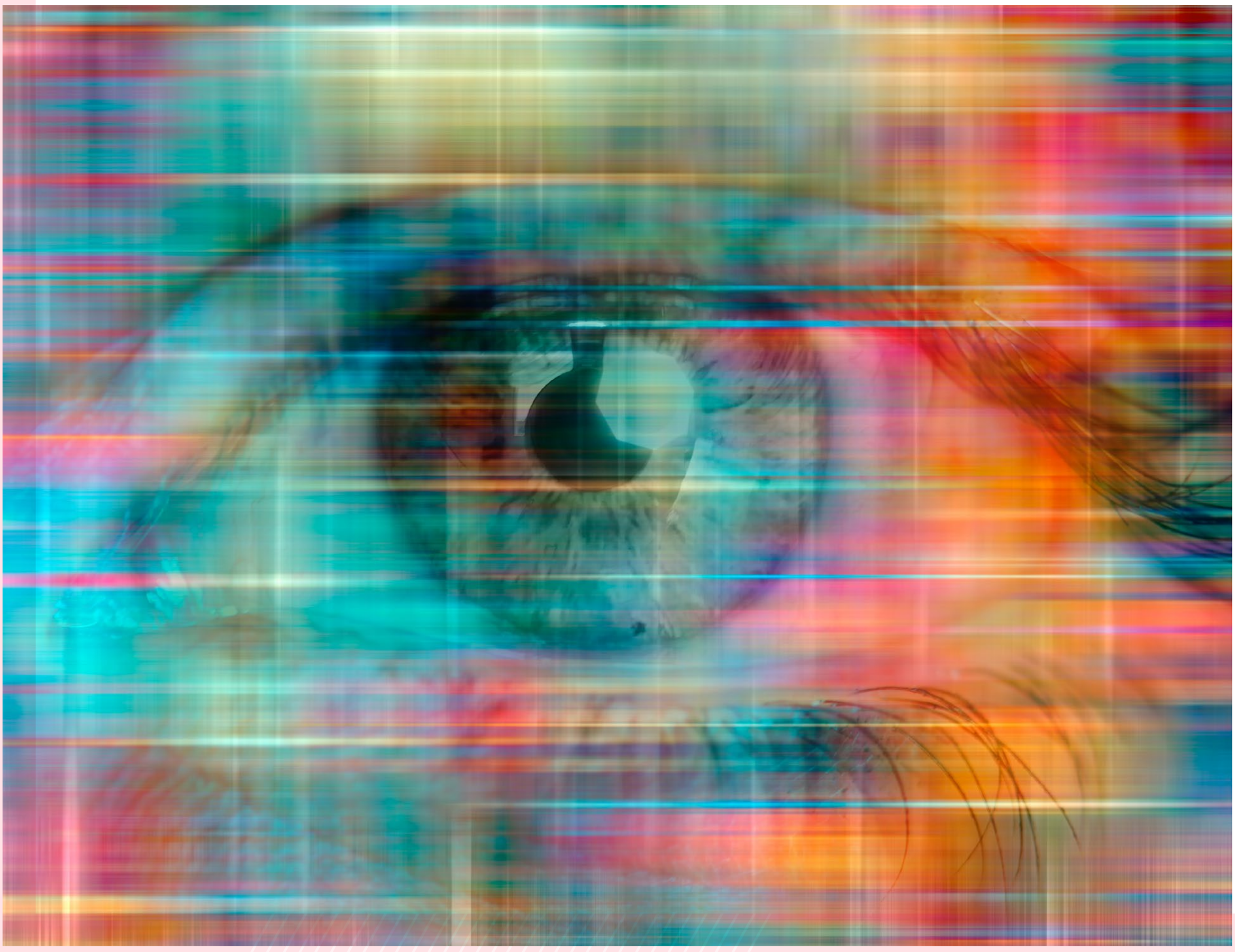
POST-GRADUATE COURSES IN OPTOMETRY

COURSES DESIGNED FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONTENTS

OPTOMETRY

At Manchester



Meet your career development aspirations as an eyecare professional through our postgraduate master's and continuing professional development units.

