

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Title of Programme: Master of Optometry

Programme Code: LMMOPTOM

## Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:  
23 September 2019

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):  
Philomena Shaughnessy

Signature 

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

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### Summary of amendments to the programme:

Section	Amendment
Programme-Structure	Addition of 4LMS0211 Foundations of Optometric Practice
Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits	Changes to assessment weightings to correspond to DMDs
Programme Specific Regulations	For the long (one year) placement normally commencing Semester B of Year 3, the University will arrange one placement for each student. Students are not permitted to arrange their own placements and are not permitted to contact head offices or practices/stores directly. The exception is where a student is currently employed in a practice/store, in which case students should first discuss an approach to the practice with the Academic Practice Lead, who will discuss with the relevant head office. All placements must be agreed and allocated by the Academic Practice Lead. All

	<p>concerns about a placement must be raised with the Academic Practice Lead or Programme Leader.</p>
	<p>For modules where an element of assessment includes ongoing assessment or mandatory attendance in labs, including seeing surrogate patients, in years 1&amp;2, students may be referred for re-assessment (due to lack of attendance, engagement or achievement) or have a deferred assessment (due to legitimate reasons for absence where appropriate evidence has been provided).</p> <p>If a student is referred or deferred for the lab based assessment elements in these modules, then they will be required to attend the next scheduled labs for these modules in order to achieve a pass in that element, which will normally be in the following academic year.</p>
	<p>Students will be formatively assessed at least once before being summatively assessed for achievement of the Stage 1 GOC Competencies.</p>

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email [AQO@herts.ac.uk](mailto:AQO@herts.ac.uk)

# Programme Specification Master of Optometry (MOptom)

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

## Section 1

<b>Awarding Institution/Body</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>University/partner campuses</b>	College Lane
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	General Optical Council
<b>Final Qualification</b>	Masters
<b>All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)</b>	Optometry
<b>FHEQ level of award</b>	7
<b>UCAS code(s)</b>	B510
<b>Language of Delivery</b>	English

### A. Programme Rationale

The MOptom is an Integrated Master's Degree combining both scientific and practice elements, which enables successful students to meet the General Optical Council's (GOC) requirements for registration, immediately upon graduation.

The College of Optometrists, (the professional body for optometrists) and the University have established a formal collaborative partnership to provide a fully integrated, practice focused programme, which includes the College Scheme for Registration within the period of student enrolment. Thus students are fully supported in their academic studies and in practice by an expert team throughout their period of registration on the Programme. Thus graduates are enabled to be ready for registration and employment upon graduation.

Career options following graduation include community optometry practice and careers in hospital practice and in research. The College of Optometrists is supportive of the University's commitment to provide placements in community and independent practices and students will benefit from placements in hospital and long practice placements in community settings. Students will have early exposure to clinical practice, which will facilitate the integration of scientific knowledge, evidence and practice. This innovative approach will enable students to be competent, confident, safe and employable practitioners at the point of graduation. This will be achieved by using innovative methods of clinical assessments including simulation to embed evidence- based practice as a cornerstone for effective professional optometry practice.

## B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

### Additionally this programme aims to:

- Provide students with critical skills in the assessment, investigation and management of people with a range of identified eye conditions as defined by the GOC.
- Enable students to demonstrate competence in the practice of optometric skills as defined by the GOC's Core Competencies for Optometry in order to register as an optometrist in the UK.
- Develop critical skills in the management of optometry practice, and confidence in working as part of an inter-professional team.
- Promote the critical consideration of strategies for the development of optometry practice in relation to the needs of the UK population.

