

2025

Fight 4 Sight Ophthalmology Assistant Trainees Report



In 2025 Medical Mission Eswatini with support from Fight4Sight Foundation, provided professional training to 3 young, motivated Swazi professionals who are passionate about this field.

Two Trainees who graduated OA Level 1 in 2024, went on to study Level 2. All three trainees have dedicated themselves to study and working in clinics and surgery and achieved excellent final results.

The following is a summary of their experiences, feedback, thanks for the opportunity and their current work





Trainee Name: Ms Nowethu Dlamini
Years in Service: 2 Years with Grace Vision
2025 Course: Ophthalmic Assistant – Level 1
2025 Results: Assignment: 93% A+
Practical Assessment: 60% C
Final Practical Examination: 97.5% A+
2026 Plans: She hopes to Study OA Level 2

Dear Fight4Sight Team,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for sponsoring my Ophthalmic Assistant (OA) Level 1 training. Your support has been instrumental in my growth and success within the field of eye care.

My results reflect my strong theoretical understanding and the practical skills this has helped me to develop. While the practical assessment highlighted areas for improvement, it motivated me to work harder, which resulted in a significant improvement and an final practical result which I am very proud of. I could not have this achievement without your support and the faith you have in trainees like me.

This training has meant a great deal to me both professionally and personally. It has strengthened my confidence, improved my hands-on clinical skills, and enhanced my ability to assist effectively in eye clinics and theatre settings. I now feel better equipped to provide quality patient care and support .

With a solid foundation gained from OA 1 and the progress demonstrated in my results, I am eager to continue to OA Level 2. Further training will allow me to refine my skills, expand my knowledge, and make an even greater contribution to our eye care services, especially in screening and surgery. Thank you once again to Fight4Sight for investing in my education and believing in my potential. Your support has made a meaningful difference in my journey within ophthalmology.

Yours Sincerely,
Nowethu Dlamini

Nowethu applied to the clinic as a cleaner and quickly showed her strengths with patients and visual assessments. Her training in OA Level 1 studies has elevated her confidence and skills quickly and she is now a vital member of the Grace Vision team and is now leading in Surgery Preparation.

She has supported us in:

- * Sight Flight Screening
- * Public Outreach Screening
- * Cornea Transplant Weeks
- * Sponsored Cataract Care
- * Overtime for Surgery Prep



Hlobisile has began as a volunteer who knew she had a passion for eye care before she began studies and training. She was one of 2 screeners leading the first Glaucoma Outreach Screening Program in the country in 2025 and is now training in surgery to assist Nowethu as our case load grows. Hlobisile is a diligent worker and assists the clinic team to see hundreds of patients in 2 locations each week with Grace Vision team.

Trainee Name: Ms Hlobisile Lukhele
Years in Service: 2 Years with Grace Vision
2025 Course: Ophthalmic Assistant – Level 2
2025 Results: Practical: 72% B
Theory: 80% A
2026 Plans: She hopes to learn to support more services in clinic and surgery, especially Cataract Care

Dear Fight 4 Sight Team

I am pleased to share my experience completing the OA Level 2 Ophthalmology Assistant course with Pretoria Eye Institute. The study experience was engaging and challenging, with a comprehensive curriculum that balanced theoretical knowledge with practical skills training. I appreciated the expertise and support of the instructors, as well as the camaraderie with my peers.

My experience working at Grace Vision was invaluable, providing me with very practical exposure to clinical settings and challenging learning situations. The guidance and mentorship I received from my trainers and colleagues were instrumental in my growth and development as an Ophthalmology Assistant. I am eager to apply the skills and knowledge I have acquired to provide high-quality eye care services, supporting diagnoses, treatments, and referrals as needed. Becoming an Ophthalmology Assistant has been a significant milestone in my career, enhancing my confidence and sense of purpose. In the future, I aspire to continue growing in my role, pursuing further education and training in ophthalmology, and contributing to public initiatives that promote eye health awareness and services in underserved communities especially in the most rural areas which are poor.

I express my sincere gratitude to Fight 4 Sight for sponsoring my studies and enabling me to achieve this milestone. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the management and team at Grace Vision for their trust and support throughout my training, your confidence in me has been a huge motivator. I had a challenging beginning in life but I am now happy I am an OA 2.

Best regards,
Hlobisile Lukhele



Phumaphi now works across many areas of Grace Vision & MME Services including:

- Managing All Private Clients in Clinic & Surgery Services at Ezulwini Private Hospital
- Assisting Outreach Eye Screening Teams in Community-Based Care via Helicopter (SightFlight)
- Supporting Ophthalmology Assistant Level 1 Learners
- OA Support, weekly Siteki Clinic travelling 2+ hrs x 2 Days

Trainee Name: Ms Phumaphi Mamba

Years in Service: 3.5 Years with Grace Vision

2025 Course: Ophthalmic Assistant – Level 2

2025 Results: Theory: 62% C | Practical: 83% A

2026 Plans: Support OA Trainees, Clinics & Surgery

Dear Fight 4 Sight Team

I'm absolutely thrilled to share that I've successfully completed the OA Level 2 Ophthalmology Assistant course with Pretoria Eye Institute. It is a huge milestone, and I owe it to your generous support. Your sponsorship meant the world to me.

The study program was demanding, requiring intensive theoretical and practical skill development, but your trust you show by giving me this opportunity kept me driven. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Medical Mission Eswatini and Grace Vision Management and the team who encouraged and believed in me.

The skills and confidence I have gained will help me contribute meaningfully to the clinic. Working at Grace vision enriched my studies through the real-world clinical exposure and mentorship from our experienced Ophthalmologists and support from my colleagues. I'm eager to apply my knowledge at Grace Vision and contribute to initiatives that promote eye health awareness and services, especially in underserved communities.

My future dream is to focus on expanding my knowledge and being professional in my work. I want to pursue further education and training to become an Ophthalmic Nurse so I can help the clinic with diagnosis, treatment, and minor surgery. This can be of great help in the clinic because the demand for eye health care services is high. I'm also eager to learn more about helping patients with visual impairments maximize their functional abilities and independence. Thank you again for your invaluable support.

Best Regards
Phumaphi Mamba