Our optometry and ophthalmology postgraduate courses are ideal if you want to expand your professional knowledge of the field or provide enhanced services as a current ophthalmologist, optometrist, orthoptist or nurse, or if you want to enter a related research or academic career.

WHY MANCHESTER?

93%

of the University's research activity has been assessed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. You'll benefit from studying in a research-intensive environment (REF 2021). You will be taught by experts in their field and GOC-registered optometrists.

1st

The University of Manchester is 1st in the UK and 2nd globally for social and environmental impact.

THE University Impact Rankings 2024

Top city

Manchester is ranked among the best UK cities to live in.

2nd in The Economist's Global Liveability Index, 2024

Flexible courses

You may be able to tailor course units to your interests, benefit from a blend of online and face-to-face teaching, or choose to take individual CPD units, which can be combined to equate to a master's-level degree.

Industry partners

Benefit from the research expertise of the University and the clinical expertise of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

2nd

We are the second most targeted university by the UK's top 100 recruiters.

The Graduate Market 2024

LIFE-CHANGING RESEARCH

Our researchers contribute to society, and improve healthcare and education through innovative discoveries and new knowledge.

By choosing Manchester, you will be joining a university at the forefront of research discoveries, but what does that mean for you?

> You'll study in an academic environment that helps brilliant thinkers turn inspiration into reality, encouraging enterprise, experimentation, and creative thinking.

> You will learn on courses informed by the latest breakthroughs.

> You will be taught by experts with first-hand knowledge of innovations and developments in their disciplines.

> Learn from world-leading minds with close links to industry and a commitment to making a difference.

A SNAPSHOT OF RESEARCH

Postgraduate optometry at Manchester contributes to life-changing research, having a real impact on people's lives.

Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence 2023

EDUCATING EYE HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

Dr Catherine Porter (postgraduate optometry programme director) and her Manchester Royal Eye Hospital colleagues Prof Robert Harper, Dr Patrick Gunn and Prof Cecilia Fenerty have been awarded the Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (2023), which has had a demonstrable impact on the teaching and learning of postgraduate optometry students at the University.

The work of Dr Porter's team directly contributes to this ambition by educating eye health practitioners in the effective early identification of glaucoma, which is a leading cause of preventable blindness. These practitioners then work in Enhanced Referral Schemes, which reduce hospital waiting times for treatment and worry for patients. The team has increased the number of trained primary care practitioners in the Greater Manchester area by 300% in the past three years.

DISCOVER MORE ►

HUMANISING HEALTHCARE

A University of Manchester initiative that engages its students' healthcare improvement work in hard-to-reach communities in the UK and beyond has come third in a prestigious international prize for global citizenship.

Our postgraduate optometry courses allow professionals to learn skills that will enable them to provide an enhanced service, including bringing more eyecare services to the community and reducing pressure on the NHS. They also provide orthoptists and ophthalmic nurses with the skills to work in specialised eye hospital services.

In addition, the Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science MSc, which has a large international cohort, has a global impact through areas such as clinical optometry (for example, low vision) that can be applied worldwide.

