MAY 2022
CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Catholic College Wodonga Life in Jesus

ORTHOPTICS & OPTOMETRY

University courses, 2023 entry
Vic, NSW, ACT

INTRODUCTION

This document has been developed to assist domestic Year 12 students and their families in researching orthoptics and optometry courses in Victoria, Canberra and New South Wales. Please use entry requirements and indicative ATARs listed in this document as a guide only and check university websites for updates.

Indicative ATARs

Please use indicative ATARs listed in this document as a guide as they may change for future intakes.

English prerequisite

EAL = English as an Additional Language. 'Any other English' includes English, English Language and Literature.

Undergraduate

This is usually your first course at university. For example - bachelor's degree.

Graduate

This is study you do once you have graduated from a bachelor's degree. For example – master's.

Disclaimer

Information has been taken from university websites and VTAC.

Universities featured in this guide reserve the right to change course information, admissions and entry requirements at any time and without notice.

For up-to-date information, check the university websites when assessing course information.

Written by Sandie McKoy
May 2022

Note: photos in this guide are stock images and aren't representative of students at the universities.

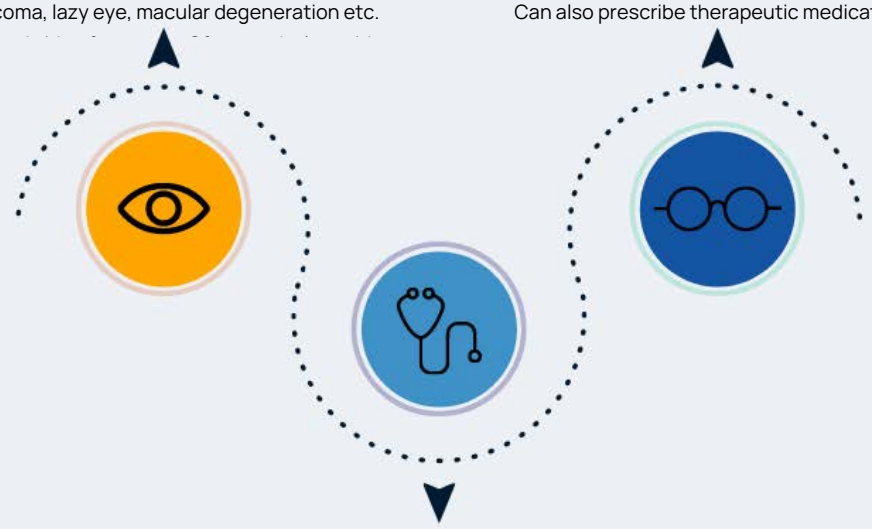
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

ORTHOPTIST

An eye care professional who can test for vision disorders, recommend surgical treatment, assist with minor surgical procedures, and assist patients to manage eye disorders such as low vision, cataracts, glaucoma, lazy eye, macular degeneration etc.

OPTOMOTRIST

A 'primary health specialist.' This means they are often the first professional to see you for eye/vision problems. They diagnose and treat eye disorders and prescribe corrective devises such as lenses/glasses. Can also prescribe therapeutic medications.



OPTHAMOLOGIST

A medical doctor who has trained to become an eye specialist. Can diagnose all eye disorders and treat them with medicine, corrective lenses and/or surgery. Receives referrals from optometrists and orthoptists.

COURSE SUMMARY

LA (Lowest ATAR) = lowest ATAR to receive entry into the course excluding any adjustment factors for the 2022 January intake (TAC applicants).

LSR (Lowest Selection Rank) = lowest ATAR inclusive of adjustment factors to receive entry into the course for the 2022 January intake (TAC applicants).

ORTHOPTICS

University	Course	Campus	LA	LSR
La Trobe University	Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours)	Melbourne	68.55	78.9
University of Technology Sydney	Master of Orthoptics	Sydney		

OPTOMETRY

University	Course	Campus	LA	LSR
Deakin University	Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry (Rural and Remote Scheme)	Geelong Waurn Ponds Geelong Waurn Ponds	85.9 77.15	95.55 89.15
The University of Melbourne	Bachelor of Science / Doctor of Optometry Bachelor of Biomedicine / Doctor of Optometry Doctor of Optometry	Parkville	99+ 99+	
University of Canberra	Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry Master of Optometry	Canberra		85 (2021)
University of NSW (UNSW)	Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry	Kensington	91.5 (2021)	99.2 (2021)

ORTHOPTICS

Orthoptists may specialise in:

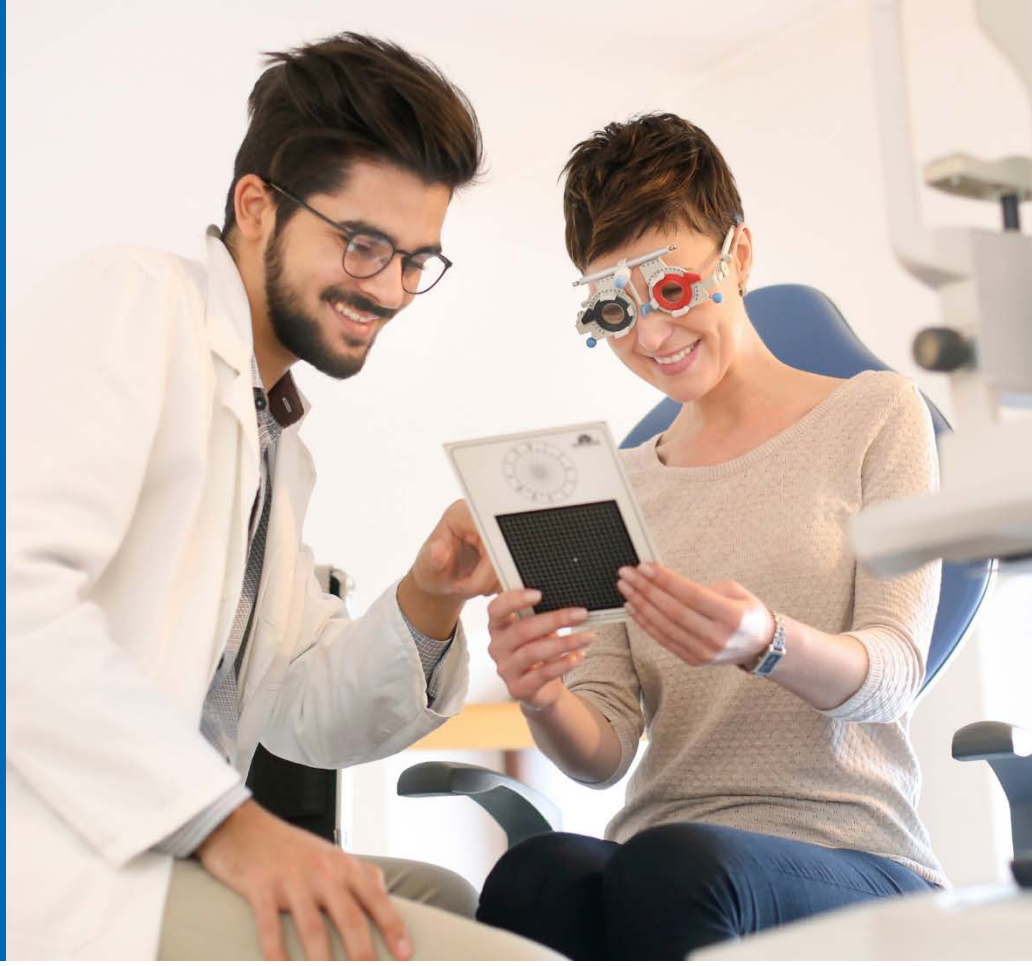
Ophthalmic eye care
Involves treatment of general eye diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration.