## C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Optometry (2007) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p>A1 - Key concepts in relation to current practice of optometry</p> <p>A2 - Research and apply this to the critical evaluation of current research in optometry and vision science</p> <p>A3 - Learning autonomously using scholarly reviews and primary sources to support the requirement for continuing professional development and lifelong learning</p> <p>A4 - The contribution of the primary and secondary healthcare function offered by optometry</p>	<p>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures, seminars, small group teaching, guided online study and self-directed learning.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Practice related experience will also be utilized in order to ensure that scenarios used for simulated practice are current and based on optometry practice</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of coursework (including essay, portfolio and project work), simulation-based examination stations and presentations with supportive material.</p>
Intellectual skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p>B1 - Demonstrate a deep and critical systematic understanding of key aspects of optometry and vision science in the</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined on Section A above. Critical analysis and problem-solving skills are further</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through a combination of coursework (including essay, portfolio and project work).</p>

<p>achievement of key competencies as defined by the GOC</p> <p>B2 - Demonstrate a deep and critical understanding of specific components of optometry or vision science which are at the forefront of knowledge and reflect the expertise of academic thinking in the field of optometry</p> <p>B3 - Demonstrate a critical and in depth appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge and demonstrate is judicious use in practice</p> <p>B4 - Demonstrate critical thinking and considered decision making in the management of the ocular health of patients</p> <p>B5 - Demonstrate a carefully considered investigative approach to the critically integration of theory and practice to identify and solve complex problems</p> <p>B6 - Demonstrate critical problem solving skill in dealing with complex and ambiguous information</p> <p>B7 - Critically apply established analysis and enquiry techniques to optometry practice</p>	<p>developed through small group work, tutorial support and formative assessment.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study</p>	
<p><b>Practical skills</b></p>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment strategy</b></p>
<p>C1 - Demonstrate advanced communication skills with patients and professional colleagues through the application of a range of skills using English as the primary language of communication</p> <p>C2 - Demonstrate proficiency in the assessment and management of patients with a range of ocular</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through a series of laboratory cases, laboratory work, written reports, clinical simulation on peers and surrogate patients and placement in hospital and community practice</p> <p>Students will have access to a range of technical equipment including optic labs, optometry cubicles and rooms equipped with optical appliances for the</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through participation simulated and real life optometry practice</p>

<p>conditions requiring intervention and correction</p> <p>C3 - Demonstrate judicious use of appropriate tests and investigations of visual status ensuring patient safety</p> <p>C4 - Demonstrate advanced skills in critical evaluation of new concepts, procedures, techniques and products relevant to optometry practice</p> <p>C5 - Demonstrate a high level of skills and aptitude in the use of electronic state-of-the-art technical equipment</p> <p>C6 - Demonstrate advanced skills in the prescription and dispensing of optical appliances</p> <p>C7 - Demonstrate advanced skills in history taking, assessment and formulation of differential diagnosis in people with impaired visual function</p> <p>C8 - Demonstrate advanced skills in the diagnosis, treatment and referral of vulnerable individuals</p>	<p>assessment and management of patients with impaired vision</p>	
<p><b>Transferable skills</b></p> <p>D1 - Demonstrate a high level of interpersonal and communication skills</p> <p>D2 - Operate as an effective leader or team member as part of an inter-professional, multi-agency team that can clarify roles and responsibilities and handle conflicting agendas and opinions.</p> <p>D3 - Reflect upon, identify and solve intellectual and professional problems using the full range of</p>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p>Transferable skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined in A, B and C above.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.</p>	<p><b>Assessment strategy</b></p> <p>Transferable skills are assessed through the methods and strategies outlined an A, B and C above.</p>

professional resources available.

D4 - Provide insightful guidance to colleagues on professional issues in order to improve practice.

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## D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (4 years) mode leading to the award of a Master of Optometry (MOptom).

Entry is normally at level 4 with A-level or equivalent qualifications. Intake is normally in Semester A (September).

### Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

The General Optical Council (GOC) is the regulator for the optical professions in the UK; the purpose of the organisation is to protect the public by promoting high standards of education, performance and conduct amongst opticians. The GOC currently registers around 30,000 optometrists, dispensing opticians, student opticians and optical businesses. The College of Optometrists is the professional body for Optometrists and provides the pre-registration programme for candidates who have completed an approved degree course as well as a range of CPD activities for practicing optometrists.

### Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

Students will visit optometric practices and hospital eye service departments for short visits in Years 1 and 2 and 3. Across years 3 and 4, students will have a long practice placement to undertake the College of Optometrists' Scheme for Registration

### Erasmus Exchange programme

N/A

### Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the Honours award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

**Mode of study** Full Time

**Year 1**

**Level 4**

<b>Compulsory Modules</b> Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Fundamentals of Optical Science	4LMS0130	15	English	50%	50%	0%	A
Foundations of Optometric Practice	4LMS0211	15	English	100%	0%	0%	A
Anatomy and Physiology	4LMS0128	30	English	50%	50%	0%	AB
Dispensing and Contact Lenses 1	4LMS0132	30	English	50%	50%	0%	B
Visual Applied Optics	4LMS0133	15	English	50%	50%	0%	B
Laboratory Optics	4LMS0131	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A
Clinical Practice 1	4LMS0129	0	English	0%	0%	100%	AB

Progression from year 1 to year 2 requires completion of **all** modules to include 120 credits from year 1. This includes a pass in 4LMS0129.

**Year 2**

**Level 5**

<b>Compulsory Modules</b> Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Clinical Skills for Optometry 1	5LMS0071	30	English	50%	0%	50%	A
Abnormal Ocular Conditions and Pharmacology	5LMS0069	30	English	50%	50%	0%	AB
Advanced Clinical Skills	5LMS0072	30	English	50%	0%	50%	B
Dispensing and Contact Lenses2	5LMS0073	30	English	50%	0%	50%	AB
Clinical Practice 2	5LMS0070	0	English	0%	100%	0%	AB

Progression from year 2 to year 3 requires completion of **all** modules to include 240 credits with a minimum of at least 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5. This includes a pass in 5LMS0070.

The GOC Certificate of Competence will be awarded no earlier than the end of Year 2 on completion of 240 credits and successful completion (pass) of Clinical Practice 1 (4LMS0129) and Clinical Practice 2 (5LMS0070) **and** successful completion of the GOC Stage 1 competencies. The GOC core competencies will be fulfilled across all relevant modules.

**Year 3  
Level 6**

<b>Compulsory Modules</b> Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Evidence Based Practice for Optometry	6LMS0097	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A
Professional Practice for Optometry	6LMS0098	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A
Advanced Techniques	6LMS0096	30	English	0%	100%	0%	A
Clinical Skills for Optometry 2	6LMS0100	30	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Clinical Skills for Optometry 3	6LMS0101	30	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Clinical Practice 3	6LMS0099	0	English	0%	100%	0%	A

*Progression from year 3 to year 4 requires completion of all modules to include 300 credits with a minimum of at least 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5 and a minimum of 60 credits from year 3, this is to allow students a retrieval period for the practice competencies which are assessed in 6LMS0100 and 6LMS0101. Students must pass 6LMS0099.*

*The GOC Certificate of Competence will be awarded on completion of 240 credits with a minimum of at least 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5, and successful completion of Clinical Practice 1 (4LMS0129) and Clinical Practice 2 (5LMS0070) **and** successful completion of the GOC Stage 1 competencies, and all mandatory patient episodes.. Students cannot progress to Semester B of Year 3 without this certificate. The GOC core competencies and patient episodes will be fulfilled across all modules.*

*This certificate allows entry onto the College of Optometrists' Scheme for Registration.*

**Year 4  
Level 7**

<b>Compulsory Modules</b> Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Clinical Skills for Optometry 4	7LMS0193	30	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Clinical Competence in Optometry	7LMS0194	30	English	0%	0%	100%	AB
Ophthalmic Project	7LMS0196	30	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Optometry for the Workplace	7LMS0219	30	English	0%	100%	0%	B

*The award of a Master of Optometry (MOptom) requires 480 credits with a minimum of at least 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5, 120 at level 6 and 120 at level 7 including the final year project **and** satisfactory completion of the College of Optometrists' Scheme for Registration, Students must pass 4LMS0129, 5LMS0070 and 6LMS0099.*

### Honours classification

The University has approved structure and assessment regulations common to all programmes. Full details are provided in [UPR AS14](#), Section D.

