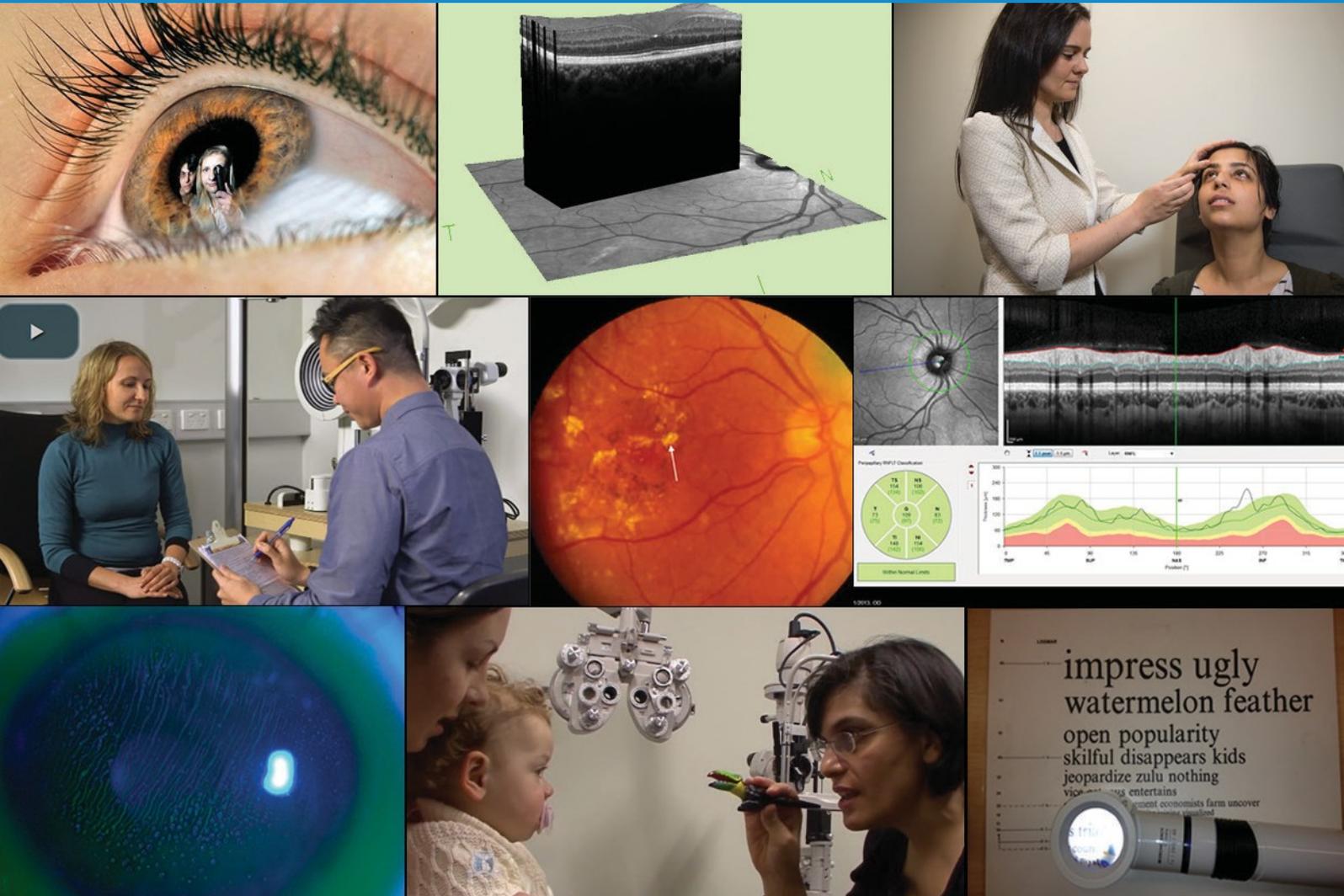


Graduate Programs for Optometrists



Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences

*Innovative online programs to enrich
your professional practice*

<http://www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/optometry>

Graduate Programs for Optometrists

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Clinical Optometry (MClinOptom) and Specialist Certificates offer optometrists the opportunity to keep abreast of new developments in niche areas of optometry. All components are conducted exclusively online, in a supportive and collaborative environment. Each Specialist Certificate requires the completion of one 25 point subject. Specialist Certificates/subjects can contribute to a 100 point Master of Clinical Optometry.

