

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Master of Optometry
Award	Master of Optometry (MOptom with Hons)
Exit Awards	BSc (Hons) in Visual Science, Dip HE, Cert HE
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Optometry and Visual Science
UCAS Code	B510
Course Code	OPUMOP
Programme code	OPMOMOP01
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	480 credits
Total ECTS	240 credits
Type of partnership	College of Optometrists

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

An optometrist is a General Optical Council (GOC) registrant who is responsible for the examination of the eyes including the detection and management of ocular conditions and the prescription and fitting of optical devices. Optometrists provide approximately 90% of primary eye care in the UK and 40% of ophthalmic referrals to the secondary care sector. Given the essential role that optometrists play in the delivery of eye care, you must develop the expected level of knowledge, skills and behaviours along with the confidence and capability to keep pace with changes to future roles across the UK.

The four-year Master of Optometry (MOptom) programme integrates level 7 postgraduate (PG) learning with Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) which constitutes at least 44 weeks of patient-facing learning and experience in practice. The programme offers additional support throughout the 4th year supporting the development of clinical skills and excellence and will help you to develop your clinical skills across a wide range of patient groups.

The MOptom is a full-time programme of 480 credits structured over four years. The programme, at City, aims to provide you with enhanced clinical training so that you can examine, diagnose and manage ocular conditions in clinic as well as provide accurate prescriptions for spectacles or contact lenses. The high level of clinical competence and professionalism that the programme emphasises is designed to improve your prospects of employment as the profession is called upon to keep pace with future roles, scope of practice and service re-design. Thus, the MOptom ensures that you will be clinically responsive to the rapidly changing landscape in the commissioning of eye-care services across the UK.

For all of you completing Programme Year 1 (Certificate of Higher Education) you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Optometry and interpret these within the context of your practice. The emphasis of the programme's study this year is on basic and clinical sciences including visual optics physiology, anatomy and neural biology. The structure and function of the eye under 'normal' conditions will be detailed with a focus on developing fundamental clinical optometric

skills. You will complete a week long placement in Year 1, which will help develop your links between theory and practice.

For all of you completing Programme Year 2 (Diploma of Higher Education) you will develop skills of enquiry in your subject and develop different approaches to problem-solving as well as identify the limitations of your knowledge. Year 2 enables you to understand abnormality and disease-related change and you will gain exposure to the key principles of optometry, with a focus on understanding core clinical concepts. You will complete a week long placement in Year 2 which will help develop your links between theory and practice.

For all of you completing Programme Year 3 (BSc (Hons) in Visual Science) you will further develop a coherent systematic, detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner. Year 3 has an increasing focus on the application of skills learnt in the first two years of the programme into clinical practice, across a range of core and increasing complex clinical presentations and encounters.

For all of you completing the MOptom in Year 4, (Master of Optometry) you will complete 44 weeks of patient-facing learning and experience termed the 'Learning in Practice' placement and you will be able to (i) specialise in the management of specific ocular conditions such as Glaucoma and Medical Retina or (ii) start your prescribing journey by completing 50% of the training required for registration as an Independent Prescriber. The 44-week placement (termed CLiP 1 and 2 and run-in conjunction with the College of Optometrists) will be used to provide you with more specialist and challenging experiences and will enable you to transition successfully to begin work as an optometrist. On successful completion of the programme, you will be automatically entered onto the GOC register as an optometrist.

The structure of the programme is designed to provide you with expert knowledge reflecting the seven outcomes for registration with the GOC. These are: (i) Person centred care, (ii) Communication, (iii) Clinical Practice, (iv) Ethics and Standards, (v) Risk, (vi) Leadership and Management and (vii) Life-long Learning. It is a requirement of the programme that each module is passed in order to progress to each subsequent year. All modules are core but in year 4 you have the option of completing either (i) two elective Level 7 15 PG modules i.e. the Professional Certificates in Medical Retina and Glaucoma or (ii) one elective Level 7 30 PG credit module i.e. Fundamentals of Independent Prescribing module. The programme of study is based around three terms each year.