The Masters of Optometry degree is a professional degree Programme under accreditation by the General Optical Council. In order to graduate with a MOptom honours degree students must obtain 480 credits with a minimum of at least 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5, 120 at level 6 and 120 at level 7 and a pass in every module **and** successfully completed the College of Optometrists' Scheme for Registration.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters (Classified)	Optometry	480 credit points including 120 points at levels 4,5,6 and 7	7	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Certificate of Higher Education	Vision Science*	120 credit points at level 4	4, 5	A1, A3, B1, B4, B5, C2, C3, C4, C6, D1, D4
Diploma of Higher Education in	Vision Science*	240 credit points including at least 120 at level 5	5, 6	A1, A3, A4, B1, B4, B5, B6 C1, C2, C3, C4,C6, C7,D1, D3, D4
BSc (Hons) (Classified)	Vision Science*	360 credit points including at least 240 at level 6/5, of which at least 120 must be at level 6 or 7	7	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3,B4, B5,B6,B7,C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7,D1, D3, D4
BSc	Vision Science*	300 credit points including 180 at level 6/5 of which 60 must be at level 6	4, 5	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3,B4, B5,B6,C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7,D1, D3, D4

\*A qualification in vision science does not allow the individual to practice as an optometrist or use the title.

### Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12/UPR AS13](#) (delete as applicable) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been approved by the University:

- Students will be required to register with the GOC for the duration of their studies.

- Students who do not achieve 120 credits at the end of year 1 may be allowed one opportunity to re-enrol, but will normally have one attempt at the assessment(s) on re-enrolment.
- Students who do not achieve 120 credits at the end of year 1, can only re-enrol for a maximum of 60 credits.
- Students who do not achieve 240 credits at the end of year 2 may be allowed one opportunity to re-enrol, but will normally have one attempt at the assessment(s) on re-enrolment.
- Students who do not achieve 240 credits at the end of year 2, can only re-enrol for a maximum of 60 credits.
- Students who re-enrol for year 1 for any module(s) will be required to attend some of the clinical sessions for 4LMS0129, even if they have passed that module. If they have passed 4LMS0129 they will not be required to sit the assessments.
- Students who re-enrol for year 1 for any module(s) will be required to attend some of the clinical sessions for 4LMS0132, even if they have passed that module. If they have passed 4LMS0132 they will not be required to sit the assessments.
- Students who re-enrol for year 2 for any module(s) will be required to attend some of the clinical labs for 5LMS0070, even if they have passed that module. If they have passed 5LMS0070 they will not be required to sit the assessments.
- Students who re-enrol for year 2 for any module(s) will be required to attend some of the clinical labs for 5LMS0073, even if they have passed that module. If they have passed 5LMS0073 they will not be required to sit the assessments.
- For modules where an element of assessment includes ongoing assessment or mandatory attendance in labs, including seeing surrogate patients, in years 1&2, students may be referred for re-assessment (due to lack of attendance, engagement or achievement) or have a deferred assessment (due to legitimate reasons for absence where appropriate evidence has been provided).
- If a student is referred or deferred for the lab based assessment elements in these modules, then they will be required to attend the next scheduled labs for these modules in order to achieve a pass in that element, which will normally be in the following academic year.
- Students will be formatively assessed at least once before being summatively assessed for achievement of the Stage 1 GOC Competencies.
- Students who have achieved 240 credits by the end of year 2 and who have achieved the Stage 1 GOC Competencies, and passed Clinical Practice 1 (4LMS0129) and Clinical Practice 2 (5LMS0070) will be issued with the GOC Certificate of Competence and will be entered into the College of Optometrists Scheme for Registration.
- Students who have achieved 240 credits but who have not yet achieved the Stage 1 GOC Competencies by the end of year 2 will be allowed to progress into Year 3 and be allowed a retrieval period in order to achieve the Stage 1 GOC competencies in Semester A of year 3.
- Students who do not achieve the GOC Certificate of Competence by the end of Semester A, Year 3 and who have 300 credits including 180 at level 6/5 of which 60 must be at level 6 will exit the programme with a BSc. in Vision Science.
- Due to the structure of the programme the Level 6 Semester A modules are all assessed as coursework in order for students to be considered at a December Examination Board, such that students may commence their pre-registration placements in early January. Students who are awarded FREFC will be offered an early resubmission to be considered at an extra referral board mid-January, to enable them to start their pre-registration period no later than 1<sup>st</sup> February. Students not electing to select this opportunity will not be permitted to resubmit until the standard referral/deferral period, and if successful will not be allowed to commence their pre-registration period until the January of the following year.
- Progression from year 3 to year 4 will be allowed with 300 credits; 120 from Year 1, 120 from Year 2 and a minimum of 60 from year 3. The 60 credits from year 3 must include a pass in ALL Semester A modules from year 3.

