



School of Optometry and Vision Science

Postgraduate Coursework Degrees and Research Degrees 2013

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Science

School of Optometry and Vision Science

Optometry is a primary health care profession dedicated to the improvement and preservation of eyesight. The coursework postgraduate programs offer a comprehensive range of courses intended to appeal to new and established practitioners. The School particularly aims to provide further education for optometrists in country areas and states that are physically remote from an optometry school with some courses being offered in a multimodal format. The Master of Community Eye Health and Graduate Diploma in Community Eye Health are offered in collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India. The aim of the Community Eye Health program is to produce eye health professionals who are innovative leaders with an understanding of the principles of community eye health care and their applications. The School offers a research programme in Optometry and also in Vision Science, encompassing a diverse range of topics including basic, applied and clinical research. The School's multidisciplinary approach to research is one of its key strengths. Students with a background in optometry can study for an MSc or PhD alongside graduates from a variety of disciplines including ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, bio-engineering, and pharmacology.

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Graduate Certificate in Optometry

Program Code: 7435
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 24
Length of study: 6 months full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 3 year Bachelor degree in optometry.

Advanced training in the clinical and theoretical aspects of optometry, with opportunity to specialise in fields such as contact lenses, occupational optometry and behavioural optometry. The Certificate can be taken as a progressive step towards a higher degree.

Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

Program Code: 7436
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 24
Length of study: 1 year part-time
Entry requirement: A Bachelor of Optometry degree from UNSW or as approved by the Postgraduate Coursework Committee of the Faculty of Science. Only open to domestic candidates.

Offers graduates with at least a three-year Optometry degree, specialised training in ocular therapeutics, such that suitably qualified and registered optometrists in NSW will be able to prescribe certain ocular therapeutic agents for the benefit of their patients. The program has been developed to address the required Competency Standards for Ocular Therapeutics as developed by the Board of Optometrical Registration of NSW in conjunction with the University of New South Wales and recognised by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand.

Graduate Diploma in Optometry

Program Code: 5665
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 36
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 3 year Bachelor degree in optometry.

Advanced training in the clinical and theoretical aspects of optometry, with opportunity to specialise in fields such as contact lenses, occupational optometry and behavioural optometry. The Diploma can be taken as a progressive step towards the Master of Optometry and use all 36 units of credit towards the degree.

Graduate Diploma in Optometry (by Research)

Program Code: 5523
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 48
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 3 year Bachelor degree in optometry.

Advanced training and experience in scientific research and specialised training in aspects of optometry. 48 units of credit (UOC) are gained by completion of a research project and 24 UOC by coursework. It is expected that this Diploma will allow entry to a higher research degree program for students without an Honours degree.

Master of Optometry

Program Code: 8760
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 48
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 4 year Bachelor degree in optometry.

Advanced training in the clinical and theoretical aspects of optometry, with opportunities for specialisation in areas such as contact lenses, occupational optometry and behavioural optometry.

Graduate Diploma in Community Eye Health

Program Code: 5666
Commencement: November
Units of credit: 36
Length of study: 0.8 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: At least 3 years relevant work experience in the area of community eye health.

Note: This program is only delivered in India but is open to all eligible students.

Offers specialised training in a range of areas related to community eye health, including: needs assessment, health economics, epidemiology, advocacy, and the 'Vision 2020: The Right to Sight' global initiative. The program is conducted mainly at the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care (ICARE), part of the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad, India. The program aims to produce eye health professionals who are innovative leaders with an understanding of the principles of community eye health and their applications. Articulation to the Master of Community Eye Health is possible for those eligible.

Master of Community Eye Health

Program Code: 8761
Commencement: November
Units of credit: 48
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised Bachelors degree and at least 3 years relevant work experience in the area of community eye health.

Note: This program is only delivered in India but is open to all eligible students.

Offers specialised training in a range of areas related to community eye health, including: needs assessment, health economics, epidemiology, advocacy, and the 'Vision 2020: The Right to Sight' global initiative. The program is conducted mainly at the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye Care (ICARE), part of the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad, India. The program aims to produce eye health professionals who are innovative leaders with an understanding of the principles of community eye health and their applications. The required research project can be conducted at ICARE, or UNSW, or at the candidates home location (if approved).

Research Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy

Program Code: 1860 (Optometry),
1487 (Vision Science)
Length of study: 3 to 4 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis. Minimum duration for completion is 3 years.

A PhD requires the completion of a piece of research that demonstrates a significant and original contribution to knowledge in the field of study. Candidates acquire advanced specialist research training under academic supervision. The candidates thesis summarises the research and provides evidence for independent thought and critical analysis, effective communication and expert knowledge of the discipline in the international context.

Master of Science (by Research)

Program Code: 2900 (Optometry)
2487 (Vision Science)
Length of study: 1.5 to 2 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis. Minimum duration for completion is 1.5 years.

This program requires the completion of an original piece of research, more limited in scope and nature than PhD. Candidates develop mastery of appropriate methodology and learn the fundamentals of research. Findings are presented in a thesis that places the work in the wider context of their discipline.

Master of Philosophy

Program Code: 2475 (Vision Science)
Length of study: 1.5 to 2 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis. Minimum duration for completion is 1.5 years.

Students complete a component of coursework including research methodology and a thesis comprising an original piece of research work, of a limited scope but at least 66% of the degree.