

ORTHOPTICS

University Courses

APRIL 2024, CAREERS DEPARTMENT



Catholic College
Wodonga *Life in Jesus*



Introduction

This document has been developed to assist domestic Year 12 students and their families in researching orthoptics courses in Australia. Please use entry requirements listed in this document as a guide only and check university websites for up-to-date information.

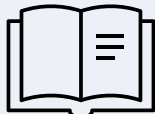
Disclaimer: Information has been taken from university websites. Universities featured in this guide reserve the right to change course information, admissions, and entry requirements at any time and without notice. Note: photos in this document are stock images and aren't representative of students at the universities.

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Indicative ATAR

Please use indicative ATARs 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 degree.

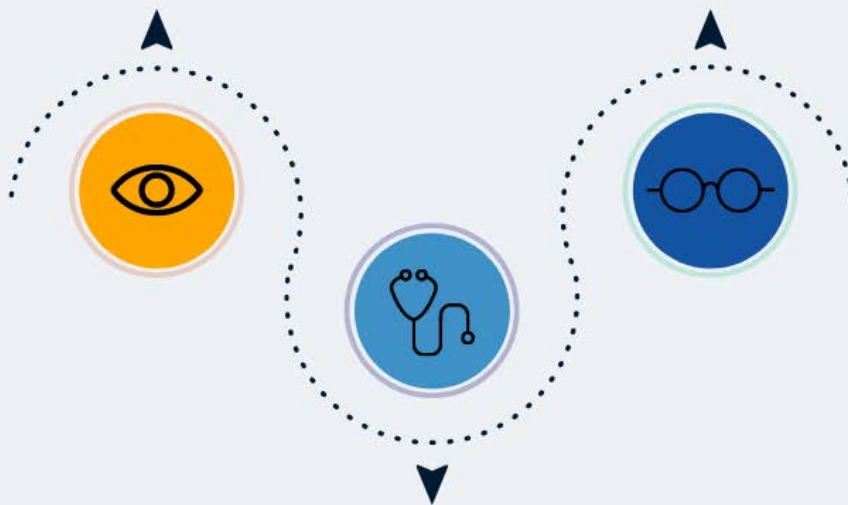
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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.

OPTOMETRIST

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 devices such as lenses/glasses. Can also prescribe therapeutic medications.



OPHTHAMOLOGIST

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.

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



WHAT IS AN ORTHOPTIST?

An orthoptist is a healthcare professional who specialises in diagnosing and treating eye disorders, specifically those related to eye movement and binocular vision. They work with patients of all ages to help improve their vision and eye function through various therapies, exercises, and interventions.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ORTHOPTIST AND AN OPTOMETRIST?

Orthoptists and optometrists are both eye care professionals, but they have different roles and training. Optometrists primarily focus on vision testing and prescribing glasses and contact lenses. Orthoptists, on the other hand, specialise in assessing and treating eye movement disorders and binocular vision problems, such as strabismus and amblyopia. They use a range of techniques, such as vision therapy and eye exercises, to improve eye coordination and function. Orthoptists often work alongside ophthalmologists to provide comprehensive eye care to patients, particularly those with complex eye conditions.

TASKS OF AN ORTHOPTIST

- Conduct vision screenings and eye examinations.
- Assess and treat binocular vision disorders.
- Manage patients with eye movement abnormalities such as strabismus.
- Provide therapy for amblyopia (lazy eye).
- Prescribe and fit corrective lenses and eye patches.
- Utilise specialised equipment for eye testing.
- Develop and monitor eye exercise programs.
- Educate patients on eye health and care.
- Assist ophthalmologists with diagnostic procedures and surgeries.
- Work with patients of all ages, from infants to the elderly.

EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

- This is a small occupation. You may have to move to find a job.
- Research orthoptist jobs on employment websites like [seek.com](https://www.seek.com) to get a sense of the demand for employment and the organisations that are hiring.

HOW TO BECOME AN ORTHOPTIST

STEP 1: complete an accredited degree.

Complete one of two accredited degrees in Australia at one of the following universities:

La Trobe University
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 Orthoptic Board. 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.



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.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours) is currently undergoing accreditation from the Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB).

Graduates of the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours) may be eligible to apply for membership with Orthoptics Australia, the International Orthoptic Association, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours)
Melbourne Burwood campus, 4-years.

Lowest selection rank (ATAR plus adjustment factors) for the 2024 January intake (VTAC applicants) - 78.90.

Prerequisites (Units 3 and 4): A study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; a study score of at least 25 in two of Biology, Chemistry, any Mathematics, Physical Education or Physics.

Note: bridging subjects are available through UniLearn.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply via the [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre](#). Applications will open for Year 12 students on 29 July 2024.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#).

PATHWAYS

The following are examples of pathways into the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours). Note: entry into the course is competitive and there are no guaranteed pathways into the degree.

Via a La Trobe University Diploma course

STEP 1: Diploma course

Complete one of the following 1-year Diplomas at La Trobe University:

Diploma of Health Science (Melbourne).
Diploma of Rural Health (regional campuses).

STEP 2: Orthoptics degree

Apply for the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours).

Via a La Trobe University bachelor degree

STEP 1: Bachelor degree

Complete at least the first year of one of the following 3-year degrees:

Health Sciences (Melbourne, Bendigo, Online).
Biomedical Science (Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo).

STEP 2: Orthoptics degree

Apply for the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours).

BOOST YOUR SELECTION RANK!

If eligible, La Trobe will add adjustment factors to your VCE aggregate to recalculate your ATAR and boost your [selection rank](#) for entry into their courses. For example, your ATAR might be 60 but after adjustment factors are added, your selection rank might be 72.5. Adjustment factors are calculated from initiatives such as the following.

