UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Faculty of Life Sciences

BSc (Hons) Optometry Programme Specification

Academic Year:	**2020/21**
Degree Awarding Body:	**University of Bradford**
Final and interim awards at Framework for Higher Education Awards in England (FHEQ) Level:	**BSc (Honours) Optometry** [FHEQ Level 6] **BSc (Honours) Vision Science** [FHEQ Level 6] **BSc Vision Science** [FHEQ Level 6] **DipHE Vision Science** [FHEQ Level 5] **CertHE Vision Science** [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme accredited by:	**General Optical Council (GOC).** Graduates in Optometry are required by the General Optical Council to achieve a minimum of Second Class Honours / Second Division (2:2) in order to be permitted to enter the pre-registration period in optometry practice.
Programme duration:	**3 years – Full Time**
UCAS code:	**B510**
QAA Subject benchmark statement:	**Optometry (2015)**
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board:	**October 2020**

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Introduction

Optometrists are healthcare professionals whose primary role involves measurement and optical correction of sight defects (refractive errors), and detection and recognition of ocular disease and dysfunction. Optometrists are trained to supply and fit (dispense) optical appliances such as spectacles, contact lenses and low vision aids. Optometrists are also trained to undertake assessment of binocular vision and to diagnose and manage (non-pathological) binocular vision anomalies.

In the United Kingdom, the optometry profession is the largest provider of primary eye care and is responsible for a sizeable proportion of ophthalmic referrals to the secondary care sector. Many of these referrals are of patients with sight-threatening conditions, including cataract, glaucoma, hypertension and diabetes.

The overall aim of the degree programme in Optometry is to educate and train students to carry out all the functions described above, to communicate skilfully and knowledgeably with patients and other professionals, and to uphold high standards of professional integrity and behaviour.

Students of optometry must acquire a detailed knowledge and understanding of the human eye in health and disease, as well as the skills to examine the eye, supply and fit optical appliances, and diagnose and manage ocular conditions. The work calls for a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail, and a measure of manual dexterity; all skills that students will have the opportunity to develop during the programme.

Also necessary is an interest and ability in scientific work, and ability to communicate and empathise with people and to win their confidence. Students must also function as autonomous learners having, or being able and willing to develop, the ability to engage in independent and self-directed study.

The aims and learning outcomes of the programme are informed by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) benchmark statement for Optometry 2015, the UK General Optical Council (GOC) specification for Optometry learning outcomes and clinical competencies 2015, and the University of Bradford Learning and Teaching Strategy.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to provide:

A1 A supportive, structured learning environment that encourages an attitude of continuing professional development and independent lifelong learning.

A2 A diversity of approaches to teaching and learning, incorporating both formative and summative methods of assessment.

A3 Integration of theoretical, practical and clinical aspects of the curriculum.

A4 Incremental development of students' learning and clinical skills development through the stages of the programme.

The programme is intended to encourage the development of:

A5 A systematic understanding of the basic and clinical sciences relevant to the practice of optometry.

A6 A professional attitude towards patients and colleagues.

A7 A range of transferable (key) skills.

A8 Interpersonal and communication skills, including effective use of relevant information technologies.

A9 Awareness of the legal, ethical and commercial context of optometric practice.

A10 Ability to think critically and proficiency in clinical reasoning.

A11 Insight into research and scientific method.

A12 Clinical competencies required for entry to the pre-registration period in optometry practice.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education at FHEQ level 4, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

PLO 1 The principles behind techniques used for the investigation of the visual function of the human eye.

PLO 2 The methods available for the correction of ametropia.

PLO 3 The fundamental techniques behind the assessment of ocular health.

PLO 4 The ethical principles underlying the practice of optometry and the role of optometry in a health care system.

PLO 5 The skills required to obtain and communicate relevant information from and to patients.

PLO 6 The principles underlying evidence-based practice.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education at FHEQ level 5, students will be able to:

PLO 7 Demonstrate an understanding and application of the principles behind techniques used for the investigation of the visual function of the human eye.

PLO 8 Demonstrate an understanding and application of the methods available for the correction of ametropia.

PLO 9 Apply a range of techniques to assess ocular and systemic health and recognise abnormal findings.

PLO 10 Apply ethical principles to the examination of patients.

PLO 11 Employ a range of skills to communicate effectively with patients and other health care professionals.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor in Vision Science at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

PLO 12 Detect and correct or relieve defects of visual function.

PLO 13 Detect ocular disease or the ocular side effects of systemic disease.

PLO 14 Produce and agree an appropriate management plan with a patient including referral to another health professional where appropriate.

PLO 15 Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental legal principles underlying optometry practice

PLO 16 Critically appraise optometric/vision science research

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor in Optometry at FHEQ level 6, students will be able to:

PLO 17 Complete the requirements for a professional Certificate of Clinical Competence, which includes an appropriate number of patient episodes and demonstration of the full range of clinical competencies as defined by the General Optical Council.

Curriculum

All modules are core modules – there are no options.
All modules are studied across Semesters 1 and 2 (the Academic Year - ACYR).