The MOptom will also develop master's level 7 academic qualities such as the ability to make complex decisions and analyse complex data. The programme builds on the previous three years to develop an optometrist who has a high level of understanding of the pathogenesis and management of ocular disease. It is also designed to provide you with greater awareness of your clinical role within the UK Health sector and to enable you to provide higher clinical care at an earlier stage of your career.

Overall, the MOptom programme will focus on the development of professional capability needed for current and future roles. This will include a combination of critical thinking, clinical-reasoning and decision making vital in the formation of an optical

profession well-prepared to take responsibility for decisions and actions; engagement in research-informed clinical practice and ability to respond effectively to changing patient and service-user needs including a greater focus on key skills such as professional judgement, patient-centred communication, management of risk, diagnostic consultation and clinical practice skills.

Aims

- To provide a supportive learning environment which fosters academic and personal development making appropriate use of a range teaching and learning methods and resources to provide education and training that is relevant, intellectually challenging, and enjoyable
- To develop your analytical, critical and problem-solving abilities to produce original work and support clinical decision making in complex environments and help you respond to the rapidly changing landscape in the commissioning of eye-care services across the UK
- To ensure expertise in the assessment, diagnosis, and management of ocular conditions thus ensuring that your primary concern is the patient's well-being/care enabling you to employ an adaptive and personalised approach to patient care, considering the patients' social, clinical, personal and cultural needs whilst challenging your own conscious and unconscious bias
- To ensure that you can communicate effectively with patients and other professionals (written and verbal/non-verbal communication) adapting approach and style according to specific individual needs and in a manner that is supportive of achieving desired outcomes
- To prepare you to be an optometrist who is professionally accountable and personally responsible for achieving desired patient outcomes according to your individual scope of practice (working within your limit of competence, exercising professional judgement engaging with evidence-informed clinical decision-making for all patients)
- To prepare you to hold high professional standards and ethics through honesty, integrity and lifelong development, aware of your responsibility of ensuring the care and safety of patients and the public
- To prepare you to work within your scope of practice and current legislation to ensure your practice meets all legal and professional requirements and is equitable for all
- To protect and safeguard patients, colleagues and others from harm understanding the limits of competence and the evolving nature of personal practice; identifying when people might be at risk and being candid when things go wrong to ensure a safe environment for patients and the public
- To prepare you to show clinical leadership and be able to work within your area of expertise and competence to achieve desired patient outcomes; working collaboratively within healthcare teams and with other professionals promoting and

engaging with clinical governance requirements, service improvements and local and national public health initiatives

- To develop you to be aware of the personal responsibility of continuing professional development and keeping knowledge and skills up to date
- To enable you to evaluate your own practice by ongoing reflection to inform your learning and development needs, meeting service delivery requirements and improving the quality of care for patients

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to meet the GOC Standards of Practice for Optometrists (2021). You will be able to meet the requirements of the seven categories within the GOC Standards of Practice ([optom do-requirements-revised-march-2022.pdf](https://www.optical.org/optom-do-requirements-revised-march-2022.pdf) ([optical.org](https://www.optical.org)) :

1. Person centred care
2. Communication
3. Clinical Practice
4. Ethics and standards
5. Risk
6. Leadership and management
7. Lifelong learning

This will be achieved by developing the following learning outcomes and so you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of ocular physiology, pathology, optics and clinical and professional practice
- Apply evidence-based knowledge to decide on the most effective strategy for managing a patient and evaluating outcomes
- Demonstrate critical analysis in selecting and evaluating the most appropriate tests to perform to diagnose and manage the full range of patients from all age groups including people with disabilities
- Demonstrate critical knowledge of the interdisciplinary nature of optometry and its role in interprofessional learning and multidisciplinary team work
- Foster the development of professional knowledge and clinical skills across a wide range of patient groups and presenting communication difficulties

- Demonstrate critical knowledge of the legal, ethical and professional aspects of optometric practice

Skills:

- Demonstrate high-level clinical competencies in the examination, diagnosis and management of ocular conditions
- Develop the skills to be fully autonomous with respect to patient management and be able to work independently applying critical skills to the examination and management of ocular conditions
- Demonstrate an ability to solve clinical problems and communicate your management plan effectively to peers and patients in complex environments
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with kindness and compassion
- Develop your self-reflection and critical thinking in relation to the care of patients and strategies to improve patient outcomes through best practice.
- Foster life-long learning by developing transferable skills
- Organise and communicate thoughts and ideas effectively using a range of strategies and technologies

Values and Attitudes:

- Demonstrate an independent ability to take overall responsibility for a patient's care (including when to seek a specialist opinion)
- Work within a practice environment as a member of a team taking increasing levels of responsibility for the overall management of patients
- Treat people as individuals and uphold their dignity; treating people with kindness, respect, and compassion
- Avoid making assumptions and recognise diversity and individual choice
- Take personal responsibility for learning and development
- Demonstrate professional behaviour when interacting with patients and members of the University community aware of the Universities' core values relating to equality, diversity and inclusion

- Show professionalism and integrity and promote diversity, equity, and dignity in all encounters with other students and staff

This programme has been developed in accordance with the GOCs core competencies, March 2021 ([optom_do-requirements-revised-march-2022.pdf](#) ([optical.org](#)) and the QAA Subject Benchmark for Optometry December 2015 ([Subject Benchmark Statement: Optometry \(qaa.ac.uk\)](#)).

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for this programme is 4 years.

The maximum period of registration for this programme is 7 years.

The programme of study must be completed within the maximum period of registration.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The programme's contact hours will be delivered using a number of different approaches. As an example, you may have a combination of in-person sessions (i.e. face to face on campus), and/or online synchronous sessions (participants are engaged at the same time online) and online asynchronous guided activities (you need to plan time to engage with these so you are prepared for the in person and synchronous sessions. These may include viewing recorded lectures and/or other online resources, reading materials, undertaking quizzes, completing exercises and chatting on forums.) In addition to these teaching delivery approaches, you will undertake your own independent study, which may involve wider reading, independent research, skills practice and preparation for assessment. Please see this programme's Moodle page and/or handbook for further information.

Attendance and good time keeping is required throughout the programme, and will be monitored. Progression will also be dependent on at least 80% attendance across all modules and consistent attendance during all placements (see Attendance Policy 23/24). Failure to comply with this may initiate a university 'Cause for concern/Fitness to Train' process which may result in you having to be referred to the GOC Registrar to further confirm your eligibility to be on the GOC register for optometrists.

Lectures

Lectures are used to communicate core material and as a foundation for further reading. A lecture can help you to feel secure in the foundational knowledge required and point you to significant areas for further study. Lectures provide a basis for discussion in seminars or tutorials. Lecture notes are provided on the virtual learning environment Moodle. However, you are expected to take your own notes too. Lectures may be on campus (in person) or online. Online lectures may be synchronous (in 'real time') or asynchronous (pre-recorded). Interaction in synchronous lectures (online or on campus) is encouraged through for example discussions and responses to questions. Lectures will usually be delivered by University staff, and there will also be a range of external experts and service users who will provide their unique perspectives on the topics covered in the lectures.

Seminars

These small group sessions are essential supplements to the lectures and give you the opportunity to apply the material covered in the lectures and your independent reading. Seminars will enable you to reflect on and discuss material related to a subject or case study. The seminars enable you to engage in active learning extending the depth and breadth of your knowledge and encouraging team working.; They are designed to motivate, enhance your communication skills and develop your powers of reasoning.

Small group work

Small group work will encourage you to apply theory to practice and extend the depth and breadth of your knowledge, providing opportunities for debate, exploration of personal thoughts and ideas and practice experiences. Small group work may entail: 1) giving a presentation, to demonstrate that you have achieved a set task, or 2) engaging in a debate, which will encourage you to develop group discussions around contemporary issues or inspire you to pursue specific lines of enquiry. This also provides an opportunity to share your experiences with peers and learn from each other.

Practical classes/ Laboratory work

Practical classes provide opportunities to develop clinical skills and to give demonstrations of techniques covered in lectures. Your self-directed study time will also be used to prepare for the practical sessions, and also to practice the techniques being taught during the labs.

