



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England, Bristol
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England, Bristol
Delivery Location	Glenside Campus, University of the West of England, Bristol
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	N/A
Faculty responsible for programme	Health and Applied Sciences
Department responsible for programme	Department of Allied Health Professions
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	General Optical Council
Highest Award Title	BSc (Hons) Optometry
Default Award Title	BSc(Hons) Vision Science
Interim Award Titles	BSc Vision Science Dip HE Vision Science Cert HE Vision Science
UWE Progression Route	N/A
Mode of Delivery	Full Time- 3 year
ISIS code/s	B510
For implementation from	September 2018

Part 2: Description

The principal aim of the BSc (Hons) Optometry programme is to prepare a student for a vocation as a UK registered Optometrist. Other broad aims include:

- To deliver relevant, innovative and challenging education in order to provide students with a comprehensive foundation of optometric knowledge
- To nurture the value of education and provide students with a range of transferable skills that will enable them to succeed in their pre-registration year and further
- To instill enthusiasm for optometry so that students proactively engage in the process of lifelong learning and continual educational training (CET)

The programme also aims to:

- Fulfil the requirements of the core competencies of the General Optical Council (GOC), so that students will have the knowledge and skills to enable them to enter the Pre-registration Period administered by the College of Optometrists*.
- Build upon knowledge and skills from a foundation in year one to comprehensive knowledge and skills in year three.
- Develop safe and effective optometric practitioners that ensure the wellbeing, care and safety of patients
- Develop exemplary professional behavior including communication skills and empathy
- Take an innovative approach to learning and teaching by providing formative assessment throughout the programme and providing summative assessment via a variety of formats
- Ensure students are skilled to adapt to the changing needs of patients and the optometry industry
- Through optional modules, provide students with enhanced skills and training that can be put towards a further post graduate qualification in the student's future.

* After completing a BSc (Hons) Optometry programme, students must participate in a period of assessed clinical training in practice, before being deemed to have the knowledge and skills needed to be registered – this training is known as the Pre-registration Period and is administered by the College of Optometrists.

Students will be able to participate in Practice Placement periods from year one and throughout the programme, consisting typically of one to two week blocks. These placements will be in a variety of settings – hospital eye departments, high street practice, low vision clinics, lens laboratories and contact lens manufacturers – so that students are exposed to a wide range of optometric environments and learn how each one works. The placements will have structured learning outcomes that will contribute towards the signing off of GOC competences, ensuring that students are prepared for their pre-registration period after graduating. Students will practice skills in their placement but then be assessed by appropriately qualified (GOC registered) UWE staff on their return. Further detail about clinical practice requirements will be provided in the relevant handbook.

Optometry students at UWE will be provided with the knowledge and transferable skills needed to become outstanding eye care professionals. Throughout their degree, students will experience a range of exciting learning and teaching (lectures, seminars, group workshops and problem-based learning) and both formative and summative assessment (Objective, Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), Structured Oral and Practical Examinations (SOPEs), written exams, and Portfolios of Clinical Competence) techniques. Students are expected to fully engage with practical skills training by practicing on peers, thus enhancing the learning opportunities for all students.

In order to be eligible to proceed onto to the College of Optometrist's Pre-Registration Period, a student must have achieved the following:

- 1. Successful completion of BSc (Hons) Optometry**
- 2. A minimum 2.2 classification of the above award**
- 3. A maintenance of their registration with the GOC**

Part 2: Description
<p>4. All Stage 1 GOC competencies signed off as complete</p> <p>5. The required amount and type of patient experience as defined in the GOC's Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook accessible here: https://www.optical.org/en/Education/core-competencies--core-curricula/index.cfm</p>
Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)
<p>Graduates will be equipped clinically, professionally and educationally to enter their pre-registration period, confident that their undergraduate training will have prepared them for success. Optometry at UWE prepares graduates for the inevitable changes in the profession which will occur during their career, enabling them to undertake and enjoy lifelong learning and continuing professional development.</p>
Regulations
<p>Approved to University Regulations and Procedures</p>

