

Optometry and Vision Science

Postgraduate Coursework Degrees and Research Degrees

Never Stand Still

Science

Optometry and Vision Science

Are you interested in scientific discovery and translating your research into improvement of eye care and preservation of vision?

The School of Optometry and Vision Science offers the most comprehensive postgraduate degrees in Australia. World class research facilities, and our internationally recognised staff will give you the opportunity to learn from recognised leaders and give you the highest level of training.

Students are well supported with expert mentorship, and are given skills training, and conference and networking opportunities. Our students are internationally recognised and our alumni can be found worldwide in clinical practice, teaching, research and industry.

Optometry is a primary health care profession dedicated to the improvement and preservation of eyesight. Coursework postgraduate programs at the School offer a comprehensive range of courses intended to appeal to new and established practitioners. The School offers a selection of research degrees in Optometry and also in Vision Science. Students can choose from a diverse range of pure and applied research areas; from clinical optometry to public health and basic research. Students with a background in optometry can study for a PhD, MSc or DOptom(Res) alongside graduates from a variety of disciplines including ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, biomedical engineering, physics, orthoptics and pharmacology.

Two of our research students



If you would like to undertake something significant, push yourself to new heights, work through a difficult yet highly rewarding goal, discover or learn something new, improve your life and the lives of others, make yourself a better consultant to your patients and if this idea of clinical research fits you, then the clinical doctorate may just be your program; research for the clinician.

Allan Ared is a private practice optometrist undertaking a Professional Doctorate. His research investigates corneal responses to eye rubbing in keratoconus



You may be wondering why you should do a research degree, I know I did! I discovered that the opportunity to do research is a precious and unique privilege. For a brief moment in time, you are the only human to understand that specific thread of information in that specific fabric of knowledge. SOVS offers all the support to achieve this. My recommendation is to just do it, no matter what your age!

Pat Arthur is an Optometrist who graduated from UNSW in the 80s. She was a solo private practice owner for several decades before undertaking a Bachelor of Music degree and then PhD in Vision Science. Her special interest is the visual processing skills of music sight reading experts.

Contacts

Coursework

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Research

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Coursework Degrees

Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

Program Code:	7436	Offers graduates with at least a three-year Optometry degree, specialised training in ocular therapeutics, such that suitably qualified and registered optometrists in Australia 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.
Commencement:	Semester 1	
Units of credit:	24	
Length of study:	1 year part-time	
Entry requirement:	Australian registered Optometrists with at least a three-year full-time AQF level 7 Bachelor degree in Optometry. Only open to domestic candidates.	

Master of Optometry

Program Code:	8073	Advanced training in the clinical and theoretical aspects of optometry, with opportunities for specialisation in areas such as advanced contact lens fitting, behavioural optometry, business skills, evidence-based practice, public and community health, ocular therapy and advanced ocular disease. Applicants with the equivalent of an AQF level 8 Bachelor Honours degree in Optometry may be awarded advanced standing for a maximum of 24 UOC and may complete the degree within one year of full time study (48 UOC). These students will still be required to complete the core course requirements for the program but will take fewer elective courses. For exceptional students, this program can be a pathway into the research degrees.
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.	

Research Degrees

Doctor of Clinical Research in Optometry

Program Code:	1747	The Doctor of Clinical Research in Optometry is a flexible program intended to suit the needs of clinicians interested in conducting research within their clinical practice. Similar to the PhD, the degree consists of independent research guided by an academic supervisor and successful completion requires presentation of a thesis which constitutes an original and significant contribution to knowledge. The program develops the necessary rigorous research and analytical skills. In-depth advanced study is achieved by combining a doctoral thesis with a specialised coursework component, and builds upon the foundational knowledge gained through professional development and practice.
Units of credit:	48 for the course work component. Previous postgraduate coursework programs can be accredited towards this degree.	
Length of study:	3 to 4 years of advanced study full-time (or part-time equivalent), leading to the submission of a thesis. This degree is structured as one-third coursework (equivalent to 1 year) and two-thirds research (2-3 years).	
Entry requirement:	A minimum 1 year post-qualifying professional experience in clinical practice in addition to a first or upper-second class Honours degree in optometry from UNSW, or an equivalent qualification in a cognate discipline from another university or tertiary institution at a level acceptable to the Faculty of Science Research Training Committee.	

Doctor of Philosophy

Program Code:	1860 (Optometry), 1487 (Vision Science)	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 an international context. Candidates can have a background in a variety of disciplines, including (but not limited to) optometry, ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, bio-engineering, pharmacology.
Length of study:	3 to 4 years of advanced study full-time (or part-time equivalent), leading to the submission of a thesis. Minimum duration is 3 years.	
Entry requirement:	A first or upper-second class Honours degree in the relevant discipline from UNSW, or an equivalent qualification from another university or tertiary institution at a level acceptable to the Faculty of Science Research Training Committee (RTC). In exceptional cases, an applicant who the RTC considers holds equivalent academic and professional qualifications may be permitted to enrol.	

Master of Science (Research)

Program Code:	2900 (Optometry) 2487 (Vision Science)	A Master of Science by Research degree requires completion of an original piece of research, more limited in scope and nature to that required for a PhD. Under guidance of an academic supervisor, candidates develop mastery of appropriate methodology, and build on the fundamentals of research to present their work in a thesis. This program can be a pathway into the longer PhD degree. Candidates can have a background in a variety of disciplines, including (but not limited to) optometry, ophthalmology, microbiology, psychology, education, bio-engineering, pharmacology.
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.	
Entry requirement:	An appropriate four year degree with Honours from UNSW or an equivalent qualification from another university or tertiary institution at a level acceptable to the Faculty of Science RTC.	