Neuro-ophthalmology
Involves the treatment of neurologically based eye disorders caused by stroke and head injury.

Eye movement disorders and paediatric eye care
Involves the treatment of conditions such as strabismus, amblyopia and double vision.

Vision rehabilitation
Involves maximising remaining sight in people with low vision using rehabilitation strategies and magnification aids.

Education or research



TASKS OF AN ORTHOPTIST

- Diagnoses eye movement disorders and defects of binocular function.
- Prescribes lenses, contact lenses and low vision aids, and checks suitability and comfort.
- Prescribes exercises to co-ordinate movement and focusing of eyes.
- Manages programmes for eye movement disorders, as well as instructing and counselling patients in the use of corrective techniques and eye exercises.
- Advises on visual health matters such as contact lens care, vision care for the elderly, optics, visual ergonomics, and occupational and industrial eye safety.
- Conducts rehabilitation programs for the visually impaired.

EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

- Size: This is a very small occupation.
- Location: Many Orthoptists work in New South Wales and Victoria.
- Industries: Most work in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.
- Full-time: Around half work full-time (49%, less than the average of 66%), showing there are many opportunities to work part-time.
- Hours: Full-time workers spend around 41 hours per week at work (compared to the average of 44 hours).
- Age: The average age is 35 years (compared to the average of 40 years).
- Gender: 89% of workers are female (compared to the average of 48%).

Information taken from Job Outlook, https://joboutlook.gov.au/

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Orthoptists are employed in a wide range of settings, including private practices, specialist eye clinics, public hospitals (including children's hospitals), vision impairment agencies and research centres. Both part-time and full-time employment is available. Future employment growth is strong.

Information taken from the Good Universities Guide, www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au

HOW TO BECOME AN ORTHOPTIST

STEP 1: complete an accredited degree.

There are only two accredited courses in Australia – at La Trobe University and University of Technology Sydney.

You will need to meet English language requirements, inherent requirements (e.g., communication skills), and academic entry requirements for course admission.

You may also be required to get or prove you have certain immunisations and get a Police Record Check and Working with Children Check.

STEP 2: Registration

Apply to register with the Australian Orthoptics Board and participate in Continuing Professional Development.

Excellent website

Orthoptics Australia www.orthoptics.org.au

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Melbourne Bundoora campus.

La Trobe is currently seeking accreditation with the Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB) for the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours).

Take advantage of an industry-based or research project, where you'll develop project management and research skills essential for a successful career in orthoptics.

La Trobe University is the only university in Victoria, and one of only two in Australia, offering a course in orthoptics.

Complete over 400 hours of clinical experience in a range of settings while you study.

A final year clinical placement gives you the opportunity to build experience in one of our partner clinics in regional Victoria, interstate or overseas in countries such as New Zealand, the United Kingdom or Singapore.

Benefit from our close connections to industry and accreditation with the Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB).

Join Australia's only undergraduate orthoptics program and learn to detect, diagnose and manage eye conditions in a range of patients, including children and adults.

BACHELOR OF ORTHOPTICS (HONOURS)

Graduates will have the skills to perform clinical, technical, advisory and educational roles. You could pursue a career as an orthoptist in a range of settings, including:

Specialist eye clinics
Detect, diagnose, monitor and treat a range of eye diseases and conditions like strabismus, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, age-related degeneration and vision-related consequences of medical complications like stroke and neurological diseases.

Hospitals
Work with medical and allied health professionals to care for patients with various eye disorders and to aid rehabilitation after surgical procedures on the eyes and vision system.

Community centres
Provide quality eye healthcare to people from all backgrounds to manage their health and wellbeing and to deliver low vision services to optimise vision related functioning.

