

Undergraduate Programme Specification

BSc(Hons) Optometry

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	Bachelor of Science in Optometry with Honours		
Final Award	Bachelor of Science in Optometry with Honours		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Department of Vision Sciences		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	B510		
Accreditations (PSRB)	General Optical Council		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2024	To: August 2029

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<p>The Department of Vision Sciences offers undergraduate programmes in Optometry, Ophthalmic Dispensing Management and Orthoptics. Academic staff are broadly defined as clinically registered (optometrists, orthoptists and dispensing opticians) and vision scientists and all staff contribute to the teaching of the Optometry programme and the research output of the Department. The programme provision is relatively autonomous and largely taught by staff within Vision Sciences.</p> <p>The aims of the Optometry programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a broad and balanced foundation of optometric knowledge. • To develop practical optometric and ophthalmic skills. • To develop in students the ability to apply their optometric knowledge and clinical skills to the solution of theoretical and clinical problems in Optometry. • To enable students to make valid clinical judgements. • To instil in students a sense of enthusiasm for Optometry and thus to involve them in an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of learning and studying. • To foster, through the medium of an education in Optometry, a range of transferable skills of value. • To generate in students an appreciation of the importance of Optometry in a clinical, economic and social context. • To provide students with a knowledge and skills base from which they can proceed to further studies in specialised areas of Optometry. • To assist the student in developing the skills required to adapt to changing needs of patients. • To give students confidence in themselves and in their abilities.

- To give students the role of eye care within both primary and secondary care.

Degree Exit Award Objective: By the end of the unclassified degree programme, a student will be able to carry out appropriate standard scientific techniques and methodologies in response to the specification of a given optometric problem, and present the results, findings and

Honours Exit Award Objective: By the end of the Honours degree programme, the student will, in addition, be able to analyse a familiar or unfamiliar optometric problem in preparation for the pre- registration year.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

A1 Explain essential facts, concepts, principles and theories of Optometry.

A2 Understand the principles and areas of applicability of a range of data acquisition and data handling techniques.

A3 Understand the properties and characteristics of optometric techniques and instrumentation.

A4 Understand the theoretical, practical and quality assurance implications required to make a valid clinical measurement: to understand the clinical significance of change.

A5 Understand the properties and characteristics of ocular diseases.

A6 Recognise the importance and range of applicability of oral, written and computer based communication techniques.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

B1 Skills in the assessment of vision and vision function in primary care, including the management of ocular disease.

B2 Skills in the assessment and management of vision in children, the elderly, those with low vision, contact lens fitting and practice, binocular vision anomalies, colour vision deficiency.

B3 Skills in the practical application of a range of statistical, quality assurance, and computational techniques used in the acquisition and treatment of experimental data.

B4 Ability to interpret experimental data in terms of their significance and the underlying theory.

B5 Ability to dispense optical appliances including safety devices.

B6 Skills in clinical diagnosis and knowledge on the significance of change: clinical record keeping.

B7 Ability to make a professional judgement between the merits of particular explanations, arguments and positions leading to the making of a reasoned choice between them.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

C1 Develop strategies for the solution of practical problems of a familiar or standard nature.

C2 Ability to analyse novel problems in the clinic and thus plan strategies for their solution.

C3 Make a reasoned choice from a range of strategies and techniques as to which is the most appropriate taking into account all the known circumstances.

C4 Selection of appropriate data acquisition and manipulation techniques to satisfy a given problem.

C5 Plan, conduct and report upon work carried out by themselves.

C6 Critically evaluate work undertaken by themselves and others.

C7 Review critically research material from a variety of sources.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

D1 Communication skills including listening, written and oral skills, and use of computer based presentation packages.

D2 Extension of communication skills to the presentation of knowledge, ideas or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to others not expert in the field (especially patients) and which is directed at their concerns.

D3 Numeracy and computational skills including such aspects as the clinical significance of change and the performance of clinical tests.

D4 Information technology skills such as effective use of word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail and related packages.

D5 Information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources including computer database searches and on-line scientific and vision journal searches.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

E1 Application of time management and organisational skills as evidenced by the ability to plan and implement efficient and effective modes of working.

