Overview

Optometry combines the theoretical discipline of vision science with the clinical art of primary eye care. Vision science includes the optics of lenses and instruments, the physiology of the eye, the psychophysics of vision and the neuroscience of the brain.

Optometry includes the diagnosis and management of ocular disease, the dispensing of spectacles and contact lenses, the management of people with special needs (children, low vision), sports vision and vision in the workplace.

Graduates of this program will be able to register as an optometrist in Australia. The degree is also recognised in New Zealand and in most parts of Asia. Job opportunities in this field are excellent and are expected to remain excellent given the high visual demands in the modern computer-based workplace, and the ageing population in Australia.

Upon completion of the Master of Clinical Optometry degree, students will be allowed to apply for registration with the Optometry Board leading to the practice of Optometry in Australia, New Zealand and most parts of Asia.

Graduates of the dual award Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry will have specialised knowledge and skills for professional practice and research in Optometry and Vision Science and further learning.
**Faculty**
Faculty of Science

**Campus**
Kensington

**Study Level**
Undergraduate

**Typical duration**
5 Years

**Delivery Mode**
Face-to-face

**Intake Period**
Term 1

**Academic Calendar**
3+ Calendar

**Minimum Units of Credit**
240

**Award type**
Bachelors Pass

**Award(s)**
Bachelor of Vision Science - BVisSc
Master of Clinical Optometry - MClinOptom

**UAC Code**
429750

**CRICOS Code**
092960A
Learning Outcomes

1. Apply knowledge and skills in Optometry to work in ophthalmic industry and or as an autonomous practitioner.

   Global Citizens  Scholars  Leaders  Professionals

2. Demonstrate effective and professional skills in communicating information and judgements to patients and other health care providers.

   Leaders  Professionals

3. Articulate advanced and integrated understanding of a complex body of knowledge in Vision Science and Optometry, and their areas of professional practice.

   Scholars  Professionals  Leaders

4. Demonstrate an awareness of national and international issues within the disciplines of Vision Science and Optometry, and the impact they may have on the delivery of eye care to the community.

   Global Citizens  Scholars

5. Apply expert knowledge of ocular diseases and ocular therapeutics to the treatment and management of anterior eye diseases, foreign body removal and glaucoma co-management.

   Leaders  Scholars  Professionals

6. Use expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills in Optometry to independently and critically analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories.

   Leaders  Professionals  Scholars

7. Understand the scientific research process and ability to undertake independent research in Vision Science and Optometry. Apply established theories and concepts to a body of knowledge, and the interpretation and communication of knowledge and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

   Scholars  Leaders  Professionals

Graduate Capabilities:

For more information on Graduate Capabilities, please click on this link.
# Program Structure

Students must complete 240 UOC as a standalone program.

1. 228 UOC - Core Courses in Stages 1 to 5

2. 12 UOC - General Education Courses

## Level 1 Core Courses

Students must take 48 UOC of the following courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>UOC</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BABS1201</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecules, Cells and Genes</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM1011</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry 1A: Atoms, Molecules and Energy</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM1829</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Chemistry for Optometry Students</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VISN1101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeing the World: Perspectives from Vision Science</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VISN1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometrical and Physical Optics</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Optics</td>
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One of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH1031</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics for Life Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH1131</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics 1A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH1141</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Higher Mathematics 1A

One of the following:

PHYS1111  |  6 UOC
Fundamentals of Physics

PHYS1121  |  6 UOC
Physics 1A

PHYS1131  |  6 UOC
Higher Physics 1A

**Level 2 Core Courses**

Students must take 42 UOC of the following courses.

ANAT2111  |  6 UOC
Introductory Anatomy

OPTM2133  |  6 UOC
The Clinical Environment

OPTM2233  |  6 UOC
Optical Dispensing

PHSL2101  |  6 UOC
Physiology 1A

PHSL2201  |  6 UOC
Physiology 1B

VISN2111  |  6 UOC
Ocular Anatomy and Physiology

VISN2211  |  6 UOC
Organisation and Function of the Visual System
Level 3 Core Courses

Students must take 42 UOC of the following courses.

OPTM3105 | 6 UOC
Disease Processes of the Eye 1

OPTM3133 | 6 UOC
Vision Science in the Consulting Room

OPTM3201 | 6 UOC
Ocular Imaging & Applied Vision Science

OPTM3205 | 6 UOC
Disease Processes of the Eye 2

OPTM3233 | 6 UOC
Working in the Clinical Environment

PHAR3306 | 6 UOC
Pharmacology for Optometry

VISN3111 | 6 UOC
Development and Aging of the Visual System

Level 4 Core Courses

Students must take 48 UOC of the following courses.

OPTM6400 | 6 UOC
Optometric Preclinical Practice

OPTM6411 | 6 UOC
Contact Lenses

OPTM6412 | 6 UOC
Clinical Optometry 4A
OPTM6413  |  6 UOC  
Anterior Eye Therapeutics

OPTM6421  |  6 UOC  
Binocular Vision, Paediatrics and Low Vision

OPTM6422  |  6 UOC  
Clinical Optometry 4B

OPTM6423  |  6 UOC  
Therapeutics and the Posterior Eye

OPTM6424  |  6 UOC  
Professional Optometry

**Level 5 Core Courses**

Students must take 48 UOC of the following courses.