Clinical Practice

The aim of practice experience is for you to observe, participate and practice your skills in a variety of real-life contexts. This experience will help you to relate theory to practice and enable skills and knowledge to develop through supervised practice. You will have supernumerary status for the entire length of your programme. You will complete placements throughout your four years of study both within the community and hospital settings. In third year, you will be part of the team delivering eye care to the community under the supervision of Clinical tutors at CitySight (our University eye clinics). In fourth year, you will be allocated a long clinical placement (44 weeks) which will operate on a four day a week basis with 'just in time' and reflective sessions on the fifth day.

Tutorials

Tutorials provide you with the opportunity to work on problems and exercises connected with the course material. Tutorials develop problem-solving skills in an environment that encourages an interactive approach to learning.

Personal Tutorials

Tutorials and reflection on learning with your personal tutor enable your progress to be discussed as well as issues of concern about the programme raised. Tutorials also offer you pastoral support. These may be in person, or by email, phone or using an online platform (e.g. MS Teams).

Tutorials with your module leader will offer you academic support as well as discussions about issues of concern about the specific module. These may be in person, or by email, phone or using an online platform (e.g. MS Teams).

Self-directed learning

Your studies will involve a number of hours of self-directed learning as outlined below. This time will be spent reading course material and recommended books, articles or other sources and time spent on your personal study-skills development. The Module Leaders will direct you to the relevant teaching materials available on Moodle for you to prepare for lectures, seminars and tutorials. Reading lists are provided on module specifications and on Moodle. You will be expected to access the resources before the teaching in order to maximise your learning. During self-directed learning you should explore areas of interest, read widely and engage in activities to support achieving your assessments. Whilst this time counts towards the total hours allocated to the programme, it will be up to you to decide exactly how you spend this time and which areas of learning you wish to pursue.

Guided independent study

During the programme you will be allocated time to undertake prescribed activities individually or in study groups. These activities may form part of the formative assessment strategy to help you to complete the summative assessment or may be set tasks which you should complete prior to attending a taught session.

Moodle

Moodle is City's Online Learning Environment. Lecturers design Moodle modules to enhance your learning experience by providing online access to module content, activities, communication tools and assessments. This increases opportunities for you to interact with module content and your peers, through on-going discussions and reflection. Your main module reading list will also be available via Moodle's electronic reading list facility.

Blended Learning

This approach combines the use of online educational materials, platforms and synchronous online sessions with more traditional in person-based teaching and learning methods.

Throughout the period of study you are encouraged to raise any issues with your personal tutor, your Year Lead, and/or the Programme Director of any difficulties that you may experience with the programme of study. At least once a term, there is a Staff-Student liaison meeting where student issues are addressed. Issues are disseminated by the student representative details of whom will be included at the start of each year

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

It is fundamentally important that you can demonstrate that you have met the learning objectives for each part of a module that is assessed. These details are contained within Assessment Criteria and Grade-related Criteria which will be made available to you for

each assessment. Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

A wide range of assessment methods are employed, reflecting the diversity of material covered and learning outcomes. The format of the written papers reflects the learning outcomes of individual modules and includes VRICS (visual recognition and interpretation of clinical signs), VIMOCS (visual interpretation and management of clinical symptoms) for clinical subjects. Multiple choice tests form a part of written exams or may be used to assess your learning as standalone assessments. Written exams may require that a short or long essay or report to be written and can include mathematical problems requiring calculations to solve a problem.

The development of communication and presentation skills is considered to be an important programme objective. Assessment of independent study, clinical case discussions, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and viva voce examinations all demand good communication/presentation skills which will be assessed throughout the four years of the programme. These assessment types are designed to improve your ability with communicating with patients and also for the final College registration examinations which use these assessment types.

All staff are available for your enquiries and can provide support for your studies and are always available to arrange additional support for your studies.

Resit: You will normally be offered only one resit attempt. If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

The Assessment Board may permit at its discretion a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- an overall average of at least 40% in the taught elements of the Programme Stages 1, 2 or 3 excluding one failed module must have been achieved;
- an overall average of at least 50% in the taught elements of the Programme Stage 4, excluding one failed module must be achieved;
- a second resit cannot be offered for any failed module consisting of clinical placements or in-house clinical assessments, in Years 3 and 4.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified, you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Year, but satisfy the

requirements for the previous Programme Year, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Year and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

Feedback on assessment

You will be provided with coursework feedback and provisional mark will normally be provided within three term weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Year in order to progress to the following Programme Year.

Each programme Year of the MOptom is weighted as follows:

Programme Year 1 – 10%

Programme Year 2 – 20%

Programme Year 3 – 40%

Programme Year 4 – 30%

Fitness to Train and Safe Practise

The MOptom programme is regulated by the GOC and they are the only statutory regulatory body to regulate students fitness to train and practice. Your fitness to train is called into question when your behaviour, conduct or health raises a serious or persistent cause for concern about your ability or suitability to continue to study for an approved qualification. Decisions on whether you are fit to undertake training or continue to train are matters for the GOC Registrar to consider. Fitness to practise/train matters are escalated by the SHPS Fitness to Practise Panel (FtP). The 'GOC Standards for Optical Students' set out the minimum standards of behaviour and performance that are expected of student registrants. There are 18 Standards that you must have regard to and a breach of one of more of these standards may give rise to concerns about your fitness to train ([standards for optical students web.pdf](#)).

City and clinical placement partners work in close collaboration to facilitate your learning in both theory and practice to ensure a safe and professional environment. As stated above, we are required to monitor your progress and take appropriate action if any issues related to good health or good character arise. In the event of poor or unsafe performance being identified. The School has a Cause for Concern Process embedded

in the Fitness to Practise Policy that enables robust actions to be put in place to support and monitor your development. If it becomes necessary for a formal investigation to be undertaken, this is underpinned by the School's Fitness to Practise Policy. The full School of Health Sciences' Fitness to Practise Policy is published in your programme handbook.

In addition, the programme requires each applicant to submit a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance to be completed in order to declare all previous criminal convictions, cautions and reprimands as a condition of admission on to the programme. Any custodial convictions will prevent you from studying on the programme. Students whose DBS check reveals a non-custodial conviction may be subjected to a DBS panel to review the seriousness and nature of the conviction before admission can proceed.

Declaration of Good Health and Good Character

It is a GOC requirement that you are required to confirm good health and good character at the end of each year of the programme before progressing onto the subsequent year of the programme. You must tell us about any health conditions and/or disability when you apply to study to be an optometrist which could affect your ability to practise safely and effectively. Local fitness to train panels will only be used if a student's health or disability is likely to compromise or has compromised their ability to meet the required competencies and practise safely. You are also required to tell us of any police charges, cautions, convictions or conditional discharges when you apply to study to be an optometrist and whilst studying for the programme.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master of Optometry (MOptom with Honours):

You will need to complete successfully all four years of this programme. On successful completion of the programme you will be eligible to apply for registration with the GOC to practice as an optometrist.

Programme Year	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	10%	I	70
2	5	120	20%	II upper division	60
3	6	120	40%	II lower division	50
4	7	120	30%	III	40

Exit awards:

BSc (Hons) in Visual Science (without registration with the GOC):

You will need to successfully complete all three years of this programme to receive this academic exit award. You will not be able to apply for registration with the GOC and therefore will not qualify and practice as an optometrist

Programme Year	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
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1	4	120	10%	I	70
2	5	120	20%	II upper division	60
3	6	120	70%	II lower division	50
				III	40

Diploma of Higher Education:

You will not be able to apply for registration with the GOC and therefore will not qualify and practice as an optometrist

Programme Year	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	30%	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	70%	With Merit	60
				Without Classification	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

You will not be able to practice as an optometrist

Programme Year	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	100%	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without Classification	40

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

All modules are compulsory in Years 1 – 4. All modules must be passed to progress to the next programme year. Some Level 7 modules are elective in Year 4 and can be selected according to your individual area of interest in discussion with your Programme Director. These elective modules will enhance your clinical decision making and management of eye disease skills all of which are relevant to Optometry. You have the option of completing either i) the College of Optometrists' Professional Certificates in Glaucoma and Medical Retina (each 15 PG credits) which will support your community practice or ii) the 'Fundamentals of Prescribing' (30 credits) which will start your journey to become an independent prescriber working in the HES or in the community.