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme																	
Learning Outcomes:	UZYY4R-30-1	UZYY4S-30-1	UZYY4T--30-1	UZYY4U-15-1	UZYY4V-15-1	UZYY4W-30-2	UZYY4X-30-2	UZYY4Y-15-2	UZYY53-15-2	UZYY54-15-2	UZYY55-15-2	UZYY56-30-3	UZYY57-15-3	UZYY58-30-3	UZYY59-30-3	UZYY5A-15-3	UZYY5B-30-3
A) Knowledge and understanding of:																	
1. The fundamental scientific principles relevant to the practice of optometry in the context of primary eye care and delivery in the UK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X
2. The structure and function of the human body and visual system, together with an overview of health, disease, disorder and dysfunction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X
3. The variances of ocular health, and the appropriate methods of treatment for ocular conditions	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X
4. The principles behind dispensing appropriate ophthalmic appliances, including contact lenses	X		X		X	X					X	X					
5. The fundamental legal, ethical and business concerns which may arise in optometric health care	X			X	X	X				X	X	X			X		X
(B) Intellectual Skills																	
1. Assimilate and apply optometric principles and practice	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X		X
2 Critically assess and analyse scientific research and draw reasoned conclusions		X		X										X			
3 Evaluate current and future changes to the optometric industry and evolve to meet any changing demands	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X		X
4. Demonstrate reflective practice and appreciate the need for continuing professional development	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X		X

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme																
5. Form clinical judgements based on professional reasoning in order to problem solve clinical issues	X			X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills																
1. Conduct effective and appropriate examinations of the visual system	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	X
2. Use appropriate clinical decision-making skills to manage ocular health conditions	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
3. Recognise and respond appropriately to changing demands of health care without compromising the duty of care and ethical practice of an optometrist	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Demonstrate the skills needed to work collaboratively with colleagues and associated health professionals	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
5. Contribute to public protection by creating a safe environment of care using quality assurance	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes																
1. The ability to communicate (both written and oral communication) effectively with patients, colleagues, and various social and ethnic groups and maintain clear, accurate and appropriate written records	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
2. Effective use of IT, computation/ word processing and library services for life-long learning		X	X	X						X				X	X	X
3. Demonstrate effective numeracy skills to evaluate data generated through audit and research		X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	X
4. Develop problem-solving and organization skills including prioritisation of workload	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. The ability to reflect and self-evaluate and the demonstration of continuing personal and professional development	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	X

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time undergraduate student** including:

- level and credit requirements
- interim award requirements
- module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

Normally, a student is expected to achieve a pass in the professional practice placement and clinical skills modules of a specific level in order to be allowed to commence any of the professional practice placements or clinical skills modules of the next level.

Condoned credit is not permitted.

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	Level 1	<i>Anatomy and Physiology for Optometry</i> UZYY4S-30-1	None	Cert HE Vision Science Credit requirements: 120 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above.
		<i>Vision and Optics</i> UZYY4T-30-1		
		<i>Clinical Skills 1</i> UZYY4R-30-1		
		<i>Investigative Techniques</i> UZYY4U-15-1		
		<i>Anterior Eye and Contact Lenses 1</i> UZYY4V-15-1		

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	Level 2	<i>Anterior Eye and Contact Lenses 2</i> UZYY55-15-2	None	Dip HE Vision Science Credit requirements: 240 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 220 are at level 1 or above and not less than 100 are at level 2 or above.
		<i>Enhanced Clinical Skills 1</i> UZYY4X-30-2		
		<i>Binocular Vision and Paediatrics</i> UZYY4Y-15-2		
		<i>Pharmacology and Therapeutics 1</i> UZYY53-15-2		
		<i>Clinical Skills 2</i> UZYY4W-30-2		