*Note: Students enrol in OPTM8514 Optometry Research Project each semester/term*

OPTM8511  |  6 UOC  
Clinical Paediatrics, Low Vision and Colour Vision

OPTM8512  |  6 UOC  
Clinical Optometry 5A

OPTM8513  |  6 UOC  
Clinical Ocular Therapy 5A

OPTM8514  |  4 UOC  
Optometry Research Project

OPTM8521  |  6 UOC  
Clinical Contact Lenses

OPTM8522  |  6 UOC
General Education

Students must take 12 UOC of the following courses.

Any course defined as a Science course cannot be taken as General Education (GE). All other courses can be used to fulfil the GE requirement of this program, including GEN# coded courses. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by the Associate Dean (Academic Programs) or nominee.

any General Education course

Excluded General Education Courses

Students may not undertake any of the following excluded courses.

any Computer Science course

any Food Technology course

any course offered by School of Medical Sciences

any course offered by Faculty of Science

any General Education - Faculty of Science course

Level 2 Maturity Rule

No student may commence Level 2 courses until 48 UOC of Level 1 courses have been successfully completed.

any level 2 course

ANAT2111 | 6 UOC
Introductory Anatomy
<table>
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<tr>
<td>The Clinical Environment</td>
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<td>OPTM2233</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optical Dispensing</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHSL2101</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology 1A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSL2201</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>Physiology 1B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VISN2111</td>
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<td>VISN2211</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation and Function of the Visual System</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Level 3 Maturity Rule**

Students may commence Level 3 courses upon successful completion of 48 units of credit of Level 2 courses.

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<tr>
<td>OPTM3205</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Processes of the Eye 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTM3233</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Working in the Clinical Environment

PHAR3306  |  6 UOC
Pharmacology for Optometry

VISN3111  |  6 UOC
Development and Aging of the Visual System

Enrolment Disclaimer

Unless advised otherwise by your program authority, you should follow the rules for the handbook for the year you commenced your program. You are also responsible for ensuring you enrol in courses according to your program requirements. myUNSW enrolment checks that you have met enrolment requirements such as pre-requisites for individual courses but not that a course will count towards your program requirements.
Related Programs

Bachelor of Vision Science - BVisSc

**3181 Vision Science**

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) - BAdvSci(Hons)

**3962 Advanced Science (Honours)**

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 192
Typical Duration: 4 Years

Read More

Bachelor of Science - BSc

**3970 Science**

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 Years

Read More
Program Requirements

Participation and Enrolment Requirements

Criminal Records Check

This program includes placements in Health Facilities in Australia, private practice and the UNSW Optometry Clinic. In order to attend these placements, students will need to complete a criminal record check. International students need both the Australian check as well as a police certificate from their home country or any country in which they have been a citizen or permanent resident since turning 16 years of age.

Medical Assessment

This program includes placements in Health Facilities in Australia, private practice and the UNSW Optometry Clinic. In order to attend these placements, students will need to comply with Health Facility's immunisation and blood borne viruses policies.

Progression Requirements

Students must maintain an overall CREDIT average (65%) at the end of the Bachelor of Vision Science component of the program to progress to the Master of Clinical Optometry. Students who do not meet this requirement are expected to exit the program with a Bachelor of Vision Science degree.

For more information on university policy on progression requirements please visit Academic Progression.

Internships and Placements

Students enrolled in the Master of Clinical Optometry will be required to complete 60 days of work experience.
Pathways

Honours Programs

Bachelor of Science (Honours) - BSc(Hons)

4500 Science (Honours)

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 48
Typical Duration: 1 Years

Read More

Post Graduate

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD

1487 Vision Science

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 to 4 Years

Read More
Professional Outcomes

Accreditations

Professional institutes that offer accreditation on completion of this program:

- Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

The program is accredited by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ), the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA) and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board New Zealand (ODOB) for the purpose of registration in Australia and New Zealand.

Career Opportunities

Optometrist, ophthalmic industries, eye and vision research.
Recognition of Achievement

**University Medal**

The University Medal is awarded to recognise outstanding academic performance by a bachelor degree student in line with the University Medal Policy and University Medal Procedure.

**Award of Pass with Distinction**

The Award of Pass with Distinction is awarded when a weighted average mark (WAM) of at least 75% has been achieved and at least 50% of the requirements of the award completed at UNSW. All eligible programs will award Pass with Distinction except in special circumstances where approval of Academic Board has been given for a program to opt out.

For more information, please visit:

[Current Students Pass With Distinction](#)
Additional Information

Study Load

This is an intensive full-time program. Only in exceptional circumstances will students be allowed to enrol in a reduced program for a Stage.
Program Fees

At UNSW fees are generally charged at course level and therefore dependent upon individual enrolment and other factors such as student's residency status. For generic information on fees and additional expenses of UNSW programs, click on one of the following:

**Domestic Students**

**Commonwealth Supported Students**

**International Students**

**Additional Expenses**

The cost of purchase is incurred by students.

Students will be required to purchase optometric equipment for use in clinical courses and in practice. These include:

- Diagnostic set (retinoscope and ophthalmoscope)
- Binocular indirect ophthalmoscope
- Condensing lenses (90D or equivalent 2.2D or equivalent)
- Trial frame
- Tonometer probe
- Equipment kits: - Occluders, pen torch, 'budgie sticks', fluorescein strips, cotton buds, marker pens (I think they used to get these in year 2) +-2 Flippers, red/green glasses

Typically the total cost of these items is approximately 6,000 AUD

Work Experience

The program requires students to go on work experience and preceptorships throughout the final 2 years of study. Students may wish to go to rural locations, nationally or internationally. The cost of travel, accommodation and living will be borne by the student.
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions