

Programme Specification
Programme title: Master of Optometry

Academic Year:	2024/25
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	College of Optometrists
Final and interim award(s):	MOptom (Honours) Master of Optometry [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] BSc (Honours) Clinical Vision Science [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 6] Diploma of Higher Education in Clinical Vision Science [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 5] Certificate of Higher Education in Clinical Vision Science [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 4]
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	Subject to accreditation by the General Optical Council
Programme duration:	4 years
UCAS code:	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Optometry, 2019
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	

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

Optometry is a healthcare profession concerned with the examination, diagnosis and treatment of the human eye and visual system. In our ageing population, the demand for eye care is expected to increase, and optometrists are ideally placed to help meet this demand in both the NHS and private practice.

Completion of our integrated 4-year Master of Optometry (MOptom) programme enables you to proceed directly to registration with the General Optical Council (GOC) as a fully-qualified optometrist. Our programme has been completely redesigned for 2024, taking into account views of employers, past students and internal and external teaching staff to fully update our course content and structure to reflect modern optometric practice. Our

new programme has an enhanced clinical focus throughout, concentrating on developing the skills, knowledge and behaviours that will best prepare you for modern-day clinical practice and the changes to the profession that lie ahead.

Clinical, practical and theoretical topics are taught synergistically throughout the course, enabling you to develop deep understanding of the topics and skills that will enhance your clinical practice. Informed by student feedback, the course is structured so that the challenge builds organically. In stage 1 we will teach you the skills required for the role of optical assistant. These skills will aid you in securing part-time paid employment in an optical practice, should you wish to do so, and enable you to get the most out of your time in practice if you do. The vast majority of theoretical concepts are introduced by the end of stage 2, whilst stage 3 concentrates on honing your clinical skills and knowledge ready to enter supervised clinical practice in stage 4.

Case-based learning is embedded throughout all stages of the programme, enabling you to develop skills in clinical appraisal and decision making using simulated clinical cases. These cases are designed to reflect the diversity of patients you will encounter in the workplace and build in complexity as your knowledge broadens, simulating gradually more difficult scenarios encountered in clinical practice. Case-based learning is delivered in a consistent, online format throughout the course, giving you flexibility to study in your own time and at your own pace. In stage 4, when you are on clinical placement, university-delivered learning is also in the same, familiar case-based learning format. This means that wherever your clinical placement, you will be able to access our high-quality learning and support without the need for frequent trips to campus. As case-based learning is conducted in groups, it also helps to foster a strong learning community, and to sustain this into your placement period.

Case-based learning is just one way in which you will work on “putting it all together”. Another is through the extensive programme of clinical labs. Some labs focus on the development of specific clinical skills, while additional weekly labs in stages 1 and 2 give you chance to combine these skills, building towards the type of full eye examination performed in clinical practice. In stage 3, you will hone these skills in the university’s on-site eye clinic, working to deliver clinical services to real patients.

In stage 4 you will embark on an extended, clinical placement in optometric practice, working under the supervision of an experienced optometrist with support from the university and the College of Optometrists. Placements run in partnership with the College of Optometrists through their Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) scheme and last a minimum of 44 weeks beginning around July/August after stage 3 assessments. During your placement you will obtain the extensive patient-facing clinical experience required to satisfy the requirements of GOC registration, and gain the confidence to practise independently upon completion of the programme.

Whilst on placement, you will undertake a structured programme of development and assessment run by the College of Optometrists. Alongside this, you will continue with online case-based learning provided by the university. Case-based learning can be done in your own time, fitting flexibly around your placement schedule and other commitments. You will return to the university for assessments midway through, and at the end of the placement. The CLiP placement is split into two components either side of the midway point. Students are required to complete the first component (CLiP 1), including passing the associated assessments, before embarking on CLiP 2.

Throughout the programme, and beyond, students must maintain registration with the General Optical Council, and thus adhere to their standards of practice.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

On our MOptom programme you will be taught at one of the UK's longest-established optometry schools, by academics and tutors who are experts in their fields. As well as our own staff, external experts from other professions teach on their areas of special interest; for example, ophthalmologists, orthoptists, and dispensing opticians are all involved in teaching aspects of the programme.

Our world-class teaching facilities within the University's Digital Health Enterprise Zone have recently been refurbished with over £1.2 million of new state-of-the-art clinical teaching and digital imaging equipment and include an integrated eye clinic where you will spend significant time in stage 3. Students also have access to our unique directed learning suites: fully equipped clinical practice facilities with audio-visual recording for honing and demonstrating your clinical skills outside of scheduled lab teaching times.

A wide range of teaching and assessment methods are used throughout the course, catering for all learning styles. These include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals, pre-clinical labs, case-based learning, directed study and a variety of primary care and speciality clinics examining real patients.

Assessments include written examinations, presentations, practical and clinical performance assessments, reflections and clinical logbooks. All modules include formative (mock) as well as summative (final) assessments, giving students the opportunity to obtain feedback on their performance and how it can be improved and/or maintained.

You will be supported throughout your study by extensive engagement with experienced optometry staff, including an assigned personal academic tutor. Additional study support is available through a dedicated student attainment team, subject librarian, and ongoing engagement with the College of Optometrists throughout the course. The university offers extensive support services for students requiring further support or adjustments to be made. Equality, diversity and inclusion is a key driver of all aspects of life at the university, and is embedded throughout our curriculum and daily life in the School of Optometry & Vision Science. Students are brought into contact with diversity at all stages of the course through case-based learning, peer learning and clinical work.

Upon graduation, you will be a highly skilled, patient-focused optometrist ready for modern optometric practice. You will be eligible to register with the GOC and to practise independently as an optometrist in the UK. Additionally, you will be well-equipped for lifelong learning and ongoing professional development throughout your career.

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.
- A5 The range of clinical experience required for entry to the General Optical Council register as an optometrist.

The programme is intended to encourage the development of:

- A6 A systematic understanding of the basic and clinical sciences relevant to the practice of optometry.
- A7 A professional attitude towards patients and colleagues.
- A8 A range of transferable skills.
- A9 Interpersonal and communication skills.
- A10 Familiarity with the legal, ethical and commercial context of optometric practice.
- A11 Ability to think critically and proficiency in clinical reasoning.
- A12 Insight into research and scientific methods.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

- LO1 Identify the professional skills required to obtain and communicate relevant information from and to patients
- LO2 Define, recognise and explain the different types of ametropia and their causes, and outline the clinical methods available for assessment and correction of ametropia
- LO3 Describe and perform fundamental techniques for assessment of ocular health, analyse the results and recognise key signs of abnormality
- LO4 Recognise and use professional behaviour and refer to and illustrate the laws and ethical principles relevant to optometric practice

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

- LO5 Explain and apply the key principles underlying patient care in optometry, demonstrate problem-solving and clinical skills relevant to the practice of optometry, and begin to apply knowledge of professional, ethical, legal and regulatory principles to patient care
- LO6 Employ a range of skills to communicate effectively and professionally with patients and other health care professionals

LO7 Demonstrate and use appropriate technical skills to analyse patients' visual function and select and apply appropriate methods to correct or relieve defects

LO8 Use appropriate clinical methods to detect, identify and recognise the signs of a range of ocular diseases and ocular effects of systemic diseases

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

LO9 Individually and collaboratively, appraise, evaluate and research clinical scenarios to produce and communicate safe and effective person-centred management plans

LO10 Show how to communicate effectively and professionally with a diverse range of patients and other healthcare professionals

LO11 Show use of appropriate methods to analyse patients' visual function and to detect and evaluate ocular disease and ocular effects of systemic disease

LO12 Individually and collaboratively apply professional and ethical principles, and knowledge of healthcare service organisation and inter-professional working to the examination and management of patients

LO13 Research, review and critically analyse science and health-related literature and experimental data using independent learning skills and orally present findings

Additionally, to be eligible for the degree of Master of Optometry with Honours at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO14 Provide safe and effective person-centred care in clinical practice

LO15 Communicate effectively, professionally and independently with a diverse range of patients and other healthcare professionals

LO16 Use appropriate methods to analyse patients' visual function and devise and communicate appropriate management plans to correct or relieve defects

LO17 Use appropriate methods to detect ocular disease and ocular effects of systemic disease, and devise and communicate appropriate management plans to address signs of disease

LO18 Act professionally, ethically and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations in clinical practice

LO19 Recognise and mitigate personal, clinical and professional risks to patients, themselves and others

LO20 Actively participate in clinical services and demonstrate knowledge of service management and collaborative working with other healthcare professionals

LO21 Critically evaluate and reflect upon the knowledge, skills and practice of themselves and others to identify and meet ongoing learning and development needs for improvement of patient care

LO22 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of current, future and emerging knowledge and technologies to optometry, and of the underlying principles relating to patient, public and digital health.

Curriculum

Stage 1

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
4	Ocular Health and Disease 1	Core	40	ACYR	OPT4017-D
4	Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 1	Core	50	ACYR	OPT4018-V
4	Optometric Practice 1	Core	30	ACYR	OPT4019-C

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

[THIS AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL]

Stage 2

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
5	Ocular Health and Disease 2	Core	40	ACYR	OPT5020-D
5	Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 2	Core	50	ACYR	OPT5021-V
5	Optometric Practice 2	Core	30	ACYR	OPT5022-C

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

[THIS AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL]

Stage 3

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
6	Optometric Practice 3	Core	120	ACYR	OPT6023-G

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

[THIS AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL]

Stage 4A

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Optometric Practice 4 (With Clinical Placement)	Core	60	NSYR Sem 2	OPT7011-E

On successful completion of the CLiP component of Optometric Practice 4, and its associated assessments, students may proceed to Stage 4B.

Stage 4B

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/Option	Credits	Study Period	Module Code
7	Optometric Practice 5 (With Clinical Placement)	Core	60	NSYR Sem 2	OPT7012-E

In line with the GOC's requirements to limit the number of reassessments students will be permitted a maximum of two attempts at the CLiP components of Optometric Practice 4 and Optometric Practice 5.

Students will be eligible for the award of Master of Optometry with Honours if they have successfully completed at least 480 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

[THIS AWARD CONFERS ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL AS AN OPTOMETRIST]

Placement

Stage 4 of this programme requires students to undertake a 44-week placement in clinical optometric practice. Placements are organised and administered by the College of Optometrists, under a partnership agreement with the University of Bradford.

Placements are applied for competitively through a process run by the College of Optometrists. Students are responsible for applying for and securing their placement with the support of the university's Career and Employability Service and the College of Optometrists. You will be supported in building your CV and application skills during the earlier stages of the programme. As placements in the CLiP scheme are applied for in national competition with students from most other optometry schools in the UK, students should note that availability cannot be guaranteed, and that relocation away from Bradford for the duration of the placement may be necessary. Students earn a salary

whilst on placement, but must meet the costs of living, including relocation if necessary, whilst on placement, themselves.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Key skills are embedded throughout the curriculum. 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.

Assessment Strategy

The Optometry programme includes a range of assessment methods.. All modules include both formative (mock) and summative (final) assessments.

Formative assessment helps students learn more effectively by providing feedback on performance and 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 includes written exams and demonstration of practical or clinical ability or competence. Some of the assessments in the programme, for example in the Optometric Practice 1 - 5 modules, 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.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the following link:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations>

However, there is exceptional variation to these regulations as detailed below:

- Compensation is not permitted. Students must pass all modules with a mark of 40% or above. (Standard university regulations on compensation apply to fall-back awards of Clinical Vision Science.)
- Referral is not permitted. Students must pass all modules before progressing to the next stage of the programme.
- Students must pass the CLiP (Clinical Learning in Practice) assessments delivered by the College of Optometrists in Optometric Practice 4 before progressing to Optometric Practice 5. Students who pass the CLiP assessments but fail Optometric Practice 4 for other reasons may progress onto Optometric Practice 5, retaking Optometric Practice 4 assessments at the next opportunity as necessary.

- Students must pass specified individual components within modules at the pass-mark stated in the module descriptor.
- There is no supplementary assessment for the clinical logbook assessment in Optometric Practice 3. Students who fail this assessment must repeat the module with attendance.
- There is no supplementary assessment for the CLiP (Clinical Learning in Practice) components of Optometric Practice 4 or Optometric Practice 5. Students who fail either of these components must repeat the respective module with attendance at the next available opportunity. Students are entitled to a maximum of two attempts at the CLiP components of Optometric Practice 4 and Optometric Practice 5. (A third attempt at the University-delivered assessments is offered (without attendance) for students who have passed the CLiP components.)
- The MOptom award average is calculated based on the final overall weighted average marks obtained from the best 100 credits in each of Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4, applying a 10% weighting for Stage 1, a 20% weighting for Stage 2, a 30% weighting for Stage 3 and a 40% weighting for Stage 4. (Awards and classification boundaries will be determined in line with standard regulations.)
- Students who attend an assessment event are deemed to be fit and well enough to sit the assessment. Unless there is evidence of the student becoming unwell during an assessment then extenuating circumstances relating to that assessment will not normally be accepted after the assessment has occurred.

Admission Requirements

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. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The **minimum** entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

English, Mathematics and Science Requirements

Applicants need 5 GCSEs at grade 4/C or above, including English Language, Mathematics, and two Sciences (or Double Award) of Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. We regret that we cannot admit UK students with equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications, such as Key Skills, to the Optometry programme. However, applicants seeking entry with RQF Level 3 Access to HE Diplomas will only need one GCSE Science at grade 4/C.

Students whose first language is not English must have a minimum IELTS score of level 7.0, with no sub-test less than 6.5, or the equivalent score(s) in an alternative accepted language test. For details of these and of equivalent qualifications from your country, visit:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>

Typical Applicant Profiles

Applicants seeking entry through the UCAS scheme should expect to need 136 points from the current tariff in addition to the above requirements.

- **A-Levels:** AAB including at least 2 sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics) and preferably a 3rd science, a related subject (such as Psychology, Geography,

Computing) or a key supporting subject (such as English Language). The practical element in Science A-Levels must be passed.

- **Access to HE:** D39M6 or other equivalent tariff score in Science, Medicine, Science and Engineering, Dentistry, Pharmacy or Medical Sciences.

- **Other qualifications:** As listed on the course website:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/master-of-optometry/>

or on application.

The Bradford Foundation Year certificate is not accepted for entry to this programme. International applicants completing the Year Zero route for Optometry will need to achieve 70% overall, 70% in both optional modules and at least 50% in English Language for Specific Academic Purposes.

Professional Requirements

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 cost for this is £30 per year (2023/4 cost). 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. For more information about registration and what it means, visit the GOC website:

<https://optical.org/en/publications/declarations-guidance-for-students/>

Whilst not mandatory, a period of paid employment in an optical practice (supported by an employer reference) will strongly support an application.

Access and Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, and/or significant personal/professional experience.

Applications are particularly welcomed from adult learners (those aged 21+ at the start of the programme), armed forces families, carers and care leavers, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller families. Offers can be made at 128 UCAS points for eligible students. To find out more about the University of Bradford Progression Scheme, visit the webpage:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/undergraduate/applicants/progression-scheme/>

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply at:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before/>

Recognition of Prior Learning and Admission with Advanced Standing for this programme are only permitted in exceptional circumstances, and subject to the approval of the General Optical Council.

Please note that the UCAS tariff and numbers admissible to the programme may vary; this document provides admission information relevant to the contemporary recruitment cycle and requirements may now be different. The course website lists the most current admissions requirements:

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1	Annual update for 2024 academic year	April 2024