Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	FdSc Vision Rehabilitation Specialist (Adults)
2	**Course Code**	UF0520
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	Not applicable

6	**Course Description**
	Become a Vision Rehabilitation Specialist practitioner in enabling adults with a vision impairment to be as independent as possible in their day to day lives, by studying our foundation degree course. **What's covered in the course?** Vision impairment is a life changing experience and very often you will be working with people who are at a crisis point in their lives. A Vision Rehabilitation Specialist's strength is to be a problem solver and to respond to a person's unique and complex situation. You will develop individual training courses for people based on their individual needs and aspirations. Your initial learning focuses on the individual and the impacts of vision impairment on all aspects of life. You will look at how to work in partnership with your clients and their families, and how to work inter-professionally to promote the needs of those experiencing sight loss. You will also learn how to enable people with a vision impairment to become independent in their daily lives. This may be through teaching orientation and mobility skills, safety and independence in the kitchen and the home, techniques to overcome communication barriers and making the best use of a person's strengths and any remaining vision. You will attend our City South Campus in Edgbaston for block learning weeks that are spread throughout each academic year. During these weeks you will take part in lectures, simulation sessions and a range hands on group activities on this practical course. You will benefit from learning from an experienced teaching team and specialists from the sector as well as using our specialist resource rooms and training kitchens. In between teaching weeks, you will be able to access extensive online materials and take part in valuable work-based learning placements. Following successful completion of this course, you could progress your studies further to achieve a full BSc (Hons) degree by joining one of our two top-up degree with honours courses: • BSc (Hons) Qualified Habilitation Specialist (Children and Young People) (Top-Up Degree) • BSc (Hons) Specialist Complex Needs Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment) (Top-Up)

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Foundation Degree Sciences Vision Rehabilitation Specialist (Adults)	5	240
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Certificate in Higher Education in Vision Impairment Studies	Level 4	120

8	Variations from the University Academic Regulations
	This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract.

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City South	2 years	UF0520

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	**Please view course entry requirements on the BCU website:** Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment) - FdSc - 2025/26 Entry | Birmingham City University
11	**Course Aims**	
	The FdSc Vision Rehabilitation Specialist course aims to deliver exemplar Vision Rehabilitation Specialist training to successfully meet statutory and non-statutory service delivery requirements across the United Kingdom. We wish to create high quality Vision Rehabilitation Specialists capable of enabling the independent living and inclusivity in society of people who have a vision impairment in society. The course seeks to equip Vision Rehabilitation Specialists with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deliver, problem solve and analyse a wide range of vision rehabilitation services within multi-disciplinary practice. We aim to create reflective practitioners with personal and professional competence to achieve their own individual lifelong learning potential	

12	Course Learning Outcomes
1	Evidence the application of theoretical knowledge and insight to evaluate and assess the impact of vision impairment.
2	Describe and critique the theory and application of a wide range of strategies to problem solve orientation and mobility challenges and enhance independent travel in diverse environments.
3	Design and facilitate safe, bespoke, and effective programs of orientation and mobility for individuals who have a vision impairment.
4	Demonstrate competence in the delivery of independent living skills, methods of communication and technology training to people who have a vision impairment
5	Communicate knowledge, skills and approaches to problem solve a range of independent living challenges experienced by people who have a vision impairment.

6	Evidence critical awareness of responses to a wide range of vision rehabilitation situations, concerns and issues.
7	Apply theoretical concepts to reflect upon and enhance life-long learning within their own vision rehabilitation practice.
8	Demonstrate occupational competence in the delivery of specialist vision rehabilitation service within a work-based learning environment.

