



School of Optometry  
and Vision Sciences

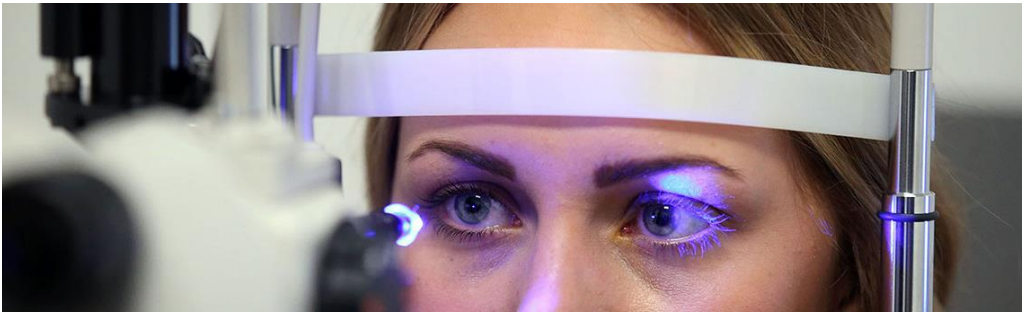
Ysgol Optometreg a  
Gwyddorau'r Golwg

# LOCSU/WOPEC

## Courses to support the delivery of primary eye care services

Excellence in Education for  
Eye Care Professionals





LOCSU/WOPEC training courses are designed to support the delivery of primary eye care services in local areas across England and Wales.

There are a selection of courses available: Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS); Glaucoma; Pre and Post-Operative Cataract; Low Vision; Learning Disabilities and Paediatrics. All courses comprise WOPEC distance learning lectures with multiple choice questions (MCQ), the content is peer reviewed, lectures are GOC CET approved and on completion an individualised WOPEC certificate in pdf format is issued.

### **The Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU)**

LOCSU provides high-quality, practical support to LOCs in England to help them to develop, negotiate and implement their local objectives in respect of extended primary eye care services. It has commissioned WOPEC to develop training and accreditation to support this development..

### **Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre (WOPEC)**

WOPEC remains the only dedicated optometry postgraduate education centre in the world and is based in Cardiff University's School of Optometry and Vision Sciences. WOPEC is recognised as a centre of excellence for teaching and research across the world and is committed to maintaining an outstanding learning experience for all students.



**LOCSU**



Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre  
Canolfan Addysg Optometriq Ol-raddediq Cymru

WOPEC has almost 14,000 eye care professional learners. It provides a dedicated facility for education and training for optometrists and other eye care practitioners, to produce a workforce of professionals who are able to deliver the highest quality of care to their patients. WOPEC offers a wide range of postgraduate taught courses for eye care professionals in the UK and internationally.





## Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)

MECS accredited practitioners will be able to provide a prompt assessment of a patient presenting an acute eye condition. As many patients as possible will have their management maintained within the primary care setting, thus avoiding unnecessary referrals to hospital services. Where referral to secondary care is required it will be to a suitable specialist with appropriate urgency.

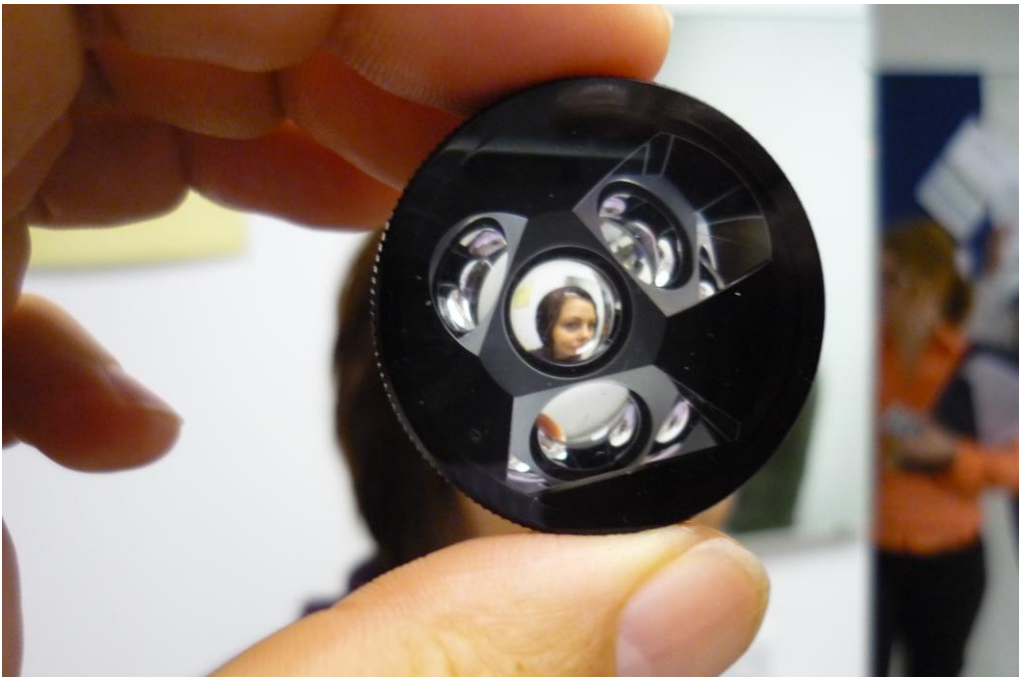
There are two parts to MECS training and accreditation. Part 1 is online distance learning with Part 2 station-based practical assessment and learning. Part 1 must be completed before Part 2 can be undertaken. Foreign body removal training can be offered as an extra.