- Students undertaking 6LMS0100 Clinical Skills for Optometry 2 and 6LMS0101 Clinical Skills for Optometry 3 who are referred at first attempt will be allowed to progress to Year 4 in order to be reassessed at the next examination board. They will be allowed to re-enrol and have one further attempt at this module.
- Students undertaking 7LMS0194 Clinical Competence in Optometry for which the National OSCE is the assessment who receive an FREN at the end of Year 4 will be allowed to re-enrol, but will normally have one further attempt at the assessment(s) on re-enrolment.
- Students will have a maximum of 6 years to complete the degree from initial registration.
- Students are normally required to attend 100% of clinical practice days in years one and two of the programme. Failure to do this will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.
- Students are normally required to attend a minimum of 100% of all laboratory/practical/workshop and tutorial sessions, in each module, across all years. Failure to do this will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.
- Students are normally required to attend a minimum of 80% of all lectures, for each module, across all years. Failure to do this will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.
- Students are normally required to attend 100% of all placement days, in each module, across all years of the programme. Failure to do this will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.
- All modules, including those of zero credit must be passed in order to be awarded a Masters in Optometry.
- Students must pass 4LMS0129 in order to progress to level 5.
- Students must pass 5LMS0070 in order to progress to level 6.
- Students must pass 6LMS0099 in order to progress to the Scheme for Registration, which at Level 6 forms part of the assessment for 6LMS0100 and 6LMS0101 and at Level 7LMS0193 AND 7LMS0194.
- For the long (one year) placement normally commencing Semester B of Year 3, the University will arrange one placement for each student. Students are not permitted to arrange their own placements, and are not permitted to contact head offices or practices/stores directly, unless agreed beforehand with the Academic Practice Lead. All placements must be allocated by the Academic Practice Lead, who will liaise with the relevant senior personnel. All concerns about a placement must be raised with the Academic Practice Lead or Head of Optometry.

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## E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.

### Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- Dean of School
- Associate Dean Academic Quality who has overall responsibility for the academic quality of the school's programmes
- Head of Department
- Head of Optometry
- A Programme Lead who is responsible for the day to day management of the programme and admission
- An Admissions Tutor, with specific responsibility for open days and selection
- A designated Administrator(s) to deal with the day to day administration associated with the programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for the running of individual modules
- Link Tutors
- A programme committee, the membership of which includes the Programme Tutor, Programme Administrator, Student Representatives, Representative from Learning and Information Services, Representation from community and hospital Practice and representatives from the College of Optometrists.

### Support

Students are supported by:

- A programme tutor to help students understand the programme structure and provide guidance on programme related matters.
- Personal tutors to provide academic and pastoral support
- Boots Opticians Tutor Practitioner(s)
- Surrogate Patients
- Student representatives on programme committees
- A designated programme administrator
- A designated surrogate administrator
- A designated placement administrator
- Technical support
- An induction week at the beginning of each academic session
- A department based induction programme for overseas students
- Studynet, a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- Attractive modern study environments in 2 Learning Resources Centres
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc
- Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and Nursery
- Medical Centre
- A Mathematics Drop-in Centre
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- Guided student-centred learning on StudyNet module site
- A Careers Service for all current students and graduates