		<i>Professional, Occupational and Business Studies</i> UZYY54-15-2		
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		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
Level 3		<i>Clinical Skills 3</i> UZYY56-30-3	Students will complete one of the following 2 modules: <i>Advanced Glaucoma Studies</i> UZYY59-30-3 <i>Medical Studies Retina</i> UZYY5B-30-3	BSc Vision Science Credit requirements: 300 credits, at level 0 or above of which not less than 280 are at level 1 or above, not less than 100 are at level 2 or above and not less than 60 are at level 3 or above. Default Award: BSc(Hons) Vision Science Credit requirements: 360 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 340 are at level 1 or above, not less than 200 are at level 2 or above and not less than 100 at level 3 or above. Target / Highest Award: BSc(Hons) Optometry Requirements: In addition to the above credit requirements, graduates must achieve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum 2.2 classification of the above award 2. A maintenance of their registration with the GOC 3. All Stage 1 GOC competencies signed off as complete 4. The required amount and type of patient experience as defined in the GOC's Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook
		<i>Posterior Eye</i> UZYY57-15-3		
		<i>Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2</i> UZYY5A-15-3		
		<i>Optometry Dissertation</i> UZYY58-30-3		

Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions:

- GCSE requirements: Five GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above including English Language and Maths Grade B/5 and above, GCSE Physics Grade B/5 and above (if not held at A Level) or Dual Award Science Grade BB.
- PLUS Tariff points as appropriate for the year of entry up to date- requirements are available through the courses database
- OR European Baccalaureate 74-80 must include Science

Non-standard applicants will be considered on an individual basis, but are expected to show evidence of recent, successful study at an appropriate level in a relevant subject area, e.g. Science at A2 Level; Open University module at Level 1 with Physics, Science or Maths content.

Additional selection criteria:

Disclosure of Criminal Background: The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 does not apply and all convictions, including those which are spent, must be disclosed. This is in accordance with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. Applicants who are offered a place must undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will be required to complete a Disclosure Application Form. All information will be treated in confidence and only taken into account when absolutely necessary. Interview - shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

Health assessment/declaration/vaccinations: Applicants must be in good health and be up-to-date with routine immunisations e.g. tetanus, diphtheria, polio and MMR. Applicants who are offered a place will be required to complete a questionnaire and must be prepared to undergo a medical examination. Applicants will also be required to confirm their status in respect of a number of infectious diseases and immunisations (tuberculosis, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, varicella, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV antibodies) and be prepared to have all required vaccinations. If vaccinations are not up-to-date this will affect ability to continue on the course. Concerns with regards to vaccinations should be raised at the point of application.

Registration with the General Optical Council (GOC): All successful applicants must be on the student register with the GOC for the duration of their programme.

This course requires all applicants to uphold the professional standards of behavior of both UWE and the GOC.

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide evidence of an English language qualification or have a minimum IELTS score of 7 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in any section, (or equivalent). Find out more about our English language requirements.

In addition to the academic qualifications we carefully screen the UCAS application. Therefore, all applicants should ensure that their personal statement and/or reference address the following issues:

- Interest and knowledge of the profession
- Work experience/shadowing in Optometry or other health related area
- Communication skills
- Ability to empathise with others.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

The BSc (Hons) Optometry programme is based on the reference points and benchmarks set out by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (The QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education), particularly the QAA Benchmarking Statement Optometry (2015), which provides specific standards that graduates should meet.

The curriculum has also been mapped to cover the General Optical Council Revised Core Competency based Curriculum for Undergraduate Training in Optometry (2008), and complies with all the GOC Routes to Registration in Optometry guidelines.

UWE's teaching and learning policies are embedded in the educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme. The University's Strategy 2020 commitment to promoting a diverse, integrated and flexible learning experience is reflected in the wide range of teaching, learning and assessment approaches in the programme.

The research, areas of specialties, experience and interests of staff have shaped the plethora of provision at all levels of the programme. In particular the influence is evidenced by the unique and innovative choice of optional modules at level 3.

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First CAP Approval Date	26 October 2017			
Revision CAP Approval Date		Version	1	Link to MIA 10695
Revision ASQC Approval Date	30 October 2018	Version	2	Link to RIA 12754
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date	2022			
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review				