Subject adjustments

Applicants can receive a maximum of 12 adjustments for high achievement in eligible Units 3 and 4 subjects. In the 2024 intake, the eligible subjects were: any Science, Health And Human Development, any Mathematics, Physical Education and LOTE. Adjustments for the 2025 intake will be advertised via [VTAC](#) from 29 July 2024.

Priority Access Program

Adjustment factors are awarded to applicants who fall within any of the following categories: priority school (5), priority campus (5), regional school (5).

Read about the program [here](#). Note – the Priority Access Program is undergoing a review for the 2025 intake.

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

Applicants can receive a maximum of 20 adjustment factors for disadvantage that has impacted their education. Applicants can apply for this scheme via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) between 29 July – 11 October 2024 after creating their VTAC account and adding course preferences.

Elite Athlete ATAR Adjustment

Applicants can receive up to 5 aggregate adjustments. Click [here](#) for information.

Rural and Regional Student Access Scheme (RRSAS)

Students residing in an area classified as RA2 or higher are eligible for the following adjustments:

Regional students applying to courses at the Melbourne (Bundoora) campus will receive 5 aggregate points.

Regional students applying to courses at Bendigo, Albury Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton will receive 10 aggregate points.

Click [here](#) for information.

GUARANTEED ATAR PROGRAM

The following program provides a minimum guaranteed ATAR for the Bachelor of Orthoptics (Honours).

La Trobe Aspire Early Entry Program

Applications for the [Community Contribution](#) stream of the Aspire Early Entry program are open and will close on 6 September 2024. Selection is based on a statement about your community service, volunteering, or leadership. Successful applicants will unlock an 'Aspire ATAR' of 60 for the course.

FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

The following are the first-year subjects for the 2024 intake. They may change for the 2025 intake.

Semester 1

Human Biosciences A
Understanding Health & Wellbeing
Foundations of Professional Communication
Eye Anatomy & Physiology.

Semester 2

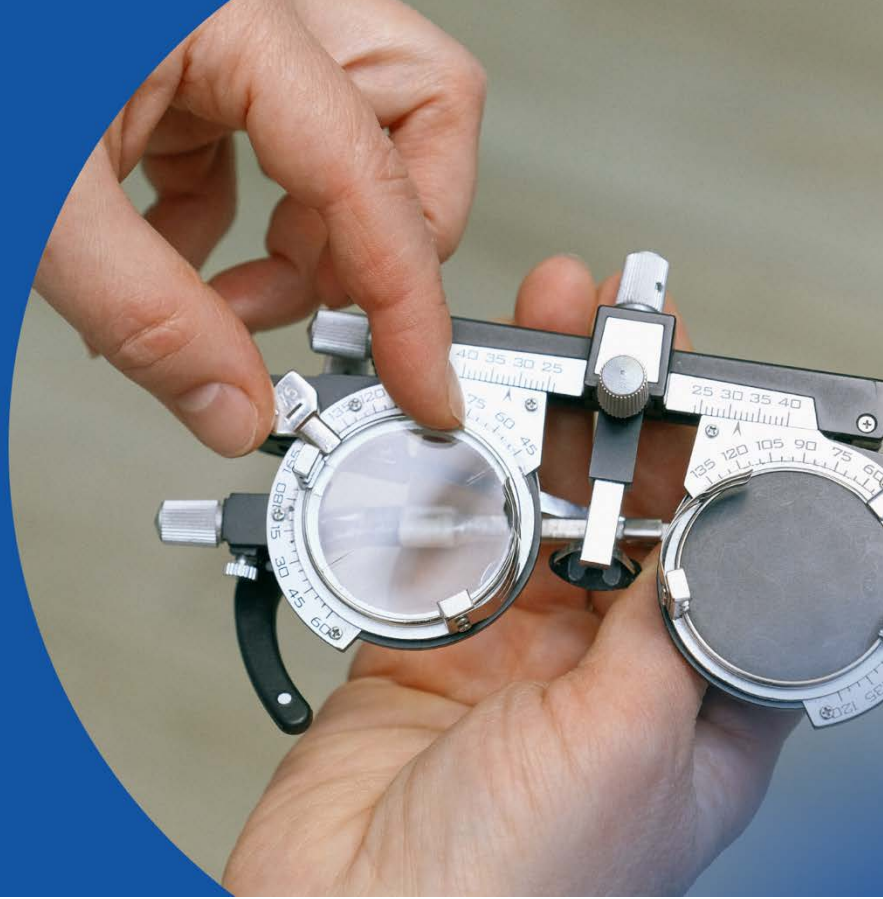
Human Biosciences B
Research and Evidence Practice.
Foundations of Orthoptics Practice
Optics and Refractive State.

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

Passionate about eye health? Inspired by interdisciplinary health care? Looking for a specialisation where professionals are in short supply? The UTS Master of Orthoptics – the only degree of its kind in Australia – just might be for you.

This two-year specialist degree is focused on the diagnosis and management of a range of eye disorders in children and adults. You'll study anatomy and physiology, ophthalmics, diagnostics, therapeutics and orthoptic clinical practice, and your studies will be guided by academics, researchers and practitioners who are internationally acclaimed in the field.

Beyond the classroom, you'll put your knowledge into practice with extensive clinical placements, problem-based learning and realistic simulated environments.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

You'll complete a minimum of 280 hours of clinical placements over the two years of the degree. Placements will be organised for you in hospital, community and private settings, making sure you experience a diverse range of clinical cases and health care environments.

You'll also have the chance to study in a range of locations – UTS has partnered with more than 50 orthoptics placement sites in Sydney, 15 in rural and regional NSW, and three overseas (Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA; Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA; and Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, UK).

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.

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 Orthoptics.

Detailed information on selection criteria and the [course](#).