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## F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.
- University of Hertfordshire Course website:  
<http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/>
- QAA Benchmark Statement- Optometry:  
<http://www.herts.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Optometry.pdf>
- HEOPS Guidance, Fitness Standards and Surveys:  
[http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS\\_Optomety\\_Students\\_fitness\\_standards\\_2015\\_v5.pdf](http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS_Optomety_Students_fitness_standards_2015_v5.pdf)
- The College of Optometrists:  
<http://www.college-optometrists.org>
- The General Optical Council:  
<https://www.optical.org>  
Optometry website:
  - <http://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/master-of-optometry-moptom>
- The Higher Education Academy:  
<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk>
- Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
- [The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#)
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2010:  
<http://www.seec.org.uk/sites/seec.org.uk/files/SEEC%20Level%20Descriptors%202010.pdf>
- External Quality Review report website:  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews/reports/instReports.asp?ukprn=10007147>
- UNISTATS website:  
<http://www.unistats.com/>
- University of Hertfordshire Academic Quality website:  
(StudyNet → Staff → Department Lists → Academic Quality Office)
- Structure & Assessment Regulations - Undergraduate & Taught Postgraduate Programmes, UPR AS14:  
<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS14.htm>
- Learning and Teaching Policy and Graduate Attributes, UPR TL03:  
<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/TL03.htm>
- Admissions - Undergraduate & Taught Postgraduate Students, UPR SA03:  
<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/SA03.htm>
- Academic Quality, UPR AS17:  
<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS17.htm>
- Index of UPRs for students:  
[http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr\\_azlist\\_info.htm](http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr_azlist_info.htm)
- Information on Programme and Module External Examiners  
<http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/ptl/common/studentcentre.nsf/Teaching+Documents/184A221E5EECA6B780257A5C00250BA9?OpenDocument>
- School Confidentiality Policy  
<http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/crb/co/website84.nsf/Teaching+Resources?Openview&count=9999&restricttcategory=Academic+Quality>
- Rules of Procedure and Proceedings with respect to a Student's Complaint regarding the Quality of the Learning Experience on Practice and Work Placements

<http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/crb/co/website84.nsf/Teaching+Resources?Openview&count=9999&restrictcategory=Academic+Quality>

- School Disclosure and Barring Service Policy  
<http://www.studynet1.herts.ac.uk/crb/co/website84.nsf/Teaching+Resources?Openview&count=9999&restrictcategory=Academic+Quality>
- School Fitness to Practise Policy  
<http://www.studynet2.herts.ac.uk/crb/co/website84.nsf/Teaching+Resources?Openview&count=9999&restrictcategory=Academic+Quality/School+Policies>

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

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## G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

A minimum of 5 GCSE's including English Language, Mathematics, and a Science all at grade 5.

Applicants are required to have studied Mathematics beyond GCSE level.

A minimum of 136 points at A-Level including at least two A-Levels at the higher grades from science subjects (i.e. Biology, Human Biology, Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry). One of the science A-Levels must be from Biology or Mathematics (the other must be taken to AS Level). At least two A-Levels (and no more than 4, must be included in the tariff points calculation. A-Levels in General Studies and the Extended Project are excluded. AS Levels are not included in the tariff calculation.

Resit students will require a minimum of an A grade in the subjects being re-examined (if they satisfy the above).

Or: International Baccalaureate require an overall diploma score of 136 points) to include at least two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Biology at higher-level grade 5. Either Biology or Mathematics must be included at higher level Grade 5.

Or: BTEC Extended with a science profile: DDD (Must be a health or science based subject to include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology) plus one science A-Level (either Biology or Mathematics) at minimum Grade B.

Or: Scottish Highers require 136 UCAS Tariff points including 2 sciences from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Biology at a B grade. At least one from Biology or Mathematics must be included.

Or: Irish Leaving Certificate require an overall UCAS tariff score of 136 points (from at least 6 subjects) with a B1 in two sciences (chemistry, mathematics, physics or biology) both at higher level. At least one from Biology or Mathematics must be included at higher level.

Or: A degree in a relevant science (normally with evidence of Biology and/or Mathematics) or health related discipline, with a degree classification of upper second or first class.

Or: A Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing or Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing with a minimum overall score of 75%.

Or: Access to HE Diploma in Science, Medicine or Allied Health to include 60 credits overall (must include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics) with 45 at Level 3, 30 of which must be at distinction (to include Biology or Mathematics) and the remaining 15 at merit. 15 credits must be in Biology and 15 credits in Mathematics.

Candidates with equivalent qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

The entry tariff will normally be a minimum of 136 UCAS tariff points or equivalent. Applicants will also be interviewed prior to selection. Mature (21+) and international students are encouraged to apply and will be considered for entry by the admissions team. Qualifications considered for entry must be achieved within 5 years of application.

The interviews will be group interviews of no more than 15. Applicants will be asked a mixture of questions, a proportion of which will be competency based. There will also be a small group task. The emphasis will be on investigating communication skills and critical thinking abilities.

For all international students an International English Language Testing system minimum score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each category.

In addition: Students must be medically fit to undertake the Programme (including work placements) and students will therefore undergo an occupational health assessment before entry to the programme. Students with disabilities will be considered on an individual basis. All students must be potentially capable of demonstrating the competencies required by the regulatory body and the learning outcomes of the Programme. More information is available at:

[http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS\\_Optomtry\\_Students\\_fitness\\_standards\\_2015\\_v5.pdf](http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS_Optomtry_Students_fitness_standards_2015_v5.pdf)

In order to comply with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (exceptions) Order 1975, students will therefore be required to undergo enhanced clearance checks by the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) followed by annual checks; entry onto the Programme is subject to a satisfactory self-disclosure and enhanced DBS check.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

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**If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:  
Maria Goodin, Student Administrator**

**If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to [aqo@herts.ac.uk](mailto:aqo@herts.ac.uk)**

## Master of Optometry

**Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules**

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																							
		Knowledge & Understanding				Intellectual Skills							Practical Skills							Transferable Skills					
Module Title		Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	D1	D2	D3	D4
Level 4	Anatomy and Physiology	4LMS0128	X														X								
	Clinical Practice 1	4LMS0129	X				X			X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X			
	Fundamentals of Optical Science	4LMS0130		X							X		X												
	Laboratory Optics	4LMS0131														X		X				X			
	Dispensing and Contact Lenses 1	4LMS0132	X							X	X		X	X	X	X		X				X			
	Visual Applied Optics	4LMS0133		X							X		X												
	Foundations of Optometric Practice	4LMS0211	X	X					X		X	X					X	X				X	X	X	X
Level 5	Abnormal Ocular Conditions and Pharmacology	5LMS0069	X							X									X	X					
	Clinical Practice 2	5LMS0070	X			X	X			X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
	Clinical Skills for Optometry 1	5LMS0071	X			X	X	X			X	X		X		X		X							
	Advanced Clinical Skills	5LMS0072	X			X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
	Dispensing and Contact Lenses 2	5LMS0073	X			X	X	X			X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Level 6	Advanced Techniques	6LMS0096	X			X	X			X						X	X	X	X	X	X				
	Evidence Based Practice for Optometry	6LMS0097	X							X	X		X										X	X	
	Professional Practice for Optometry	6LMS0098	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X											X		
	Clinical Practice 3	6LMS0099	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Clinical Skills for Optometry 2	6LMS0100	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
	Clinical Skills for Optometry 3	6LMS0101	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Level 7	Clinical Skills for Optometry 4	7LMS0193	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	Clinical Competence in Optometry	7LMS0194	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Optometry in the Workplace	7LMS0219	X	X					X				X										X	X	X
	Ophthalmic Project	7LMS0196		X	X				X			X	X			X									

## KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

**A1** Key concepts in relation to current practice of optometry

**A2** Research and apply this to the critical evaluation of current research in optometry and vision science

**A3** Learning autonomously using scholarly reviews and primary sources to support the requirement for continuing professional development and lifelong learning

**A4** The contribution of the primary and secondary healthcare function offered by optometry

### Intellectual Skills

**B1** Demonstrate a deep and critical systematic understanding of key aspects of optometry and vision science in the achievement of key competencies as defined by the GOC

**B2** Demonstrate a deep and critical understanding of specific components of optometry or vision science which are at the forefront of knowledge and reflect the expertise of academic thinking in the field of optometry

**B3** Demonstrate a critical and in depth appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge and demonstrate is judicious use in practice

**B4** Demonstrate critical thinking and considered decision making in the management of the ocular health of patients

**B5** Demonstrate a carefully considered investigative approach to the critically integration of theory and practice to identify and solve complex problems

**B6** Demonstrate critical problem solving skills in dealing with complex and ambiguous information

**B7**

**C1** Demonstrate advanced communication skills with patients and professional colleagues through the application of a range of skills using English as the primary language of communication

**C2** Demonstrate proficiency in the assessment and management of patients with a range of ocular conditions requiring intervention and correction