Academia/research
Pursue research that informs best practice of orthoptists across the world. Use this knowledge to teach the next generation of orthoptists.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical experiences start in your first year and will be a significant part of your degree. We work closely with industry to give you access to placements and hands-on experience in hospitals with dedicated eye clinics as well as private eye clinics. During these experiences, you'll learn how to use specialised technology, such as retinal cameras and ultrasonography machines.

You'll have the opportunity to complete a placement beyond Melbourne in your final year with one of our partner clinics in regional Victoria, interstate or overseas. You'll also have the opportunity to help where you're needed most - in a developing country.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

La Trobe Aspire Early Admissions Program
www.latrobe.edu.au/study/aspire

ENTRY SCHEMES

Tertiary Preparation Program
Prepare for La Trobe, Achieve at La Trobe
Achieve Plus
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
Work and life experience
www.latrobe.edu.au/study/apply/pathways

INFORMATION

www.latrobe.edu.au

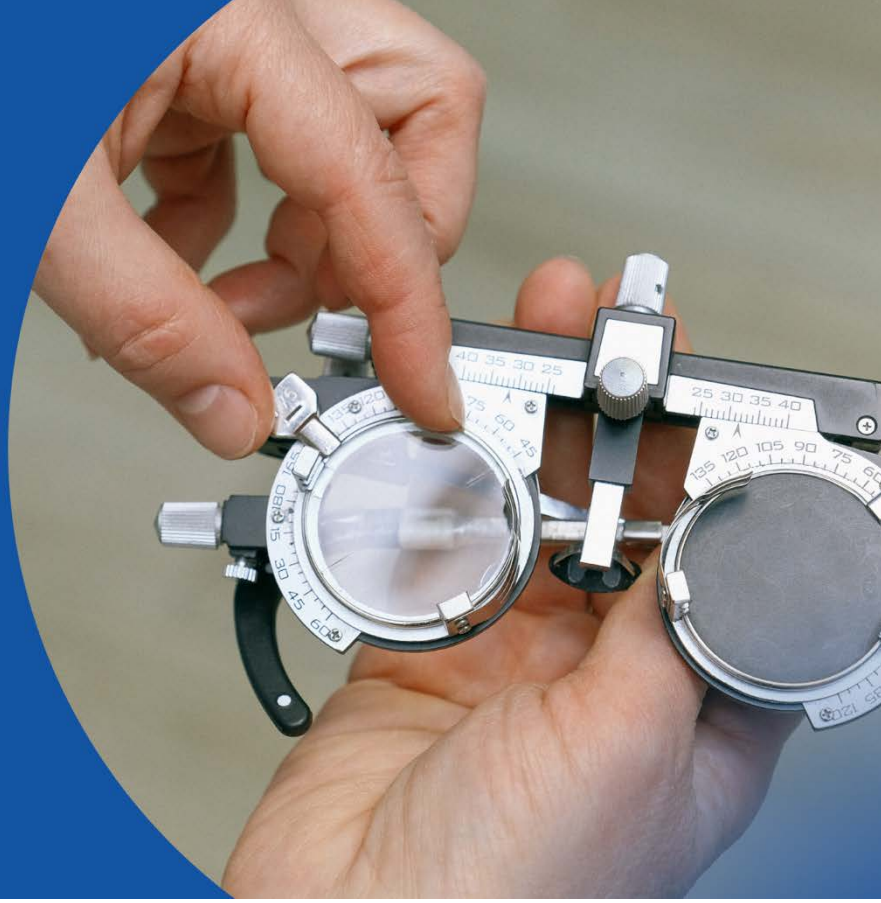
Course	Prerequisites	Campus	LA	LSR
Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours)	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in two of Biology, Chemistry, any Mathematics, Physical Education or Physics (bridging subjects available through UniLearn).	Melbourne	68.55	78.90

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

The Master of Orthoptics is fully accredited by the Australian Orthoptic Board. Upon completion of the degree, graduates are eligible for registration as an orthoptist.

Opportunity to undertake clinical placements overseas.