E2 Independent working and taking responsibility for individual learning, laying the basis for continuing professional development.

E3 Interpersonal skills relating to the ability to interact with other people as evidenced by effective team performance.

E4 Problem solving skills relating to familiar and standard problem types.

E5 Extension of problem solving skills to novel and unfamiliar problems and situations where evaluations have to be made on the basis of limited information.

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Group work
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in-person and/or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: <https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate-optometry-glasgow>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
M1B525788	Foundations of Optics	Core	7	40	50	50	
M1B522293	Ophthalmic Anatomy and Physiology A	Core	7	20	100		
M1B522294	Ophthalmic Anatomy and Physiology B	Core	7	20	100		
M1B527211	Ophthalmic Materials	Core	7	20	50	30	20
M1B525790	Refraction and Binocular Vision 1	Core	7	20		60	40
M2B525793	Clinical Practice and Communication	Core	8	10	100		
M2B521592	Diagnostic Techniques	Core	8	40		50	50
M2B525442	General and Ocular Pharmacology	Core	8	20	40	60	
M2B521591	General and Systemic Pathology, Physiology and Microbiology	Core	8	20	30	70	
M2B526612	Introductory Ocular Disease	Core	8	10	30	70	
M2B521593	Refraction and Binocular Vision 2	Core	8	20	40	60	
M3B525791	Clinical Ophthalmology	Core	9	30	30	70	
M3B526753	Clinical Research Methods	Core	9	10	50	50	
M3B525440	Clinical Studies	Core	9	20	20		80
M3B525443	Contact Lens Studies	Core	9	20		70	30
M3B523852	Incomitant Strabismus	Core	9	10	30	70	
M3B512494	Visual Ergonomics	Core	9	10	30	70	
M3B523225	Visual Neuroscience	Core	9	20	50	50	
MHB523851	Concomitant Strabismus and Visual Development	Core	10	10	30	70	
MHB527214	General Optometric Practice	Core	10	20	100		
MHB525789	Low Vision and Speciality Clinics	Core	10	20	50	50	
MHB527215	Professional Regulation in Eyecare	Core	10	10	100		
MHB524247	Optometric Clinical Competence and Experience	Core	10	0	100		
MHB527210	Project/Dissertation	Core	10	30	100		
MHB526552	Shared Care and Ocular Therapeutics	Core	10	30	30	70	

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Certificate of Higher Education in Vision Sciences- *achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits*

Diploma of Higher Education in Vision Sciences - *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits*

Bachelor of Science in Vision Sciences- *achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits*

Bachelor of Science with Honours in Clinical Vision Sciences- *achieved upon successful completion of 480 credits*

Bachelor of Science with Honours in Optometry- *achieved upon successful completion of 480 credits and a pass in the Optometric Clinical Competence and Experience module*

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulationsandpolicies

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: 51

Details: IELTS 7 with no element less than 6.5

Case No: 143

Details: Compensation may not be automatically exercised in respect to any module

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Case No: 38

Details:

1. Honours Classification Calculation Set based on mean average mark for all SCQF9 credits (33% of Honours average mark) and mean average mark for all SCQF10 credits (67% of Honours average mark)
2. Profiling based on all 240 SCQF9&10 credits, provided:
 - a higher classification than that determined from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set is reached in at least 120 of the 240 best credit points, with a minimum of 60 of the 120 credits from SCQF 10
 - and the classification in no more than 30 credit points of the 240 credit Calculation Set is below the classification obtained from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set.

Case No: 146

Details: In order for a student to be awarded the exit award of BSc (Hons) Optometry, they would have to fulfil the following: 1. Sufficient academic credits have been attained (480 credits with no selective modules as per current programme specification). 2. Pass of the new non-credit carrying module (*Optometric Clinical Competence and Experience* module).

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	Refresh of PSP in line with re-approval for 2024-25	7 th December 2023	September 2024
2.0	Updated PSP to reflect approval to amend exception case 146 to remove criteria (2) (i.e. 2:2 requirement).	24 th June 2024	24 th June 2024.