Programme Year 1

The aim of Year 1 is to ensure that you have established a core knowledge base of skills and understanding, fit for learning in the professional and clinical environment. The emphasis of the programme's study at this stage is on basic and clinical sciences including optics, visual optics, physiology, pathology, anatomy and neural biology. The focus is on the structure and function of the eye under 'normal' conditions and on developing clinical optometric skills. Teaching is delivered by lectures, practical/tutorials and clinical skills sessions (where you will learn how to examine the eye, as well as take part in simulation exercises). Placements in practice will begin with the opportunity to work in the community.

Programme Year 1 is comprised of four core modules that you must take. These modules provide the scientific underpinning for clinical work that follows in Programme Years 2, 3 and 4.

To pass Programme Year 1 and progress to Programme Year 2, you must achieve 120 credits from the Programme Year 1 modules and complete all required parts relating to Year 1 of the College of Optometrist's portfolio. In addition, to prepare you for your academic learning you will be required to complete Academic Skills training run by the University.

If a period of time has elapsed (e.g. you are on an Interruption of Studies) you will be required to pass a Year 1 clinical competency test before progressing to Year 2.

Year 1

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Optics for Optometry	OV1016	30	Core	No	4
Biomedical science for optometry	OV1017	30	Core	No	4
Fundamental clinical and professional practice skills	OV1018	30	Core	No	4
Dispensing for Optical appliances	OV1019	30	Core	No	4

You will also commence placements at CitySight and in other Community practices in various capacities reflecting Year 1 skills.

Programme Year 2

Year 2 enables you to understand abnormality and disease-related change. Placements will also be part of Year 2 aimed at enabling you to integrate safely into the clinical environment. You will begin to apply theoretical knowledge, skills and professional behaviour in clinical practice. Alongside preparing you for clinical practice, the first two years of the programme also introduce you to the foundations of evidence-based optometric practice. You will also commence placements at CitySight and in other Community practices in various capacities reflecting Year 2 skills.

To pass Programme Year 2 and progress to Programme Year 3, you must have acquired 120 credits and complete all parts relating to Year 2 of the College of Optometrist's portfolio.

If a period of time has elapsed (e.g. you are on an Interruption of Studies) you will be required to pass a Year 2 clinical competency test before progressing to Year 3.

Year 2

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Ocular Disease and Management I	OV2024	30	Core	No	5
Clinical and Professional Practice I	OV2025	15	Core	No	5
Visual Perception	OV2026	15	Core	No	5
Advancing clinical skills	OV2027	30	Core	No	5
Contact Lenses I	OV2028	15	Core	No	5
Binocular Vision I	OV2029	15	Core	No	5

Programme Year 3

Year 3 has an increasing focus on the application of skills learnt in the first two years of the programme into clinical practice, across a range of core and increasing complex clinical presentations and encounters. Learning will include pre-placement sessions, community clinical teaching, clinical skills preparation and simulation sessions. You will rotate through a variety of placement settings which will provide opportunities to provide eye care for patients in a supernumerary capacity. This training will support the long clinical placement in year 4. Interprofessional learning and simulation will ensure you are able to demonstrate the skills needed to deliver complex eye care within a multi-professional team. You are also able to undertake a research project such as an audit or quality improvement project.

To pass Programme Year 3 and progress to Programme Year 4, you must have acquired 120 credits and completed all parts relating to Year 3 of the College of Optometrist's portfolio. You also need to acquire a 'Certificate of clinical competence' in order to enter your Year 4 integrated placement. This certificate details your patient episodes and core competencies obtained in the optometry clinics. We set minimum required numbers for your patient experience and specify the clinical core competencies.

If a period of time has elapsed (e.g. you are on an Interruption of Studies) you will be required to pass a Year 3 clinical competency test before progressing to Year 4.