**C3** Demonstrate judicious use of appropriate tests and investigations of visual status ensuring patient safety.

**C4** Demonstrate advanced skills in critical evaluation of new concepts, procedures, techniques and products relevant to optometry practice

**C5** Demonstrate a high level of skills and aptitude in the use of electronic state of the art technical equipment

**C6** Demonstrate advanced skills in the prescription and dispensing of optical appliances

**C7** Demonstrate advanced skills in the history taking, assessment and formulation of differential diagnosis in people with impaired visual function

**C8** Demonstrate advanced skills in the diagnosis, treatment and referral of vulnerable individuals

### Transferable Skills

**D1** Demonstrate a high level of interpersonal and communication skills.

**D2** Operate as an effective leader or team member as part of an inter-professional, multi-agency team that can clarify roles and responsibilities and handle conflicting agendas and opinions

**D3** Reflect upon, identify and solve intellectual and professional problems using the full range of professional resources available

YEAR ONE – Level 4		YEAR TWO – Level 5		YEAR THREE – Level 6		YEAR FOUR – Level 7	
Semester A	Semester B	Semester A	Semester B	Semester A	Semester B/C	Semester A/B	Semester B
Fundamentals of Optical Science <b>4LMS0130</b> (15 Credits)	Visual Applied Optics <b>4LMS0133</b> (15 Credits)	Clinical Skills for Optometry 1 <b>5LMS0071</b> (30 Credits)	Advanced Clinical Skills <b>5LMS0072</b> (30 Credits)	Evidence Based Practice for Optometry <b>6LMS0097</b> (15 Credits)	Clinical Skills for Optometry 2 <b>6LMS0100</b> (30 Credits)	Clinical Skills for Optometry 4 <b>7LMS0193</b> (30 Credits)	Optometry for the Workplace <b>7LMS0219</b> (30 Credits)
Laboratory Optics <b>4LMS0131</b> (15 Credits)	Dispensing and Contact Lenses 1 <b>4LMS0132</b> (30 Credits)	Abnormal Ocular Conditions and Pharmacology <b>5LMS0069</b> (30 Credits)	Dispensing and Contact Lenses 2 <b>5LMS0073</b> (30 Credits)	Professional Practice for Optometry <b>6LMS0098</b> (15 Credits)	Clinical Skills for Optometry 3 <b>6LMS0101</b> (30 Credits)	Clinical Competence in Optometry <b>7LMS0194</b> (30 Credits)	Ophthalmic Project <b>7LMS0196</b> (30 Credits)
Foundations of Optometric Practice <b>4LMS0211</b> (15 Credits)				Advanced Techniques <b>6LMS0096</b> (30 Credits)			
Anatomy and Physiology <b>4LMS0128</b> (30 Credits)		Clinical Practice 2 <b>5LMS0070</b> (Zero Credits)		Clinical Practice 3 <b>6LMS0099</b> (Zero Credits)			
Clinical Practice 1 <b>4LMS0129</b> (Zero Credits)		Abnormal Ocular Conditions and Pharmacology <b>5LMS0069</b> (30 Credits)					
		Dispensing and Contact Lenses 2 <b>5LMS0073</b> (30 Credits)					

Critically apply established analysis and enquiry techniques to optometry practice

**D4** Provide insightful guidance to colleagues on professional issues in order to improve practice

## Section 2

### Programme management

**Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements**  
**Type of programme**  
**Date of validation/last periodic review**  
**Date of production/ last revision of PS**  
**Relevant to level/cohort**  
**Administrative School**

Optometry Benchmark Statement 2007

Undergraduate

May 16

June 2017

Level 4 entering September 2018

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Table 3 Course structure

Course details					
Course code		Course description		JACS	
LMMOPTOM		Master of Optometry (MOptom)		B510	
Course Instances					
Instances code	Intake	Stream	Instances Year	Location :	Mode of study
MOPT1F	A	Master of Optometry	1	Hatfield	Full-time
MOPT2F	A	Master of Optometry	2	Hatfield	Full-time
MOPT3F-1	A	Master of Optometry	3	Hatfield	Full-time
MOPT3F-2	A	Master of Optometry	3	Hatfield	Full-time
MOPT4F	A	Master of Optometry	4	Hatfield	Full-time