Clinical Optometry

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 aging 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Faculty</strong></th>
<th>Faculty of Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus</strong></td>
<td>Kensington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Level</strong></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Typical duration</strong></td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery Mode</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intake Period</strong></td>
<td>Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Calendar</strong></td>
<td>3+ Calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Units of Credit</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award type</strong></td>
<td>Masters (Coursework)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award(s)</strong></td>
<td>Master of Clinical Optometry - MClinOptom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRICOS Code</strong></td>
<td>093022B</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Learning Outcomes

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

2. Demonstrate effective and professional skills in communicating information and judgements to patients and other health care providers.
   - Leaders
   - Scholars
   - Global Citizens
   - Professionals

3. 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
   - Professionals
   - Scholars

4. Understand the scientific research process and ability to undertake independent research in Vision Science and Optometry.
   - Scholars
   - Leaders
   - Professionals

5. 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.
   - Scholars
   - Global Citizens

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

7. Articulate advanced and integrated understanding of a complex body of knowledge in Vision Science and Optometry, and their areas of professional practice.
   - Scholars
   - Leaders
   - Professionals

8. 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.

Graduate Capabilities:

For more information on Graduate Capabilities, please click on this [link](#).
Program Structure

Students must complete 96 UOC as a standalone program.

Year 1 Core Courses (Stage 4)

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

Year 2 Core Courses (Stage 5)

Students must take 48 UOC of the following courses.

OPTM8511 | 6 UOC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>UOC</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8512</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Optometry 5A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8513</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Ocular Therapy 5A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8518</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Optometry Research Project A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8521</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Contact Lenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8522</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Optometry 5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8523</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Ocular Therapy 5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTM8528</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Optometry Research Project B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
Admission Requirements

Entry Requirements

The Master of Clinical Optometry program 8095 (M Clin Optom) is only open to students who have completed the UNSW Bachelor of Vision Science program 3181 (B Vis Sci) within 5 years prior to admission. Applicants must complete the B Vis Sci 3181 program and achieve a Weighted Average Mark (see below for definition of program WAM) of 65 at the end of term 2 of stage 3 (ie the entire 3181 program except for courses OPTM3233 and OPTM3201).

As the number of places available each year is limited and will vary from year to year, entry into the program is competitive. Selection is based on the program WAM for the B Vis Sci program 3181, two referee reports, and performance at an interview. Only shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in the interview (remote participation may be permitted in limited circumstances).

It is expected that the number of places available for entry into the M Clin Optom 8095 in 2020 and 2021 will range from 1 to 6 places. From 2022 onward, this estimate will be updated to reflect more current data.

Any honours year or additional tertiary study completed in addition to program 3181 will not be considered by the School of Optometry and Vision Science in the ranking of applicants for entry to program 8095.

Students with a Bachelor of Vision Science degree (or equivalent) from an Australian or international institution are advised to apply for the B Vis Sci/M Clin Optom 3182 and or the B Vis Sci 3181 program(s) and apply for entry into the Master of Clinical Optometry (8095) via the above competitive selection process. The award of credit in recognition of prior learning (RPL) for external students will be considered (in accordance with UNSW RPL policy and procedure), and a study plan will be developed on a case by case basis.

All applicants, domestic and international, are to consult AHPRA’s website to guide their understanding of the Registration Standard: English Language skills and Registration Standard: Criminal history.

Definition of program WAM

The above admissions requirements refer to a ‘program WAM’. The program WAM, for purposes of entry into the M Clin Optom 8095 program, is calculated using all the courses in the B Vis Sci program 3181 (except courses OPTM3233 and OPTM3201) including the required 2 GenEd courses only (12 UOC).
**Special Admission Requirements**

Additional selection criteria for admission to this program:

- Personal statement
- Referee report

Students must submit a written statement regarding why they are applying for the 8095 program. Based on their written statement and their overall WAM, students will then be selected for an interview. Entry into 8095, will take into consideration the student’s WAM and performance in the interview.

For more information about admission requirements for various UNSW programs, visit the following website(s):

- Domestic Students
- International Student
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. Students in this program require 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
Students in this program must comply with Health Facility's immunisation and blood borne viruses policies (for placement).

Other
First Aid training

Progression Requirements
Progression rules are in accordance with university policy.

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. The cost associated with this work experience will be met by the student.
Pathways

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

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD

1860 Optometry

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

Read More

Master of Science - MSc

2900 Optometry

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 96
Typical Duration: 2 Years

Read More

Master of Optometry - MOptom

8073 Optometry and Vision Science

Faculty: Faculty of Science
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 72
Typical Duration: 1.7 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) 2016, 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.
Recognition of Achievement

Award with Excellence

The Award with Excellence is awarded in coursework masters programs, including Masters (Extension) but with the exception of Masters (Extended) such as JD and MD, when a Weighted Average Mean (WAM) of at least 80% has been achieved and at least 50% of the requirements of the award are completed at UNSW. All eligible programs will award 'with Excellence' 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 Award with Excellence
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 associated with clinical work experience will be met by the student.
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions