

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Optometry
Award	BSc (Hons)
School	School Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Optometry and Visual Sciences
UCAS Code	B510
Course Code	OPUOPT
Programme code	OPBSOPT05
Route Code	USOPTY
Type of study	Full Time

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Optometry is a profession in which those that practise attain a high level of expertise in ocular disease and its management. Optometrists are responsible for detection, diagnosis and management of ocular disease and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system. They provide approximately 90% of primary eye care in the UK and the profession is responsible for 40% of ocular and ophthalmic referrals to the secondary care sector.

The BSc (Hons) Optometry at City aims to provide you with a strong clinical training so that you are able to examine and diagnose 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 enter into co-management schemes with the NHS to manage common eye disorders within the community.

The structure of the programme is designed to provide you with expert knowledge in three main areas: ocular physiology and pathology, optics and clinical and professional practice. It is a requirement of the programme that each module is passed in order to progress and there are no optional modules on the programme. The BSc (Hons) Optometry programme is only offered as a three year full-time programme of study based around three academic terms per year. Taught elements occupy the first two terms amounting to 22 weeks. The third term (summer) is used for assessments. The normal period of registration on the programme is three years and the maximum period of registration is six years.

In the first year of the programme, you will be taught how the eye and body functions normally in Neural Biology & General Pathology. Once a foundation in anatomy and physiology is established the second year introduces you to 'what happens when things go wrong'. In the second year there is an introduction to recognising ocular disease. Visual Perception is taught with an emphasis on the processing of colour, motion, depth and form. In the final year ocular disease is taught from a management and treatment perspective with many lectures given by leading ophthalmologists and eye care

practitioners.

An understanding of the properties of simple and complex lens systems including the eye and the measurement of light is taught in the first year. In the second year you will begin to understand the properties of contact lenses and how to assess the fit of these lenses. The dispensing module will enable you to understand the importance of correct lens and frame selection to ensure your patient has the best optical aid that meets their particular needs. Both of these areas are underpinned by the optical principles taught in the first year. In the final year you will be fitting contact lenses and dispensing spectacles from your own prescriptions in public clinics and therefore by the end of the programme you should be experienced in the prescribing of visual aids.

The clinical education commences in the first year where the principles and practice of measuring vision and performing the required tests to obtain a prescription are taught. An introduction to routine examination techniques of the eye are taught in preparation for the second year. The second year clinical skills and binocular vision modules build on the fundamental techniques acquired in first year to enhance your ability to examine the eye using specialised techniques in preparation for the final year clinical placements at the optometry clinics. In the final year you will be seeing members of the public in the clinics and examining their eyes under supervision. You will also gain expertise in the examination of children and individuals with visual impairment. The legal aspects of optometric practice are taught in the final year. Additional clinical techniques will be taught so that you will be prepared to enter into the pre-registration period as a clinically confident and competent professional.

For all of you completing Programme Stage 1 *or* the Certificate in Higher Education you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Optometry and interpret these within the context of your practice.

For all of you completing Programme Stage 2 *or* the Diploma in Higher Education you will build on your previous knowledge and experience. 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.

For all of you completing Programme Stage 3 *or* the BSc (Hons) Degree 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.

Overall, the optometry programme is designed to give you confidence when entering the pre-registration period where an additional 12 -18 months training is typically required before final registration by the General Optical Council following successful completion of the College of Optometrists' scheme for registration. The majority of graduates will enter employment with a large high street practice, although opportunities for employment exist with NHS ophthalmology departments and independent practices. It is also possible that you may wish to undertake further study and become an independent prescriber or undertake an MSc or PhD to pursue an academic career for example. Many companies employ optometrists in their marketing and product development departments.

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.

Aims

- To provide a supportive learning environment which fosters academic and personal development
- To make 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
- To prepare you for a professional career as a primary health care practitioner
- To foster a caring attitude to others and excellent inter-personal skills
- To ensure that an expertise in the assessment and management of ocular conditions is attained

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate an understanding of basic science that underpins the visual systems, their function and their correction.
- Evaluate and interpret a patient's signs and symptoms with the results of clinical tests to formulate a patient management plan.
- Assess and manage a patient requiring contact lenses.
- Assess the visual needs of a child using age appropriate techniques.
- Assess a range of individuals with visual impairment including a full low vision assessment.
- Dispense and fit spectacles with appropriate lenses for an individual's visual needs.
- Judge and evaluate new concepts, procedures, techniques and products relevant to optometric practice.
- Evaluate current research related to clinical practice.

- Judge the appropriate treatment and management for a patient.
- Understand and apply the principles of evidence-based practice to clinical decision making

Skills:

- Behave in a responsible and professional manner.
- Communicate using multiple media including verbal, written, presentation, and word processing skills.
- Exhibit practical skills in performing efficiently and safely a complete eye examination with expertise in the use of a wide range of diagnostic equipment
- Demonstrate an adequate level of skill and knowledge to enable you to commence practice under supervision as primary care optometrists in their pre-registration year
- Demonstrate that you have acquired a wide range of transferable, lifelong and independent learning skills.

Values and attitudes:

- Use appropriate interpersonal and communication skills.
- Show an appropriate professional attitude towards patients and colleagues.
- Maintain principles and practices of client confidentiality.
- Maintain the principles of the professional and statutory regulatory bodies.
- Be aware of and respect the cultural needs of others.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the General Optical Council's core competencies, September 2016 and the QAA Subject Benchmark for Optometry December 2015.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for this programme is 3 years.

The maximum period of registration for this programme is 6 years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be taught using a wide range of methods, ranging from traditional lectures to small group tutorials and practical classes. The lectures are supported with handouts

and PowerPoint slides with some material provided online to summarise key points. Audio and in most cases videos of individual lectures are provided for revision of the material covered. Tutorials are arranged for discussing clinical cases, using role play to improve patient/practitioner communication and to discuss in more detail topics covered in the lectures. The practical classes cover experiments and demonstrations in Neural Biology & General Pathology and optics. A dedicated clinical teaching area is provided where the clinical techniques are taught throughout the programme. Videos of clinical procedures are available for revision in addition to the hands on teaching in the practical clinical laboratories.

Study assignments include projects or a dissertation that requires you to work independently or with a small group of peers in order to prepare an oral presentation or final report with support from Academic staff. Several external visits are provided to contact lens manufacturers, optometric practices and the KCL pathology museum to aid your learning and experience the commercial and manufacturer's role in the profession. In the final year clinical placements at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the RNIB provide you with access to specialist clinics and exposure to patients with less common conditions, under ophthalmological supervision.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

It is fundamentally important that you understand how 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 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 to 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. Assessment Criteria and Grade- Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. 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. Closed-book written exams as a summative assessment are still recognised as an important indicator of your ability in line with University requirements and the recommendations of external examiners. However, the format of the written papers reflects the diverse 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 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 three 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 student enquiries and can provide support for your studies and are always available to arrange additional support for your studies.

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;
- a second resit cannot be offered for any clinical failed module (consisting of clinical placements, OSCEs or in-house clinical assessments)

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15 credit module would be given equal consideration as a 30 credit module.

If the assessment is practice based and there are only outstanding signatures, the module is not 'failed' and students can re-submit their portfolio. The outstanding signatures, and thus the fail, will not be counted when calculating the average grade over the programme or programme stage. A second resit cannot be offered for any practical failed assessment (either placement or in-house clinical).

Unsafe practice will be considered at the 50% average for consistency.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage, but satisfy the requirements for the previous Programme Stage, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage 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 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 or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

Each programme stage is weighted as follows:

Programme Stage 1 – 10%

Programme Stage 2 – 30%

Programme Stage 3 – 60%

Attendance and good time keeping is required in all clinical sessions across the programme and will be monitored.

The pass mark for each module is 40%. Each clinical module requires that the clinical components be passed in order for the module to be passed. Details of each module's requirements to pass are found on the module specifications on Moodle.

In order to start the Scheme for Registration after graduating you must obtain an overall grade of 50% (lower boundary of the II (2) degree classification).

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

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
- a second resit cannot be offered for any clinical failed module (consisting of clinical placements, OSCEs or in-house clinical assessments)

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 to be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

You must achieve at least 50% (Ili) to be awarded the BSc (Hons) degree and continue your pre-registration training.

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

Ordinary Degree:

You will not be able to practice optometry

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	10%		With Distinction	70
2	5	120	30%		With Merit	60
3	6	60	60%		Without Classification	40

Diploma of Higher Education:

You will not be able to practice optometry

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
1	4	120	25%		With Distinction	70
2	5	120	70%		With Merit	60
					Without Classification	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

You will not be able to practice optometry

Programme Stage	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 except for the elective module personal development plan are compulsory. All compulsory modules must be passed in order to progress to the next programme stage of the programme.

Programme Stage 1

Programme Stage 1 is comprised of five core modules that all students must take. These modules provide the scientific underpinning for clinical work that follows in Programme Stages 2 and 3. All students are required to register as a student optometrist with the General Optical Council (GOC) before commencing the programme. A student who is not registered with the GOC cannot pursue the programme which requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. 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.

To pass Programme Stage 1 and progress to Programme Stage 2, you must achieve 120 credits from the Programme Stage 1 modules.

If you resit programme stage one with or without attendance or if you have passed programme stage one but are taking the year out due to extenuating circumstances, regardless of whether you have passed the Clinical Skills full routine assessment (OV1012), you must demonstrate that you are clinically competent to complete an eye examination before progressing to the second year clinical labs.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Optics	OV1001	30	Core	No	4
Ophthalmic Lenses & Dispensing I	OV1004	15	Core	No	4
Neural Biology & General Pathology	OV1015	30	Core	No	4
Clinical Skills I	OV1012	30	Core	No	4
Visual Optics & Measurement techniques	OV1014	15	Core	No	4

Programme Stage 2

In order to pass a Programme Stage of a Programme, a student should acquire the total credit set out in the Programme Scheme at the specified level for the Award, or have been exempted as provided elsewhere.

To pass Programme Stage 2 and progress to Programme Stage 3, you must have acquired 120 credits.

If you resit programme stage two with or without attendance or if you have passed

programme stage two but are taking the year out due to extenuating circumstances, regardless of whether you have passed the Clinical Skills routine and stations exam (OV2004), you must demonstrate that you are clinically competent to see patients before progressing to the third year clinics. You will be required to attend Clinical Skills labs during the second term (depending on availability) and will be required to pass both the full routine and stations clinical examinations. Failure to pass these assessments may result in you being withdrawn from the programme.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Clinical Skills II	OV2004	30	Core	No	5
Contact Lenses I	OV2006	15	Core	No	5
Introduction to Eye Disease	OV2022	30	Core	No	5
Binocular Vision	OV2018	15	Core	No	5
Visual Perception	OV2023	15	Core	No	5
Ophthalmic Lenses & Dispensing II	OV2021	15	Core	No	5

Programme Stage 3

To pass Programme Stage 3, you must have acquired 120 credits. To obtain a BSc (Hons) degree in Optometry Programme Stage 3 requirements must have been satisfied. You also need to acquire a certificate of clinical competence in order to enter your pre-registration training. This certificate details your patient episodes and core competencies obtained in the optometry clinics. The General Optical Council set minimum required numbers for your patient experience and specify the clinical core competencies. Failure to attain (50%) for your degree classification will result in you not being able to move directly into the pre-registration year.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Contact Lenses II	OV3004	15	Core	No	6
Eye Disease & Therapeutics	OV3017	30	Core	No	6
Binocular Vision, Paediatrics & Visual Impairment	OV3022	30	Core	No	6
Research Studies	OV3021	15	Core	No	6
Clinical & Professional Practice	OV3025	30	Core	No	6

Elective module

Throughout your 3 years at City, you have the opportunity to complete an elective module called Personal Development Plan. This elective module aims to enhance your academic life at City by helping you acquire skills that are valuable in your career post-graduation.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Graduates will normally undertake a year as a pre-registration optometrist with a large high street chain, an independent practice or within a hospital eye department. On completion of the College professional qualifying examinations and registration with the General Optical Council a graduate will normally work in private practice or undertake research or be employed by a commercial optical manufacturer as a professional advisor.

City offers support with careers and interview technique 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>

PLACEMENTS

Students attend the Optometry clinics at City Sight from the end of the first term in second year. Students are expected to wear a clean white clinical coat at all times they are engaged in clinical activity, and smartly and professionally attired at all times they are undertaking clinical practice.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

The programme is accredited by the General Optical Council and reviewed every five years. You must gain at least a II (2) accredited honours degree before you can enter your pre-registration period. If you gain a third class degree you will be required to undergo the 'Universities Scheme for Registration' and gain at least 50% or greater overall. Currently this scheme is not run by City, University of London although the scheme is available at Aston and Glasgow Caledonian Universities. You are required to register annually as a student optometrist with the GOC. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action with the GOC and withdrawal from the programme.

General Optical Council,
10 Old Bailey,
London
EC4M 7NG
Tel 020 7580 3898
email goc@optical.org
<http://www.optical.org/>

HOW DO I ENTER THE 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Foundation Degree

For students entering Programme Stage 2 of the programme at the completion of their foundation degree Programme Stage 2 of the programme is weighted at 33.3% and Stage 3 is weighted at 66.6% with 120 credits RPELled from the foundation degree. Please note that places in Programme Stage 2 of the programme are limited and students are offered a place based upon their academic achievement on the foundation degree.

For students entering Stage one of the programme via UCAS application, OV1012, students may choose to resit the examinations (occurrence A) or to RPEL the examinations (occurrence B). All students will need to pass the practical clinical assessments in OV1012 to progress to Stage 2 regardless of which occurrence they choose.

City, University of London offers a London Mayor of London Scholarship for Academic Excellence of up to £4,625 (for 2021/22) for the first year to home students. 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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