READ MORE ►

DEMENTIA AND VISION

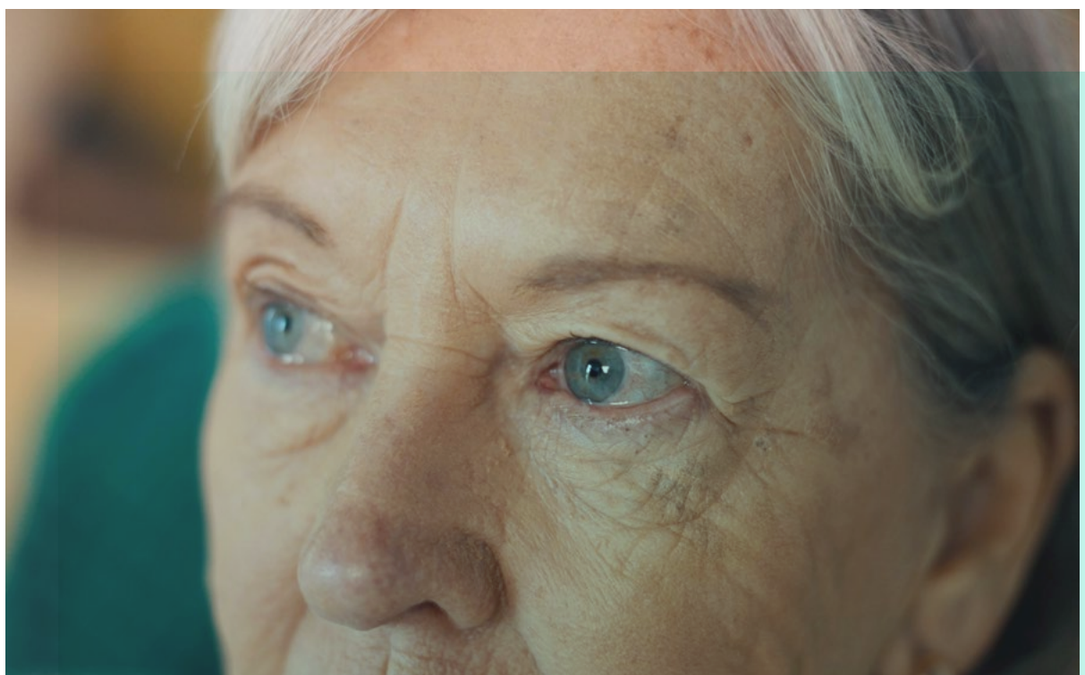
Manchester has led an EU-wide programme to investigate aspects of concurrent hearing, vision and cognitive impairment in older people. More than 90% of people with dementia (PwD) also have hearing and vision impairment. But significant gaps in understanding of the overlaps of these conditions still remain in:

- the detection and diagnosis of concurrent hearing and vision impairment in people with dementia;
- timely and appropriate interventions to improve hearing and vision in people with dementia;
- the knowledge of professionals working across the fields of hearing, vision and dementia care with respect to the alternative domains.

Appropriately detecting and managing hearing and vision impairments in people with dementia may offer an opportunity to improve various outcomes, including quality of life, care partner burden, morbidity and trajectory of decline.

A Greater Manchester Symposium was held to raise awareness of these issues and work towards developing a set of interdisciplinary clinical guidelines to support people with dementia with hearing and/or vision impairment.

DISCOVER MORE ►



WHAT IS IT LIKE STUDYING A POSTGRAD COURSE AT MANCHESTER?

"The Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science MSc is an outstanding programme that provided me with a strong foundational knowledge and research skills in both ophthalmology and optometry. The tutors, who are among the finest experts in their field, offered invaluable insights and mentorship, which made it a great opportunity to build a professional network. Additionally, expanding my knowledge and skills has greatly boosted my confidence, and I look forward to applying them in my professional life."

NURFITNAT ELLEK
Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science student.

“I chose Manchester for its academic excellence, renowned faculty like Professors Aslam and Morgan, and a unique master’s curriculum that deeply explores myopia management, which is my main concern.

The course’s emphasis on critical appraisal has been invaluable, shaping my analytical approach for future research and clinical practice. I aim to contribute to my home country’s developing eyecare system through clinical expertise and research. This course has exceeded expectations by providing in-depth knowledge across all areas, even those I thought I was familiar with.

Besides, it allowed me to meet eyecare professionals from different backgrounds and countries, which has broadened my perspective and enriched my learning experience. I’d recommend this programme to anyone looking to advance their career in eyecare.”

DUC HIEU NGUYEN
Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science student.

READ MORE POSTGRADUATE BLOGS →

STUDENT PROJECTS

A key aim of postgraduate courses is to facilitate eyecare professionals to link research developments to clinical practice.

Students who undertake the master's course conduct a research project of their own, supervised by expert academics at the University and Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. This research covers a range of areas including education, clinical practice, ophthalmic technology and neuroscience.

Take a look at a selection of published research:

- The short-term effect of contact lens wear on blink characteristics
- Evaluation of the Manchester COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES)

FACILITIES

The CPD units and master's degree are taught by clinical and academic experts from the optometry department at The University of Manchester and Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. At the University, the Carys Bannister building houses the latest clinical and research facilities to enhance student learning. The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital has been providing high-quality eyecare for over 200 years, delivered by world-renowned clinicians.