Stage 1

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Credits	Module Code
4	Refraction & Refractive Error	20	OPT4002-B
4	Pure & Visual Optics	20	OPT4003-B
4	Physiology of Vision & Perception	20	OPT4004-B
4	Evidence-based Practice and Professionalism	20	OPT4007-B
4	Ocular Health Assessment 1	40	OPT4012-D

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Stage 2

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Credits	Module Code
5	Ophthalmic Lenses & Dispensing	20	OPT5002-B
5	Clinical Optometry & Communication Skills	20	OPT5004-B
5	General and Ocular Pharmacology	20	OPT5006-B
5	The Assessment and Management of Binocular Vision	20	OPT5008-B
5	Ocular Health Assessment 2	20	OPT5014-B
5	Contact Lens Practice	20	OPT5011-B

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Stage 3

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Credits	Module Code
6	Clinical Competence	0	OPT6012-Z
6	Evidence-based Optometry 2	20	OPT6013-B
6	Management of Ocular Disease	40	OPT6019-D
6	Clinical Practice and Professional Studies	40	OPT6017-D
6	Clinical Case Studies	20	OPT6014-B

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Ordinary Degree of Bachelor if they have successfully completed 120 credits in both Level 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6 and achieved learning outcomes PLO1-13 & PLO16.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor in Vision Science if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor in Optometry if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits, achieved the award learning outcomes and satisfied the General Optical Council requirements for Clinical Competence.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The Optometry programme articulates the Learning and Teaching Strategy of the University of Bradford. A wide variety of teaching methods appropriate to the learning outcomes are employed throughout the programme. They focus progressively on student-centred approaches to learning, such that students are expected to take increasing responsibility for their learning as they progress through the programme, in order to encourage development of the attributes needed for lifelong learning and continued professional development. Key skills are embedded throughout the curriculum.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment provides an evaluation of the students' competence in meeting specified objectives, but it is also an essential part of the teaching and learning process. The Optometry programme aims to select from a range of assessment methods for each module. All modules include both formative and summative assessments.

Formative assessment has a developmental purpose and is designed to help students learn more effectively by giving them feedback on their performance and on how it can be improved and/or maintained. Examples of formative assessments include in-lecture polling of answers to questions with immediate feedback, specific tests to be completed prior to teaching sessions where answers are discussed or designated assessments completed online with feedback provided electronically.

Reflective practice by students sometimes contributes to formative assessment but is always used to allow students to identify areas of success and also areas requiring further work. Most practical sessions incorporate opportunities for reflective practice.

Summative assessment is used to indicate the extent of a student's success in meeting the assessment criteria used to gauge the intended learning outcomes of a module or programme. Summative assessment for each module includes written exams whilst many modules will require students to demonstrate practical or clinical ability or competence.

In addition, some of the assessments in later stages of the programme, for example in clinical practice, clinical case studies and the research element, are synoptic in nature. Synoptic assessments are those that encourage students to combine elements of their learning from different parts of a programme and to show their accumulated knowledge and understanding of a topic or subject area. A synoptic assessment normally enables students to show their ability to integrate and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding with breadth and depth in the subject. It can help to test a student's capability of applying the knowledge and understanding gained in one part of a programme to increase their understanding in other parts of the programme, or across the programme as a whole.

Properly selected assessment tasks signal the importance of particular content, concepts and skills, influence approaches to study and help students to allocate their time appropriately. Constructive and timely feedback on assessment helps students to gain a sense of achievement and progress, an appreciation of the performance and standards expected in a particular discipline or professional area, and to learn from their endeavours.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations. However, there are three exceptions to these regulations:

- There is no compensation. This means that all modules must be passed at 40% or higher in order to progress between stages and be eligible for a final award of Bachelor of Science with Honours.
- There is no referral. This means that all modules must be passed at each stage of study prior to starting the next stage of study.
- For module OPT6017-D (Clinical Practice and Professional Studies), students must pass specified individual components at 40% as outlined in the module descriptor.

Admission Requirements

A maximum of 110 students are admitted to the Optometry programme each year. Offers of places are made following detailed consideration of individual applications.

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to benefit from your studies and of your ability to succeed in the optometry degree and profession.

GCSE passes must include English Language and Mathematics at grade 4 (grade C) or above. Students whose first language is not English must have a minimum IELTS score of level 6.5, with no sub-test less than 5.0 (5.5 in the case of overseas applicants needing a visa), or the equivalent score(s) in an alternative accepted language test.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through UCAS scheme would be 136 UCAS points (AAB) (old tariff: 340 points). The subjects offered at this standard must include at least two, and preferably three, sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. If only two sciences are offered, the third subject should preferably be either science-related; for example, psychology, geography, computing & information technology, or should benefit the student in supporting the development of essential key skills; for example, English language.

The website https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/optometry-bsc/ shows the applicable UCAS tariff. This may vary; please note that this link provides admission information relevant to the current recruitment cycle and may now be different to when this document was originally published.

All students of Optometry in the UK are required to register with the General Optical Council (GOC) from the date on which they enrol on the Optometry programme, and to maintain this registration thereafter. The GOC also requires student registrants to adhere to its Code of Conduct and the GOC may take disciplinary action against any student found to be in breach of this Code.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. Applications are welcome from mature

students (those over 21 years of age on entry) and candidates with non-standard qualifications.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

Version	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
2	Additional exception from regs added (no 3)	April 2020
3	Specification reformatted and made accessible	October 2020