On-campus learning takes place in the Graduate School of Health's state-of-the-art facilities.



Orthoptists are eye therapists who specialise in the diagnosis and management of a range of eye disorders in children and adults. At the UTS Graduate School of Health we provide innovative, practice-based orthoptics education and high impact research that promotes excellence in eye healthcare.

MASTER OF ORTHOPTICS

UTS offers an accredited orthoptics qualification at the graduate level. Applicants will need to complete a university degree first. The Master of Orthoptics provides the requisite in-depth knowledge, skills and experience to work as an orthoptist in the multidisciplinary eye healthcare sector.

Innovative and practice-based in approach, it enables the development of specialist knowledge and skills while preparing students for changing practices in response to new evidence and rapidly emerging medical technologies.

This course is delivered in a student-focused manner that integrates theoretical knowledge with professional practice, building on strong links with the orthoptic profession as well as other professional groups involved in eye and vision care and with industry.

CAREER OPTIONS

Career options include working in hospital, private practice and community settings providing paediatric and adult eye care, neuro-ophthalmic and low vision rehabilitation, with the option of employment in the ophthalmic industry and research.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

During the course, students undertake clinical undertake clinical placements at a variety of sites, including hospitals, private practices and rehabilitation settings. Students are required to take clinical placements in rural, regional or interstate areas of Australia including Indigenous populations, while there is also opportunity to undertake approved international placements. On-campus learning takes place in the Graduate School of Health's state-of-the-art facilities.

ENTRY PATHWAY

Step 1
Applicants must have completed a UTS recognised bachelor's degree, or an equivalent or higher qualification, or submitted other evidence of general and professional qualifications that demonstrates potential to pursue graduate studies.

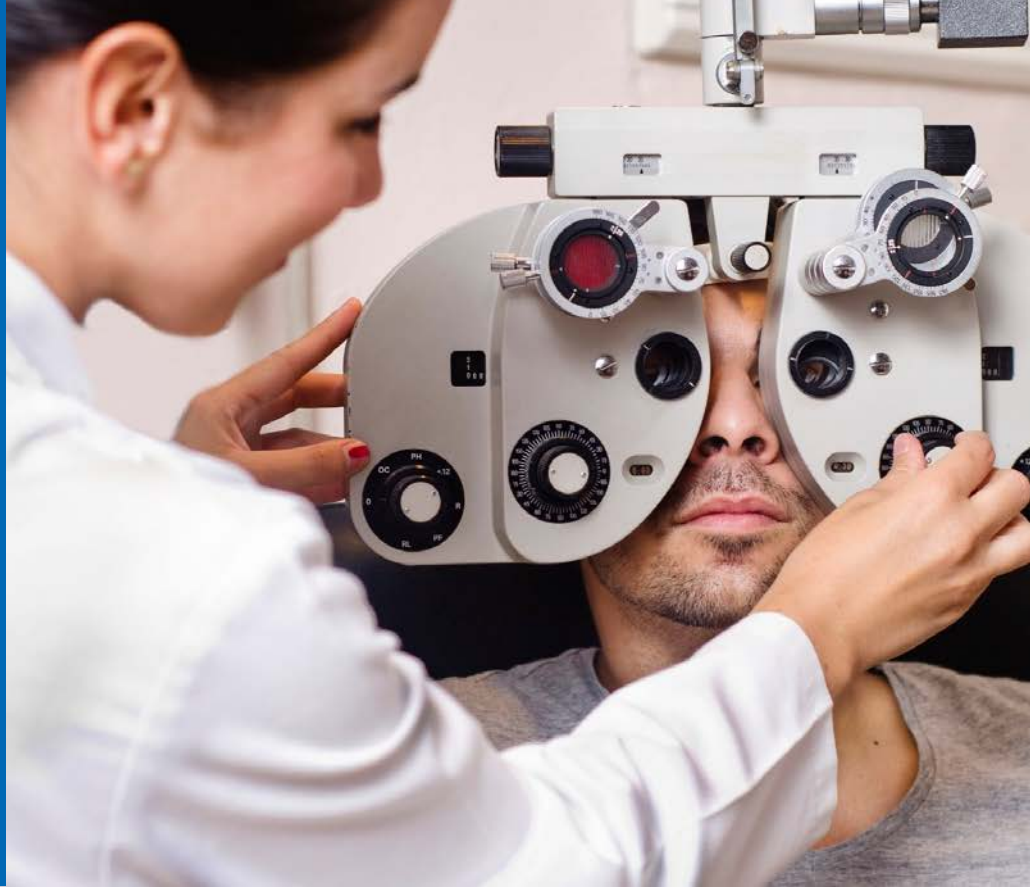
Selected applicants are required to undertake a short interview with a panel. Applicants are assessed in the areas of communication skills, interpersonal skills, interest in eye health, and commitment to orthoptics as a career.