Year 3

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Research, audit and quality improvement	OV3026	15	Core	No	6

Ocular Disease and Management II	OV3027	30	Core	No	6
Contact Lenses II	OV3028	15	Core	No	6
Binocular Vision and Paediatric Optometry	OV3029	15	Core	No	6
Vision Impairment	OV3030	15	Core	No	6
Clinical & Professional Practice II	OV3031	30	Core	No	6

Programme Year 4

Year 4, the final year, is spent gaining intensive clinical experience, typically in a community optometry practice or hospital eye department. This placement experience is termed Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) (Parts 1 and 2) and is a long clinical placement which will enable you to transition successfully to begin work as an optometrist:

- (i) The CLiP Part 1 optometry clinical practice module develops your clinical testing and management skills under supervision in a clinical placement setting
- (ii) The CLiP Part 2 optometry clinical practice module further develops your clinical testing and management skills under supervision in a clinical placement setting. It ensures that you can work effectively and efficiently in the clinical environment, including addressing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) issues and delivering safe and effective testing, management and referral of patients.

Placements will be run in conjunction with the College of Optometrists and will provide you with more specialist and challenging experiences. The College of Optometrists' portfolio will form part of the learning in this year and will support your clinical and professional experiences. The placement will be for 4 days/week and will be complemented with 'just in time/reflective' sessions which will encourage you to revisit and develop knowledge and skills just before they are needed and also reflect on the experiences gained thus providing opportunities to develop. This support will help you prepare and develop the skills needed to diagnose ocular conditions and manage patients appropriately. Thus, Year 4 will culminate in the consolidation of clinical skills and professional attributes.

In addition to your clinical experience, you will also be required to choose one (30 credit) or two (15 credit x2) elective modules in Year 4. You have the option of taking;

(a) College of Optometrists' Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (15 PG credits) AND the Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (15 PG credits)

OR

(b) Fundamentals of Prescribing (30 PG credits). This module will fast-track your PG prescribing studies and constitutes 50% of the training of the Independent Prescribing programme*.

(*Following completion of the MOptom programme, if you wish to qualify as an Independent Prescriber, you will need to continue your PG studies to complete the remaining 50% of the training required to become an Independent Prescriber. Once you have completed all prescribing modules you will then be entered onto the GOC Specialist list for Optometrist Independent Prescribers.)

To pass Programme Year 4 and be awarded the MOptom you must have completed 480 credits in total across all years and completed all parts relating to Year 4 of the College of Optometrists' portfolio. The College of Optometrists' portfolio is a professional requirement and is core to the programme (non-credit bearing). At the end of year 4, if after resitting any failed assessments, you have still not passed all modules you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Visual Sciences and will not be able to register with the GOC as an optometrist.

Year 4

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) Part 1	OVM063	30	Core	No	7
Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) Part 2	OVM064	45	Core	No	7
Clinical Decision making and Professional Practice III	OVM065	15	Core	No	7
*Professional Certificate in Medical Retina	OVM056	15	Elective	No	7
*Professional Certificate in Glaucoma	OVM006	15	Elective	No	7
*Fundamentals of Prescribing	OVM066	30	Elective	No	7

* you are able to choose which elective modules you can take. Therefore, you have the option of taking;

(a) both the College of Optometrists' Professional Certificate in Glaucoma (15 PG credits) and the Professional Certificate in Medical Retina (15 PG credits) OR
 (b) Fundamentals of Prescribing (30 PG credits) – in order to qualify as an Independent Prescriber, you will need to continue your PG studies after being awarded the MOptom. You will be required to complete additional study and placement (15 PG module 'Independent Prescribing' and a 90 hr Clinical Placement) following graduation. You will then be entered onto the GOC Specialist list for Optometrist Independent Prescribers.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

MOptom (Hons)

The majority of graduates will enter employment with a high street practice, although opportunities for employment exist within NHS ophthalmology or optometry departments and independent practices. It is also possible that you may wish to undertake further PG study and become an independent prescriber by either (i) building on the first two modules completed as part of the MOptom in year 4 (Fundamentals of Prescribing) or by (ii) completing all four PG prescribing modules once you have been awarded the MOptom. Opportunities for working in virtual clinics may also be available following completion of the Professional Certificates in Glaucoma and Medical Retina. You may consider pursuing a PhD and then continuing with an academic career. In addition, many companies employ optometrists in their marketing and product development departments.