### MECS Part 1: Distance learning – CET accredited

Practitioners need to complete a course of seven online theoretical training lectures and MCQs covering the following topics: Red eye; Flashes and floaters; Age-related macular degeneration Parts 1 and 2; Cornea and corneal foreign bodies; Sudden loss of vision; Dry eye in optometric practice.

### MECS Part 2: Practical Station Assessments

WOPEC can work with LOCs and commissioning bodies to organise a practical assessment consisting of five stations designed to assess referral, communication, clinical decision making and Volk BIO.



## Glaucoma

This course provides the practitioners with training on glaucoma repeat measurement and ocular hypertension (OHT) monitoring which is in line with NICE guidelines. It has been peer reviewed by the NICE guideline development group.

There are two parts to Glaucoma training and accreditation. Part 1 must be completed before Part 2 can be undertaken.

### **Glaucoma Part 1: Distance learning - CET accredited**

Practitioners need to complete a course of online theoretical training lectures and MCQs. There are four lectures and a video: Glaucoma and the optic disc assessment; IOP and tonometry; Visual fields and glaucoma; NICE guidelines and practical techniques video demonstrating methods used to examine patients suspected of having OHT and/or glaucoma.

### **Glaucoma Part 2: Practical Station Assessments**

WOPEC can work with LOCs and commissioning bodies to organise a practical assessment that consists of five stations designed to assess; calibration of a Goldmann applanation tonometer, Van Herick's technique, Goldmann applanation tonometry, the use of Volk BIO and a glaucoma case study.





## Pre- and Post-Operative Cataract

Practitioners will be enabled to inform and manage their patients presenting with cataract within the primary care setting and reduce the number of patient visits to secondary care.

The Pre-and Post-Operative Cataract course comprises online theoretical training lectures and MCQs, a visual recognition (VRICS) test and a video following a cataract patient journey in hospital. Lectures cover the following topics: Types and grading of cataract; Pre-operative assessment and considerations and Complications of cataract surgery. All are CET accredited.

## Low Vision

Low Vision accredited practitioners can give patients with sight loss quicker access to a high quality specialist assessment, a supply of low vision and daily living aids, support closer to home.

This comprises a course of ten, CET accredited online theoretical training lectures and MCQs. It is open to optometrists and dispensing opticians.

The lectures cover pathology, assessment of visual function, low vision needs, magnifiers, and low vision solutions.

WOPEC can work with local areas and commissioning bodies to deliver practical training and assessment.



## Eye Care for People with Learning Disabilities

People with learning disabilities are much more likely to have eye and vision problems than members of the general population, but find accessing eye care more difficult because of limited communication and understanding.

This distance learning online training package contains lectures and MCQs. It is compiled by people with many years of experience in the field provides an insight into the barriers to good eye care and how the staff can overcome them.

Lectures are CET accredited and comprise: A vision of eye care for people with learning disability; Community eye care pathway; Dispensing; Prevalence of eye problems and a VRICS.

Optometrists, dispensing opticians and optical assistants can all access a specific course to see the eye examination from the patient's point of view.





## Paediatrics

The aim of the course is to provide community and hospital based practitioners with knowledge and skills to provide a high standard of eye care to children of all ages. It includes topics covering assessment, screening, referral and treatment pathways, with an emphasis on the importance of good communication with children and young people, their parents/ carers and with other professionals.

The course comprises five, CET accredited online theoretical training lectures with MCQs: Refractive development, and distribution of refractive errors throughout childhood; Assessment of refractive error and prescribing for children; Tests and techniques for assessing vision in children and expected values; Vision screening in childhood; Assessment of ocular health and common defects in childhood.

There are also four key feature scenarios. It is available to optometrists and dispensing opticians.





## Who is eligible to do these courses?

LOCSU has funded the development of these packages for optometrists and dispensing opticians in England whose LOC's contributes to the LOCSU levy.

## How much do the LOCSU/WOPEC courses cost?

The distance learning element of the courses is available free of charge. If there is a practical element or an accreditation there is an additional charge. Please contact us for information.

## How are the course accessed?

Practitioners wishing to undertake a course should contact their LOC for the relevant access code. These codes can be entered into the 'PROMO CODE' section of the WOPEC website's homepage. Learning materials will then be available on the practitioner's account dashboard

## What next?

Our postgraduate programme of study at Cardiff University has been developed specifically with professionals in mind, providing an opportunity to achieve higher qualifications that will broaden your knowledge which can be used in your day to day work. This programme is part-time, using an efficient combination of convenient distance learning and 'hands-on' skills training. You can study a module at a time or work towards a Certificate, Diploma or MSc. Many modules are accredited by the College of Optometrists for higher professional qualifications and most have CET credits. Some LOCSU modules may be put towards a higher qualification.

**Please contact us for more information:**

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[www.wopec.co.uk](http://www.wopec.co.uk)



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