



Programme Specification

Optometry [Glenside]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Optometry [Glenside]

Highest award: MSci Optometry

Interim award: BSc (Hons) Vision Science

Interim award: BSc Vision Science

Interim award: DipHE Vision Science

Interim award: CertHE Vision Science

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: The College of Optometrists

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2024

Programme code: B51A00

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MSci Optometry programme is a four-year course for students, who on completion, will be eligible to register with the General Optical Council (GOC) as newly qualified Optometrists.

As a professional programme, validated and approved by the General Optical Council (GOC), the course is designed to fulfil the requirements of the GOC specified student learning outcomes. This is to ensure the students will have the knowledge, skills and experience to practice as competent, autonomous day one Optometrist.

Features of the programme: The MSci Optometry programme at UWE has distinctive features for enhancing a students learning and experience.

The course offers modules in specialist skills (Advanced Glaucoma Studies and Medical Retina Studies) and allows the student the freedom of choice in selecting the area of study they are most passionate about. These modules are also aligned with post-graduate qualifications in Optometry, to enhance students' skills set.

The syllabus has been designed in a way that we will have the opportunity to offer accredited learning for students with additional qualifications (such as dispensing opticians and contact lens opticians).

Students will have a focus on preparing them for their future as an Optometrist. There is a focus on practical application throughout the whole programme and opportunities for practice placement from the first year.

Students will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in our brand new, state of the art, UWE Eye Clinic, where they will be working as part of a multi-disciplinary team and examining patients.

Distinct features of the programme include a strong sense of community, through a

dedicated university society and interaction with the wider Optometric community. There are extra-curricular and voluntary opportunities provided each year. There is also a focus on developing a professional Curriculum Vitae with the opportunities to apply for student representative and peer assisted learning roles.

Additionally, there are opportunities at all levels for collaborative learning and teaching with students and lecturers from other professions at UWE.

Educational Aims: The principal aim of the MSci (Hons) Optometry programme is to prepare a student for a vocation as a UK registered Optometrist. As part of this the programme aims to:

To deliver relevant, cohesive and innovative teaching to provide students with comprehensive optometric knowledge.

To nurture the value of education, whilst providing students with a range of transferable skills that will enable them to succeed in professional practice and enhance their employability.

To create reflective, self-aware practitioners who take responsibility and accountability for their actions and support their peers with learning and feedback.

To instil enthusiasm for the Optometry profession, so that students proactively engage in the process of lifelong learning and continual professional development (CPD).

To build upon knowledge, skills and experience from a foundation level in year one, to reach a comprehensive knowledge, skills and experience in year four.

To develop safe and effective optometric practitioners that ensure the wellbeing, care and safety of patients is their first concern.

To develop professional behaviours and values aligned with General Optical Council's standards, including communication skills.

To take an innovative approach to learning and teaching by providing formative assessment throughout the programme and providing summative assessment through a wide range of formats.

To ensure students are adaptable to the continually changing needs of patients and the optometry industry.

To provide students with autonomy, through the optional modules, to choose which skills to pursue for further post graduate qualifications.

To provide students with an authentic experience, through clinical placements and working with industry partners, to deliver patient-based care to create competent, autonomous clinicians.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Practice high quality patient-centred care and effective clinical decision making, adapted to the individual needs of the patient.
- PO2. Communicate effectively with patients and develop, through critical reflection and other sources, interactions with all individuals involved in their care.
- PO3. Perform appropriate ocular examinations, techniques, management and use of optometric technology, to align with safe clinical practice. Then evaluate and develop these skills to enhance patient care accordingly.
- PO4. Demonstrate the professional values and behaviours of an Optometrist in line with regulation and the law, in order to prioritise patients and safety.
- PO5. Recognise risk in all areas of the Optometry field and apply relevant measures to evaluate, reduce and escalate concerns appropriately.
- PO6. Apply leadership, management and team-work skills within the clinical setting to improve the quality and safety of patient care.

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy has a programmatic design. Module assessments are integrated horizontally and vertically to maximise the transfer of learning between modules and levels leading to a programmatic approach. This applies to the knowledge, skills and abilities developed and assessed in each module, but also to the format of assessment.

Assessment for learning is encouraged by using real world focus and an explicit link to Optometry practice within each assessment type. For example, in the 'Clinical Optometry and Leadership' module you will work with supervisors on peer observations and feedback, including peer discussions on a clinical case study from practice. In addition, you will have an element of choice, where feasible and appropriate, to allow personalisation of learning. For example, you will have a specialist module choice in your final year between Glaucoma Advanced Studies and Medical Retina Advanced Studies.

Practice placement is integral in the assessment strategy. All of your university-based placement will count towards the relevant module mark and will aim to assess how your practical skills develop throughout the programme. A large proportion of this will also involve critical reflection, evidenced through means such as portfolios and workbooks. This is to enhance your experience and ensure you are developing the fundamental lifelong learning skills for an Optometrist. Additionally in the third year, students will partake in peer led learning, where their portfolio will demonstrate their abilities in supporting fellow students through mentorship, leadership and feedback.

Alongside the University placements, students will embark on two large external placements run and assessed by the College of Optometrists. There will be specific criteria required to be met before entering each of the external placements (assessed by the University), in order that students are appropriately prepared for their practice with the general public. Whilst this is run separately, it will be a core element to your MSci qualification.

