

Noelle Hamilton

Optometry Development Manager



I had wanted to work in a healthcare environment from as long as I can remember. As a child, I had a squint in my eye and wore a patch to correct this, which meant I spent a lot of time with optometrists. I was fascinated by the equipment used and the tests they performed and this led me to pursue a career in Optometry.

I worked as an optical assistant for an independent from the age of 16 where I helped the team ordering lenses and glazing glasses. I went on to study Optometry at the University of Ulster Coleraine and graduated in 2002, returning to the independent for my pre reg year. After working for a few years and doing some locum work for other multiples, I realised I wasn't enjoying the work I was doing. After an exciting opportunity became available with Optical Express, I packed up and moved to Edinburgh in 2008 to progress in my career and learn about refractive surgery.

Since I joined the company, I have experienced many different roles of an optometrist. I started off learning to carry out surgical post-operative check-ups, this progressed to carrying out consultations to determine patients' suitability for laser eye surgery and lens surgery and now, I work closely with our surgeons on treatment days. In my role as optometry development manager, I enjoy a great balance of working between the clinical and commercial aspects of the business. I supervise optometrists and support their professional development and also work alongside managers (store and regional) to help improve performance, ensuring our patients receive the world class care we are known for.

I recently was given the opportunity to share my clinical knowledge and have become a CET facilitator the company, delivering presentations when required on a range of subjects and chairing groups of optometrists for discussions on CET lectures and peer review CET.

One of the best things about working at Optical Express is the variety of patients I see on a daily basis, helping patients through life changing surgery and seeing how happy they are and what a difference it has made to their lives post operatively. As well as this, Optical Express' flexible working options help me maintain a great work-life balance. I'm so lucky to be part of such a adaptable organisation, spending your weekends with your kids instead of in a clinic is priceless and lets me enjoy being a mum first and optometrist second.