Step 2
Apply for the 2-year Master of Occupational Therapy Practice.

Detailed information on selection criteria and the course,
https://careernews.click/utsorthoptics

OPTOMETRY

Optometrists perform eye examinations and vision tests to determine the presence of visual, ocular, and other abnormalities, ocular diseases and systemic diseases with ocular manifestations, and prescribe lenses, other optical aids, therapy and medication to correct and manage vision problems and eye diseases.



TASKS OF AN OPTOMETRIST

- Examines patients' eyes and sets tests to determine the nature and extent of vision abnormalities.
- Assesses ocular health and visual function by measuring visual acuity and refractive error, as well as testing the function of visual pathways and fields, eye movements, freedom of vision and intraocular pressure, and performs other tests.
- Detects, diagnoses and manages eye disease.
- Refers patients to, and receives referrals from other health providers, and prescribes medications for the treatment of eye disease.
- Diagnoses eye movement disorders and defects of binocular function.
- Prescribes lenses, contact lenses and low vision aids, and checks suitability.
- Prescribes exercises to co-ordinate eye movement and focusing.
- Manages programmes for eye movement disorders, and instructs patients in the use of corrective techniques and eye exercises.
- Advises on visual health matters such as contact lens care, vision care for the elderly, optics, visual ergonomics, and occupational and industrial eye safety.
- Conducts preventative screening programs.
- Conducts rehabilitation programs for the visually impaired.

EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

- Size: This is a very small occupation.
- Location: Optometrists work in many regions of Australia.
- Industries: Most work in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.
- Full-time: Many work full-time (66%, similar to the average of 66%).
- Hours: Full-time workers spend around 42 hours per week at work (compared to the average of 44 hours).
- Age: The average age is 41 years (compared to the average of 40 years).
- Gender: 53% of workers are female (compared to the average of 48%).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Most graduates enter private practice on completion of their course. Some graduates choose to embark on non-clinical careers that make use of their skills as visual scientists. Most non-clinical positions are in universities and research organisations or with companies involved in the manufacture of optical instruments and lenses. As optometry becomes more diversified, there are increasing opportunities for specialisation in areas such as ocular disease, sports vision, children's vision and industrial vision practices.

Information taken from Job Outlook, https://joboutlook.gov.au/

HOW TO BECOME AN OPTOMETRIST

STEP 1: complete an accredited degree.

Complete an accredited course at one of six universities in Australia.

You will need to meet English language requirements, inherent requirements (e.g., communication skills), and academic entry requirements for course admission.

You may also be required to get or prove you have certain immunisations and get a Police Record Check and Working with Children Check.

STEP 2: Registration

Apply to register with the Optometry Australia and participate in Continuing Professional Development.

Excellent websites

Optometry Australia www.optometry.org.au
My Health Career, www.myhealthcareer.com.au

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Geelong Waurn Ponds campus.

Join Australia's first accelerated optometry course

Be professionally qualified in only 3.5-years.

