Welcome to this Optometry Taster session at City, University of London. Unfortunately, we cannot have you on campus but hope that our online session will still give you a good idea of what it is like to study Optometry at City University. To give you an idea of what to expect, our session will follow this format: 1) Some of our Optometry students and staff have created this short video to give you an idea of what it’s like to study Optometry at City, and some of the things they’ve enjoyed most about their course. We’ll begin by watching this. 2) We will follow this with a fun subject quiz, don’t worry this is just a bit of fun and all answers are anonymous! 3) You can also ask questions at any point, which our academic staff and Student Ambassadors will be happy to answer. We also have campus tour videos to give you an idea of what our university campus is like. We are also running sessions on personal statements, the UCAS process, researching Universities and more: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/city-at-higher-education.

Recruitment Events 2019/20

We regularly visit other parts of the country as part of UCAS and Higher Education fairs. Find out when we’re near you.

What is something that drew you to study optometry?

Hi, I really wanted to work in a patient care environment and at the same time wanted flexibility in terms of work. these are 2 things which I believe optometry offers.

Some of our Optometry students and staff have created this short video to give you an idea of what it’s like to study Optometry at City, and some of the things they’ve enjoyed most about their course, if you have any troubles viewing this or want to watch again later, you can use this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvYIF9_0ozM&feature=youtu.be

Optometry Taster Day 2020

Loading...

What sort of work experience does one have to do in order to become an optician?
It's useful for yourself to carry out work experience in an opticians so you can get an insight to the career.

Is there a lot of physics in optometry?

Some modules include more physics than others, however there is more biology overall.

Is optometry somewhat linked to medicine and if so how?

Optometry is health care based profession so similar to medicine in that respect but we deal mainly with eyes rather than the body as a whole.

Hi, I wanted to know what are the different jobs you can get with Optometry?

Hi, you can work in a hospital, in high street practice, in an independent practice. You can own your own practice and work for yourself. You can also get involved in teaching, research, medico legal work, independent prescribing, shared care, you can do volunteering overseas (great fun by the way), do eye care for the Olympics. All sorts of things!

I wanted to ask after your course at City Do you get a job placement straight away or do you need experience?

You start applying for your pre registration in your 2nd year. You would then begin your pre registration period after you finish your degree.

Is being an optometrist only about working/owning your own opticians and doing regular check ups on the customers?

Hi, hope you're doing well. Being an optometrist is not only about working/owning your own opticians - lots of optometrists work for multiple companies like Specsavers/Vision Express etc, others work for independent practices that they do not own themselves, and many optometrists work in hospital eye departments, doing specialist eye care. In addition, some optometrists work in research or teaching. There are many many different work avenues for optometrists!

What are your entry requirements to study optometry?

ABB (two science A levels from maths, biology, chemistry or physics)

do we need work experience to apply to optometry because there isn't many opportunities at the moment and I want to concentrate on my A levels next year?
It is useful to do work experience if you can, as it gives you an insight into the career and allows you to develop skills, however it is not a requirement.

Is it necessary to do a level physics or maths?

Hi, you need 3 A levels at ABB grade. Two of these need to come from maths, biology, chemistry or physics.

Would you be at an disadvantage if you haven't studied maths for A-level?

No, the lecturers go through the maths parts so everyone understands. Also, most of the maths is not as hard as A Level Maths.

What is the project or dissertation that you do in 3rd year?

Every year, dozens of different titles are offered as dissertation topics so there's lots to choose from depending on what you're most interested in. You can also choose between a literature review or a practical project. And if you have something you're really interested in that's not on the list there are options to discuss with tutors whether you could do that as a dissertation.

How long are University lectures generally?

50 minutes.

Would you say the physics part is quite hard?

Everyone finds different modules more/less difficult but for me the Optics module is mostly physics related and at the start I did find it a little challenging, but once I spent a little more time and practice with it - it started to become a easier.

What assessment methods are used?

There is a mixture of written exams, VIVAS - which are verbal exams, OSCEs - which are practical exams and also coursework.

Is there a foundation course available with lower grade requirements?
We offer a one year foundation course 'Introduction to Optometry, entry requirements are: CCC to include two subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and/or Physics or any three non-science 'A' levels with grades BBB or equivalent (not including Language and Religious Studies). You can find out more here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/introduction-optometry

**Introduction to Optometry**

This one year full-time programme provides an introduction to clinical and professional optometric practice, providing you with an alternative entry route onto BSc Optometry at City, University of London.

Would you need to go to university every day?

We do expect everyone to be available because it is a full time course although there may be some days when you won't have to come in.

What do the coursework entail?

Lab write ups, presentations and group work

Do you get paid during pre reg year?

Yes

Is the optometry course longer than 3 years?

No, it's 3 years followed by a pre reg year.

Hi all! We hope you enjoyed that video. We will now begin our subject quiz. Note that you won't be able to change your answer once you've submitted it. Your responses are anonymous, so this is just for fun. If you are on a mobile you need to swipe left if you see a question mark, or if you're using Internet Explorer you might need to click on the question mark.

What skills can you learn from the placement at Moorfield Hospital?

At Moorfields Eye Hospital you will be shadowing Ophthalmologists and using skills you have already learnt.
Q1: Which former prime minister is blind in one eye?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Blair</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Brown</td>
<td>69.23%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Answer: Gordon Brown lost the sight in his left eye when he was a teenager following a retinal detachment as the result of a rugby accident. You will learn more about ocular disease and who is most at risk of retinal detachment during your second and third year.

What is the difference between ophthalmology and optometry?

Ophthalmology is a branch of medicine - ophthalmologists are medical doctors who have specialised in eyecare. Whilst optometrists are primary health care specialists trained to examine the eyes to detect defects in vision, signs of injury, ocular diseases or abnormality and problems with general health.

What is the balance between academics and clinical work as a student across the 3 years?

Hi, It is approximately a 50:50 split.

Q2: Mrs Smith lost her eyesight to glaucoma 5 years ago. She is 85 years old and lives on her own. She tells you she sees “a tiger in her living room with a bell around its neck”. What is the likely cause of Mrs Smith’s hallucination?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Her lost eyesight due to glaucoma</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She must have dementia</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She must have Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is simply imagining things</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What extracurricular would be recommended to do to put in our personal statements?

Things like work experience or any volunteering you may have done

Answer: Her lost eyesight due to glaucoma. Mrs Smith has something called Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) as a result of her glaucoma. CBS is a syndrome which causes visual hallucinations in people with vision loss. Let’s see if you can replicate Mrs Smith’s tiger hallucination. On your phone, go to google and type in ‘tiger’. Then where it says ‘meet a life sized tiger up close’, select ‘view in 3D’ and, as if by magic, a tiger will appear! You can change the animal by typing in ‘google 3D animals’.
Q3. In 2017, how many missing contact lenses did a surgeon find in a woman’s eye?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.250%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>37.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

is there a lot of maths in the course?, if yes what does it have to do with?

There’s a bit of Maths, nothing too complicated! - in the first year there’s a Maths module aimed at bringing everybody up to the same level in Maths no matter what your experience.

Answer: 27. Yes, it’s true! “A blissful foreign body” in the lady’s eye turned out to be 27 contact lenses stuck together! You will learn about how to wear only one pair of contact lenses at a time during your second and third year.

Q4. Which animal has the best vision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bird of prey</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>14.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human</td>
<td>7.143%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What's normal week like? As in how spaced up is the timetable?

It is a full time course, so you could be in uni up to 5 days a week. You would have a range of things during the week such as: Lectures, labs and tutorials. You may have some weeks where you have 1 or 2 days off.

Answer: Silly question as vision has many aspects. Birds of prey have the highest acuity, mantid shrimp have the best colour vision, flies see motion better than other animals, fish (& other animals) see UV and the plane of polarisation, deep-sea fish are most sensitive etc. We are not best at anything; but generalists. You will learn all sorts of fascinating facts like this when you choose to study optometry at City!

Is the placement optional and if it is, would it be more beneficial if we did the placement?

If you are referring to Moorfields, this is not optional. Also the pre-registration year is not optional either if you want to qualify.

I do Chemistry Psychology and Maths and I've heard people say you need to do Biology to do this course so is this true?

You need two sciences (from maths, biology, chemistry and physics) and achieve AAB
Q5: Which of the following is a location where optometrists do not practice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centres for the homeless</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisons</td>
<td>45.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supermarkets</td>
<td>36.36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What area of optometry do you enjoy most?

Learning about pathologies and seeing them in real life. The practical side is what I enjoy most as it is nice to make a positive impact on people, by helping them to see.

Do the students have part time jobs?

Hi, yes a lot do :-)

Which one would you say is better hospital placement or high street practice?

It depends what you want to do in the long run. I think you will see rarer eye diseases in the hospital setting.

ANSWER: Street Markets – optometrists have hugely varied work settings and can work in many places. You will learn more about where you can work in the 2nd year of the Optometry course.

Q6. The first contact lenses ever were made out of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silicon</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>37.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jelly</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How is the final exam assessed

Through a combination and practical exams.

Answer: glass – Yes, glass! Can you imagine putting a piece of glass in your eye? Neither can we! In the late 1800’s contacts were blown out of glass, and were only worn by people with severely damaged eyes.
Q7: Optometrists in community (e.g. high street) practice are qualified to carry out eye examinations for people in the following age ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-65 years</td>
<td>9.091%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to over 100</td>
<td>27.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 75 years</td>
<td>54.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to over 100 years</td>
<td>9.091%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

do uk students do the Optometry Admissions Test

Hi, There is no Optometry Admissions Test

Answer: Birth to over 100 years. Optometrists are qualified to test everyone’s eyes! You might wonder how you can test a baby’s eyes when they can’t read any letters but all will be revealed in your third year!

What’s the trickiest part of this course?

Keeping on top of the lectures as well as finding time to practise in the labs

What kind of things will prioritise you getting into the course in comparison to others?

Hi

Firstly you will need to meet the entry requirements which are ABB with two A levels in either math, biology, chemistry or physics. It is also good to have some work experience and even some volunteering. We also like sport :-)

Q8: Which of the following diseases can be detected by looking into the back of the eye?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>54.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>27.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

would you say it is not hard to juggle school work with a part-time job for those that do?, i have heard that it is a very demanding course

HI

I worked part time in an opticians for all 3 years and personally i didnt find it hard to juggle at all. I worked 1 day a week

Is there an interview to get accepted to the course?
Hi Naema. No

Answer: All of them! It's possible to detect several important conditions, both ocular (affecting the eye) and systemic (affecting the whole body) diseases by examining the back of the eye. You will learn how to do this in the 1st year Clinical Skills module and will continue to practice and improve this skill throughout the 3 years of the course.

Is the foundation course in the same campus

Yes

Q9: If you stare at something painted red for a minute, and then shift your gaze to something that's painted white, which colour would you see

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of those</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do they look for in your application and personal statement?

Hi Firstly you will need to meet the entry requirements which are ABB with two A levels in either math, biology, chemistry or physics. It is also good to have some work experience and even some volunteering. We also like sport

Answer: None of them! The colour you would see is cyan, which is something between green and blue. You will learn more about colour vision in year 1 of the course.

How many people are admitted each year to the optom course?

Hi we typically have around 124 places each year.

Q10. The first ever contact lenses were made in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880s</td>
<td>78.57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer 1880s. C 1887. A German glassblower called Muller designed them. He got the idea from reading about the famous Italian architect, mathematician and inventor Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) who produced the first known sketches (in 1508) that suggested the optics of the human eye could be altered by placing the cornea directly in contact with water.
is studying optometry at london uni make less time for extracurricular activities like sports

Hi Hana, I don't think so. You will get Wednesday afternoons off for starters. We have great sports facilities at City :)

Are there scholarships available if u achieve AAA or above?

Hi Hana, details on our Scholarships on this link I have provided https://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries
Funding support available for students studying at City, University of London.

Hope everyone enjoyed the quiz! We're now focusing on answering all your questions, keep them coming!

is there group project work?

Yes there is

When does the application in 2021 start

UCAS normally opens in Sept

what is the starting salary of a qualified optometrist? working either in a high street practice or hospital

Starting salaries for newly qualified optometrists are typically around £25,000

I volunteer at a library, would that make my application considered less than other applications

No. It all involves speaking to people and helping others :}
what would you say is the best thing about studying optom

It's a very enjoyable degree. You learn a range of interesting things. You get a lot of time to practice with your peers. When you start seeing the public in third year clinics, you have very good supervisors who help you improve. :)

what would a typical class size?

Small group teaching is between 14-28 but the lectures could be in the hundreds.

are there a lot of presentations and verbal assessments involved?

You will be required to do some presentations. There are verbal assessments after all you will be speaking with the public going forward.

Will we be sent lecture recordings and how do people mainly take notes? On their laptop or by hand?

Students are expected to attend lectures. They are all recorded as well and available online. Students make notes using a mix of laptops/by hand - whatever suits them best. :)

Thank you everyone for all your questions and we hope today's session was useful. If you do have any further questions then please do contact us using either our contacts page on our website: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact or through our Unibuddy page where you can contact staff and students: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student.

Contact City, University of London

General contact form for City, University of London.

Ask our students and staff

Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.