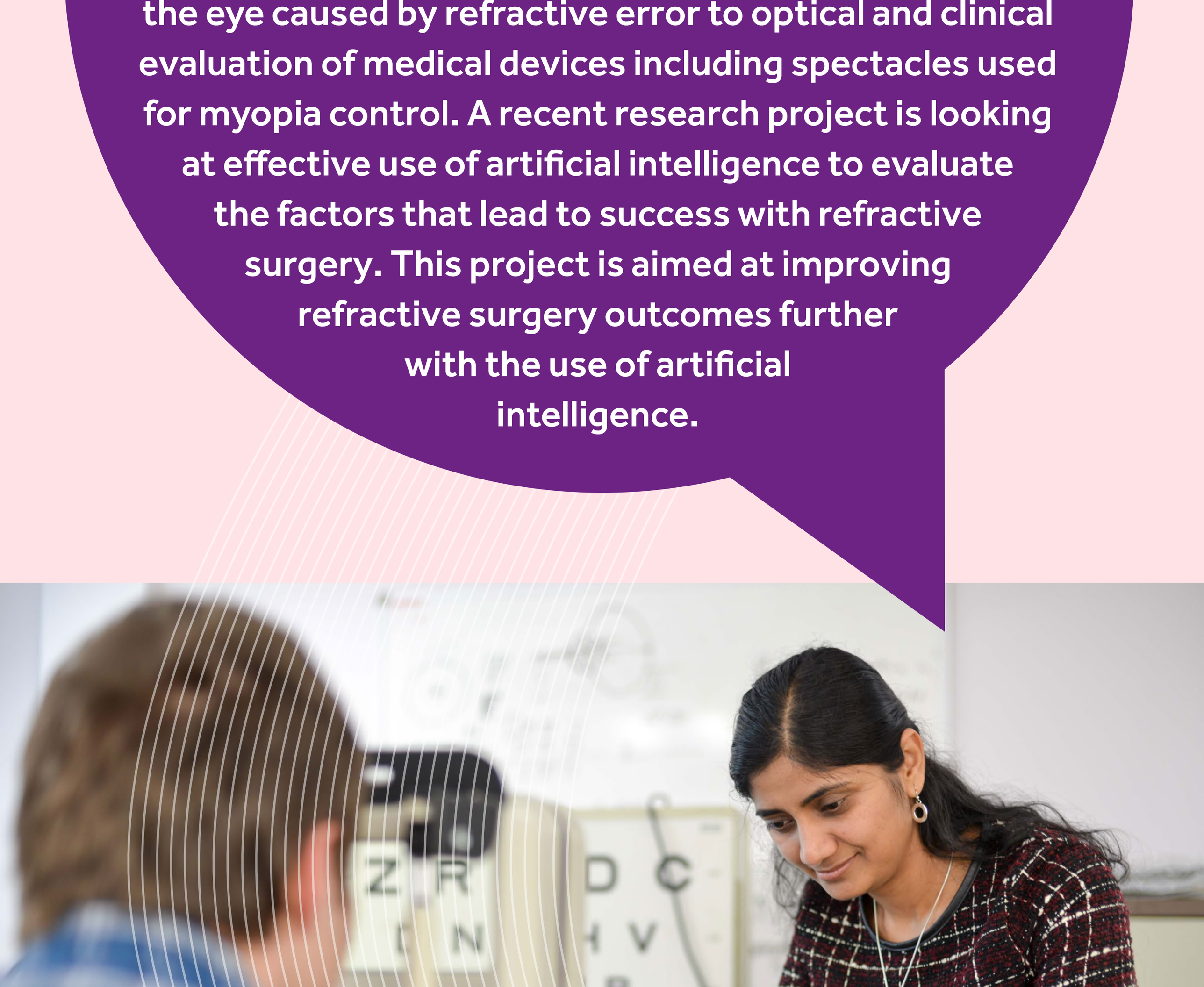
Most research dissertations as part of the master's degree are conducted within the University and the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

You will also have access to a range of library and IT facilities across the University.