Accredited by The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ).

Gain practical skills working in our state-of-the-art labs

Ranked in the top 200 worldwide for public health

Become eligible for registration with AHPRA

Graduate with a professional qualification in optometry in just three and a half years with Deakin's Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry. Gain the discipline-specific knowledge and skills to be work-ready and eligible to apply for registration as a practising optometrist in Australia and New Zealand.

DOUBLE DEGREE

Bachelor of Vision Science /Master of Optometry
This program has a strong emphasis on understanding the visual health issues that impact regional and rural Australia, particularly those contributing to the health gap between members of these communities and those living in urban centres. You will investigate the structure and function of the visual system while learning about various visual health issues and their wider impact on the local and international community.

You will gain crucial skills in the clinical assessment, treatment and management of eye and vision disorders, as well as forming a strong understanding of the ethical, legal and professional standards of practice.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical placements are an integral part of the program. You will undertake a variety of short-term industry placements and spend the final six months of the course as a 'student resident' in one of a range of clinical optometric and medical settings. These extensive rotations take place in both metropolitan and regional or rural settings and will enable you to consolidate your knowledge and skills in supported environments under the supervision of qualified optometrists.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

N/A

RURAL REMOTE SCHEME

https://careernews.click/ruralremote

INFORMATION

www.deakin.edu.au

Course	Prerequisites	Campus	LA	LSR
Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry	Minimum study score of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English.	Geelong Waurn Ponds	85.9	95.55
Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry (Rural and Remote Stream)	Minimum study score of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English.	Geelong Waurn Ponds	77.15	89.15

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Parkville campus

Accredited by The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ).

As a student of this course, you will become a member of an elite group completing the only Doctor of Optometry in Australia.

Over 1,000 hours of clinical practice.

Engage regularly with world experts focused on specialised eye diseases, including posterior eye disease, glaucoma and anterior eye problems.

Equip yourself with an internationally recognised degree that can take you places, including some of the most sought after local and international health organisations and practices.

Take advantage of potential international placements. Previous students have travelled to a range of international locations, including New York, South Africa, India, Nepal and Vanuatu.

The Doctor of Optometry will give you comprehensive theoretical and clinical skills with the opportunity to undertake clinical training at metropolitan, rural and overseas sites as part of their final year of study. The Doctor of Optometry satisfies the legislative requirements that permit students to register as optometrists in all states and territories of Australia and in New Zealand. The qualification also affords the opportunity, either with or without further study and examination, to register to practice in other countries around the world.

GRADUATE ENTRY

The University offers an accredited 4-year optometry qualification at the graduate level. Applicants will need to complete a bachelor's degree first.

You will study the Doctor of Optometry, which is a masters level professional entry degree that creates a new benchmark in 21st century optometric education. As an internationally recognised qualification, the program is the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Clinical studies commence in first year and gradually increase to full-time in the final year.

GUARANTEED ENTRY

Applicants can secure guaranteed entry into the Doctor of Optometry via acceptance into one of the following programs at The University of Melbourne:

Graduate Degree Package
Bachelor of Science / Doctor of Optometry (ATAR – 99+).

Bachelor of Biomedicine / Doctor of Optometry (ATAR – 99+).

Melbourne Chancellor's Scholars (99.9+)
Bachelor of Science (Chancellor's Scholars)
Bachelor of Biomedicine (Chancellor's Scholars)

For information, visit
https://careernews.click/melbentry

ENTRY PATHWAY

Step 1
An undergraduate degree in any discipline, with studies to have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of Optometry Three subjects at level 2 or level 3 (or equivalent) from one or more relevant biological science disciplines with subjects to have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of Optometry.

Step 2
One of either the GAMSAT (Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test), the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) or the OAT (Optometry Admission Test (USA)), no more than two years before the date of commencement of the Doctor of Optometry.