Student support and wellbeing is considered in the strategy, with a holistic timeline used to minimise excessive bunching of assessments. This is done whilst also recognising the need to develop prioritisation and time management skills to prepare for the demands of clinical practice. Familiarity of assessment methods are developed across each level to minimise anxiety associated with unknown approaches. Collaborative tasks have been included as formative and summative assessments to facilitate peer support and learning, with the intention of reducing isolation of assessment, but also to develop skills in working with others as required in clinical practice.

Formative assessment, in different forms (such as online quizzes, mock examinations, written, verbal and in the moment feedback), are interwoven into all modules to ensure students are able to assess they are meeting the required session outcomes before reaching their final assessments. This encourages students to identify their own learning and development needs, supporting the growth of confident, autonomous clinicians.

All programme modules will have to be passed and 48 weeks of placement completed in order to gain the qualification. Any unsafe practise that is observed will result in a failure of the module.

Student support: Support begins with a comprehensive induction programme where you are introduced to your course and academic life in general; IT systems; the library; clinical work; support systems available, including student advisers, year leads, module leaders, Peer Assisted Learning (PAL); and your Academic Personal Tutor (APT).

You will have an APT, who will support you to manage the transition into the first year at UWE as a Optometry student and as you progress from one year/level to the next. Your APT will meet with you quarterly and your practice assessor, and also be available for support in between meetings. The role of the APT is to facilitate you in;

- Developing university level learning skills and styles
- Developing the capacity for effective group work and learning with and from peers

Seeing the importance of your student role in UWE life and as a member of your subject degree group

Developing a rounded appreciation of your academic programme and the connections between modules and the wider world

Planning your 'preferred future' and developing the graduate skills, attributes and abilities that will help you achieve your goals

Recognising, describing and demonstrating your academic achievements and graduate skills.

Signposting you towards the relevant support that you can access through the University.

You will typically meet your APT during induction week and be informed of your tutor's contact details and how tutorials can be arranged. Whenever possible, you will remain with the same APT for the whole programme; this allows for continuity, particularly through the meeting process, with the APT monitoring your academic and personal progress year on year.

Access to support from academic staff and the student advisors is via email or by personal access, with most staff offering an office-hours policy facilitating the booking of appointments. The central University support and wellbeing services also provide assistance and guidance. Support needs relating to disability are facilitated by the programme leadership team in consultation with disability services, and reasonable adjustments for assessments, based on individual circumstances, are made where necessary. For disabled students and /or those with additional or specific requirements, access plans are used for arranging placements to accommodate individual needs and to provide an experience that is as inclusive as possible. Collaboration with your placement-provider will also support this process.

Each cohort group will elect a student representative, who will attend student representative and staff forum, meeting regularly throughout the academic year. These meetings, along with your informal feedback and the module evaluation surveys, are a key mechanism to identify any areas for development within the programme to continue to support you to have the optimal learning experience.

The University Optometry Society is a group run by Optometry students for Optometry students. The society hold varied social events throughout the academic year, providing opportunities for meeting and connecting with your peers. They also get involved in Optometry events country-wide, offering an opportunity for networking across the wider Optometric community.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYHJ-15-1	Dispensing and Optical Appliances 1 2024-25	15
UZYHH-15-1	Contact Lenses 2024-25	15
UZYHK-30-1	Foundation Optometry Skills 2024-25	30
UZYHL-30-1	Investigative Skills 2024-25	30
UZYHM-15-1	Ocular Anatomy and the Visual System 2024-25	15
UZYHN-15-1	Professional Development and Communication 2024-25	15

Year 2

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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UZYHT-15-2	Dispensing and Optical Appliances 2 2025-26	15
UZYHP-15-2	Advanced Contact Lenses 2025-26	15
UZYHQ-15-2	Ocular Pathology 2025-26	15
UZYHR-30-2	Primary Care Routine and Binocular Vision 2025-26	30
UZYHU-30-2	The Ageing Eye 2025-26	30
UZYHS-15-2	The Body and Pharmacology 2025-26	15

Year 3

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Module Choice

Students must choose 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Module Choice.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYJ5-15-M	Glaucoma Advanced Studies 2026-27	15
UZYJ6-15-M	Medical Retina Advanced Studies 2026-27	15

Year 3 Compulsory Modules

Students must take 105 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYHY-30-3	Advanced Ocular Pathology and Pharmacology 2026-27	30
UZYJ8-15-M	Clinical Optometry and Leadership 2026-27	15
UZYHV-30-3	Clinical Optometry and Preparing for Clinical Learning in Practice 2026-27	30
UZYHW-15-3	Evidence Based Optometry 2026-27	15
UZYJ9-15-M	Shared care and Prescribing 2026-27	15

Year 4

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules

Students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYJ4-45-3	Clinical Learning in Practice 1 2027-28	45
UZYJ4-45-M	Clinical Learning in Practice 2 2027-28	45
UZYJ7-30-M	Lifelong Learning Project 2027-28	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Graduates will be equipped clinically, professionally and educationally to enter the GOC register as qualified Optometrists, 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.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The MSci Optometry programme is based on the references and benchmarks set by the General Optical Council (GOC) in the Outcomes for Registration for Approved Qualifications in Optometry. The curriculum has been mapped to over these outcomes and complies with all the Standards for Approved Qualifications in Optometry.

The MSci 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 including Masters (2019), which provides specific standards that graduates should meet.

UWE's teaching and learning policies are embedded in the educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme. The University's Strategy 2030 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.

Part E: Regulations

TBC