City offers support with careers and cv guidance. <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>. The Alumni department can also help maintain contact with City. <http://www.city.ac.uk/alumni>

BSc (Hons) in Visual Science

If you exit with the BSc (Hons) in Visual Science you will not be able to practice as an optometrist as you will not be able to register with the GOC. However, you will be able to demonstrate graduate skills which can be applied to the workplace. Graduate with a BSc (Hons) in Visual Science can be employed in hospital eye departments as ophthalmic technicians.

PLACEMENTS

You will attend a variety of placements throughout your programme. Years 1-3 placements will take place at City's CitySight clinic and at other community or hospital based locations. You are expected to wear appropriate attire at all times when engaged in clinical activity, and you should be smartly and professionally attired at all times. Further details will be provided prior to each placement.

In Year 4 you will complete a long clinical placement of 44 weeks in duration. The Clinical Learning Placement in Practice placement will be run in conjunction with the College of Optometrists, and you will also complete Level 7 modules during this year. This long placement will further develop your clinical testing and management skills under supervision in a clinical placement setting, typically a community optometry practice or hospital eye department.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

The MOptom programme is regulated by the GOC, and the final year is in partnership with College of Optometrists.

The MOptom is a registerable degree which means that once you complete the programme you will be automatically registered with the GOC.

This programme will be presented for GOC accreditation following approval by the University Programme Approval Committee.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

MOptom programme

Applications are considered from students with a wide range of backgrounds. In general, all applicants for the undergraduate programme in optometry will require GCSE passes, at grade 4 (C or above), in five subjects to include English Language, mathematics and dual science (the latter counting as two subjects). In addition, applicants will usually require three "A" level subjects with a minimum of two from biology (or human biology), mathematics, chemistry and physics. Overseas qualifications will be considered on a case by case basis depending on qualifications.

Our standard offer to applicants is AAB (including 2 A levels from the following: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics); 136 UCAS tariff points (typically AAB or ABB with a relevant EPQ).

International Baccalaureate (IB): 31 points overall, including 6 in two Higher Level sciences and 5 in Standard Level English and Mathematics.

BTEC: DDD, one or two B A level grades are required from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics depending on BTEC.

In addition, the programme requires each applicant to submit a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance to be completed in order to declare all previous criminal convictions, cautions and reprimands as a condition of admission on to the programme. Any custodial convictions will prevent you from studying on the programme. Students whose DBS check reveals a non-custodial conviction may be subjected to a DBS panel to review the seriousness and nature of the conviction before admission can proceed.

Introduction to Optometry

Our standard offer to applicants for the Introduction to Optometry programme is BCC (including 2 A levels from the following: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics); 104 UCAS tariff points.

Progression onto the MOptom programme will be subject to achieving an overall aggregate of 65% and attendance of at least 80%.

International Baccalaureate (IB): 28 points overall

English Language Requirements:

One of the following:

IELTS: 7.0 overall: with at least 7.0 in the listening, reading, writing and speaking sections

GCSE: Minimum of five passes grade 4, including English and mathematics.

BTEC: DMM. Applied Science, Medical Science or Biomedical Science in addition to an A-Level C grade or above in Biology, Maths or Physics

Recognition of Prior Learning RPL/RP(E)L Requirements

There are limited opportunities for claiming RP(E)L (Recognition of Prior Experience/Learning) on the optometry programme because of professional accreditation requirements. RP(E)L applications are considered on a case by case basis by the Programme Director. Please contact the Programme Director for further information. City's RPL Regulation is available here:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/Senate-Regulation-19-Assessment-Regulations-2022-23-v2.4.pdf

City, University of London offers a Lord Mayor of London Scholarship for Academic Excellence. The application deadline is typically in the January before the start of the course. Further details of eligibility and application process can be found on City's website at Lord Mayor of London Scholarship for Academic Excellence, City, University of London: [Lord Mayor of London Scholarship for Academic Excellence • City, University of London](#)

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