Step 2
Apply for the 4-year Doctor of Optometry.

Detailed information on selection criteria and the course,
https://careernews.click/melboptometry

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

On graduating from this undergraduate degree you will be eligible for entry into the Master of Optometry at the University of Canberra.

This course is accredited with the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) until April 2023.

Gain the skills needed to detect, diagnose and manage eye diseases and vision disorders and build the foundations to prepare yourself for a rewarding career in the field of optometry.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

Bachelor of Vision Science

Study a Bachelor of Vision Science and begin your journey towards a career in optometry. Our course has been developed with academics, practitioners and representatives from international optometry companies and will be launched in the same year UC opens the doors to our state-of-art UC Public Hospital.

During your degree you will develop foundation knowledge and skills in the biomedical sciences with a specific focus on optical and vision sciences. You will also broaden your skills in business and management related areas should you choose to explore private practice. On graduating from this undergraduate degree you will be eligible for entry into the Master of Optometry.

ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Vision Science is a 3-year program. This course is accredited with the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) until April 2023. Successful completion of both the Bachelor of Vision Science AND the Master of Optometry course at the University of Canberra will allow graduates the chance to apply for registration with the Optometry Board of Australia to practice as an optometrist.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

In your final year you will enrol in the work-integrated unit Integrated Eye Care and Ocular Therapeutics. This unit incorporates a significant component of industry experience and includes clinical and non-clinical placements designed to observe the latest vision science industry projects and optometric practice in progress.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

N/A

GRADUATE ENTRY

Master of Optometry

Please note that to be eligible for the Master of Optometry at the University of Canberra, applicants must complete the 3-year Bachelor of Vision Science at the University of Canberra first. The University won't accept applications from graduates of other universities.

INFORMATION

www.canberra.edu.au

Course	Assumed knowledge	Campus	LSR (2021)
Bachelor of Vision Science	Units 3+4: Mathematical Methods, Physics, Chemistry.	Canberra	85.0

UNIVERSITY OF NSW (UNSW)

Kensington campus.

Upon completion of the Master of Clinical Optometry, you can apply to register with the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), the Optometrists and Dispensing Board (ODOB) New Zealand and other registration boards in Asia where our degree is recognised.

UNSW Optometry and Vision Science is the largest school of optometry in Australia.

We'll provide you with a varied education in vision science through the Centre for Eye Health, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Optometry Vision Institute, and Optometry Giving Sight.

The Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry provides you with the clinical skills and training required to gain registration to practice optometry. It combines the theoretical discipline of vision science with the clinical expertise of primary eye care.

DOUBLE DEGREE

Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Clinical Optometry

This degree consists of a three-year Bachelor of Vision Science and a two-year Master of Clinical Optometry. Through studies in vision science, you'll learn about the optics of lenses and instruments, the anatomy and physiology of the eye, eye diseases and the psychophysics of vision and neuroscience.

Optometry components will give you clinical expertise in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease, the dispensing of spectacles and contact lenses, care of people with special needs (children, low vision), sports vision and vision in the workplace.

You'll also learn about research design, experimental methods and techniques that can be applied in the workplace. You'll gain broad experience in optometric eye care and training on how to work and communicate with patients and other health care practitioners.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

You'll gain practical experience in UNSW's Optometry Clinic. The clinic is open to the public and uses state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment that provides the best in patient eye health management. You'll see patients from a wide variety of ages from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds.

The UNSW Optometry Clinic operates several internal clinics that, in conjunction with external placements, offer students a broad experience in many aspects of optometric and eye care including rural and remote optometry, paediatrics, ocular emergencies, contact lenses and myopia progression control.

ADMISSION PATHWAYS

https://careernews.click/unswoptometry

INFORMATION

www.optometry.unsw.edu.au

Course	Assumed knowledge	Campus	LA (2021)	LSR (2021)
Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Clinical Optometry	English, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Physics	Kensington	91.5	99.2