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Evidence the application of theoretical knowledge and insight to evaluate and assess the impact of vision impairment.
2	Describe a wide range of strategies to problem solve orientation and mobility challenges and enhance independent travel in diverse environments.
3	Demonstrate competence to adapt approaches when teaching indoor orientation and mobility techniques to people who have a vision impairment.
4	Demonstrate competence in the delivery of kitchen-based independent living skills training to people who have a vision impairment.
5	Discuss and apply knowledge to independent living challenges experienced by people who have a vision impairment.
6	Identify and discuss knowledge to enhance work-based learning practice.
7	Demonstrate professional behaviour and communication skills for working with a range of people within a work-based learning setting.
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Foundation Degree in Sciences, students will be able to:
1	Critique the theory and application of a wide range of strategies to problem solve orientation and mobility challenges and enhance independent travel in diverse environments.
2	Design and facilitate safe, bespoke, and effective outdoor programs of orientation and mobility for individuals who have a vision impairment.
3	Demonstrate competence in the delivery of technology training to people who have a vision impairment.
4	Communicate skills and approaches to problem solve a range of independent living challenges experienced by people who have a vision impairment.
5	Evidence critical awareness of responses to a wide range of vision rehabilitation situations, concerns and issues.
6	Apply theoretical concepts to reflect upon and enhance life-long learning within their own vision rehabilitation practice.
7	Demonstrate occupational competence in the delivery of specialist vision rehabilitation service within a work-based learning environment.

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	Students will develop their occupational knowledge, skills and behaviours by interacting with a wide range of work-based learning activities, block learning week teaching sessions and guided independent study. Teaching sessions will establish core knowledge and skills that will be applied in rehabilitation work settings. Block learning weeks involves interactive lectures, casework discussions and learning by doing in practical simulation sessions. Over the duration of the course these capabilities will be gradually built upon to enable you to have the competence and confidence to take on greater role responsibilities. Through work-based learning you will observe practice before moving into joint working key skills learnt at university and work towards taking the lead under observation. By the end of the course all students will be working independently in all areas of practice.

	Student development will be jointly monitored between a dedicated university personal tutor and a workplace mentor via progress reviews every eight to twelve weeks. Regular development goals will be agreed to enhance each students' individual capabilities with the aim of achieving the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of a Vision Rehabilitation Specialist. Module assessments include written assignments that are linked to practice case studies, observations of the competence to deliver practical rehabilitation skills, in-person oral examinations and professional discussions about work related scenarios. There is also one assessment in each year that are assessed by the workplace mentor. Two attempts per item of assessment are permitted to enable on course progression. Both tutors and mentors will offer feedback on written and practical work to identify good practice and specific areas for individual development. On course students focus on specific areas such as Prevent Duty Guidance, British Values, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safeguarding. British Values are also considered within the context of legislation teaching involving the Human Rights Act 1998 and Mental Capacity Act 2005. Safeguarding knowledge is discussed in the context of case studies involving people with a vision impairment and considered within the caseloads of students in their work-based learning activities to ensure potential concerns are addressed.

15	**Course Requirements**
15a	**Level 4:** ***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SPR4056	Vision Impairment and Specialist Assessment	40
SPR4052	Foundations of indoor orientation and mobility	20
SPR4053	Foundations of outdoor orientation and mobility	20
SPR4054	Independent Living Skills 1	20
SPR4055	Independent Living Skills 2	20
SPR4057	Work Based Learning year 1	0

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SPR5051	Professional Practice	40
SPR5050	Orientation and Mobility Routes and Crossings	20
SPR5049	Advanced Orientation and Mobility	20
SPR5053	Technology Communications and Low Vision Therapy 1	20
SPR5052	Technology Communications and Low Vision Therapy 2	20
SPR5054	Work based Learning Year 2	0

15b	Structure Diagram

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core Foundations of indoor of indoor orientation and mobility – 20 credits Independent living Skills 1 – 20 credits	Core Foundations of outdoor orientation and mobility - 20 credits Independent Living Skills 2 – 20 credits
Vision impairment and specialist assessment - 40 credits Work based learning year 1 – 0 credits	

Level 5

Core Orientation and mobility routes and crossings – 20 credits Technology communications and low vision therapy 1 – 20 credits	Core Advanced orientation and mobility – 20 credits Technology communications and low vision therapy 2 – 20 credits
Professional Practice – 40 credits Work based learning year 2 – 0 credits	

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Workload

Level 4

12.5% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	150
Directed Learning	525
Private Study	525
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	29
Exam	
In-Person	71

Level 5

Workload

12.5% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	151
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	569
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	29
Exam	
In-Person	71