MEET THE EXPERTS

PROFESSOR
HEMA RADHAKRISHNAN
Refractive Error Research

With the increase in myopia prevalence in epidemic proportions across the world, my research interest has been in understanding the mechanisms behind this dramatic increase in refractive error and ways to control its development and progression. Research in my lab ranges from fundamental studies such as assessing the physiological changes in the eye caused by refractive error to optical and clinical evaluation of medical devices including spectacles used for myopia control. A recent research project is looking at effective use of artificial intelligence to evaluate the factors that lead to success with refractive surgery. This project is aimed at improving refractive surgery outcomes further with the use of artificial intelligence.

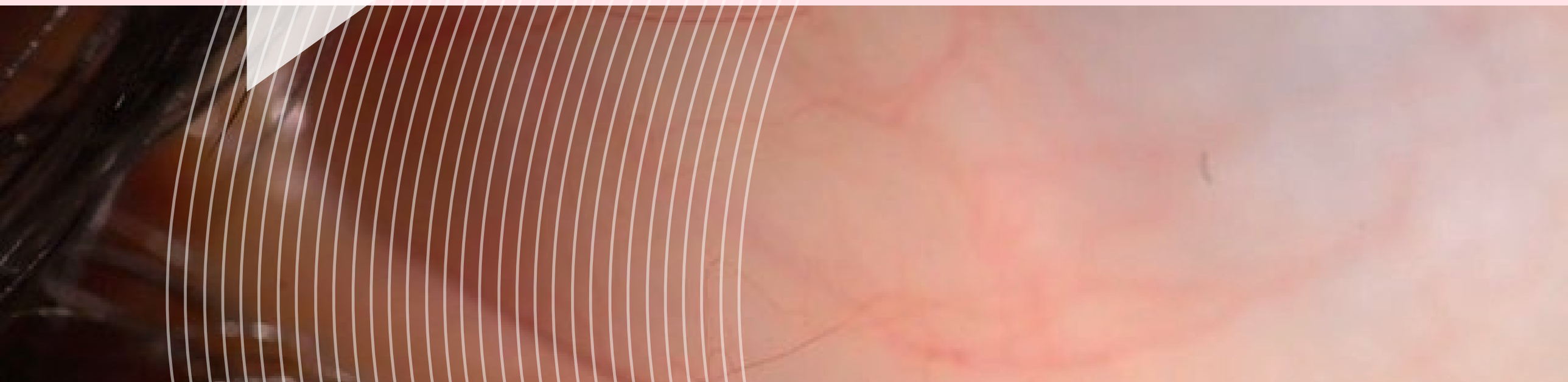


PHIL MORGAN

Professor of Optometry;
Director of Eurolens Research

“With at least half the world’s population requiring vision correction, I am interested in improving the physiological, visual and subjective performance of contact lenses. These medical devices are worn by about 200 million people worldwide, but there are more former wearers than current wearers, and understanding the reasons around this requires an understanding of materials science, optics, engineering, ocular surface immunology and local anatomy, which makes for a fascinating area of research.

“One current area of research is exploring the types of cells and proteins that are collected from the ocular surface and the tear film before and after contact lens wear, and at different times of day for successful and less successful contact lens wearers. This is allowing us to develop a biological ‘fingerprint’ of the response of the eye to contact lenses, and we hope this will reveal new opportunities for material and lens design improvements.”



COURSES

> Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science (MSc)
> Advanced Clinical Optometric Practice (MSc)

Previous students have gone on to further study in the areas of cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging:

> Neuroimaging for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience (MSc)
> Neuroscience (MSc)

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our CPD course units and workshops draw on the expertise of some of the UK's most respected academics, clinicians and health professionals. We deliver the following College of Optometrists-accredited CPD units:

> Professional Certificate in Medical Retina
> Professional Certificate in Glaucoma

CPD at Manchester

CONTACT US

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DISCLAIMER

This prospectus was updated in March 2025. It has therefore been produced in advance of course starting dates. As such, for a number of reasons, course information, including, for example, details of course content, unit availability and/or published term dates, may be amended either prior to or after you apply for a place on a course.

All information relating to tuition fees and funding is correct at the time of publication. However, this may change for a number of reasons, including if there is a change to government policy.