The courses allow optometrists to not only re-examine the basic sciences underpinning clinical optometry in the context of the latest evidence but also to update current knowledge and skills. The emphasis is on understanding and managing clinical problems.

Subjects, which contribute to either a Specialist Certificate or the MCLinOptom, are in depth, challenging and designed to significantly advance optometrists' clinical skills in the selected fields of study. They are designed to provide lifelong evidence based learning skills in professional education.

The Specialist Certificates/subjects on offer include a diverse range of topical subject areas. Specifically designed for off-campus study using e-learning applications, they also allow the opportunity for clinicians to complete and apply learning tasks in their own practice. The subjects are delivered using the latest on-line learning technologies and approaches, giving practitioners the opportunity to interact with colleagues and educators, whilst enjoying the convenience and flexibility of off-campus study.

Further Information:

<http://www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/clinicaloptometry/>

http://www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au/courses/Special_Cert.html

COURSE FEE

Course fees for 2016 are:

- Domestic students: \$4,700
- International students: \$5,750
- Discounts may apply for group enrolment

Please note that fees may be subject to an annual increase.

Fee-Help is a loan from the Australian Government to cover tuition fees and is available to Australian Citizens only.

Please visit <http://studyassist.gov.au> for more information.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY

All Specialist Certificate and Master of Clinical Optometry subjects are designed to be pursued via distance education. The University of Melbourne's [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) provides a suitable user-friendly online environment to access links to study notes and reading material, communication and online learning tools. The learning materials will guide reading, pose questions and recommend clinical and/or practical exercises to promote understanding.

Online communication is an important aspect of each subject, enabling students to interact and engage in discussion and share ideas with the facilitator and other students. It is expected that students will spend up to 20 hours per week study time on each semester long (12 weeks) subject, including tasks completed in a clinical environment. The time spent in a particular week will vary according to the tasks that are to be completed.

The MCLinOptom requires the completion of three Specialist Certificates/subjects and a compulsory research study subject (OPTO90031). The MCLinOptom is only offered as part time study. The typical time to complete the MCLinOptom is over 2 years, however candidates must complete within a 4 year period.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Available to Australian and New Zealand permanent residents and international candidates.

Candidates must have completed a four-year Australian Bachelor degree in Optometry or equivalent. Professional experience may be taken into account to determine equivalency.

Access to a reliable Internet service, computer and word processor is necessary.

The IELTS requirement for international students is an overall band score of 6.5 with no band less than 6 in the individual listening, reading, writing and speaking components.

CPD FOR AUSTRALIAN OPTOMETRISTS

Specialist Certificates are clinical courses that each attract at least 80 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

CPD related to endorsement for scheduled medicines in each course varies. Information will be provided by the course coordinator for specific subjects.

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences reserves the right to cancel courses if enrolments do not meet minimum numbers.

Master in Clinical Optometry & Specialist Certificates Timetable

Semester	Subjects Available
1	OPTO90009 Management of Contact Lens Patients
	OPTO90007 Management of Low Vision Patients
	OPTO90031 Research Studies in Optometry
2	OPTO90010 Management of Paediatric Patients
	OPTO90015 Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders
	OPTO90031 Research Studies in Optometry

Subject Overview



OPTO90007 Management of Low Vision Patients



Coordinator:
Ms Anthea Cochrane

This Specialist Certificate/subject is designed to expand optometrists' ability to provide care for patients with low vision either within their own practice or as part of a rehabilitation team. Topics covered include the epidemiology and geographic distribution of blindness; the procedures for comprehensive assessment of low vision patients; the principles and performance of optical, non-optical and technological aids for the enhancement of low vision and the roles and methods within the rehabilitative team for the support and rehabilitation of the visually disabled. Emphasis is on clinical set-up, application and support of patients with low vision.

OPTO90010: Management of Paediatric Patients



Coordinator:
Ms Christine Nearchou

This Specialist Certificate/subject covers central issues within the field of paediatric optometry, with the aim of developing each student's capacity for effective management of the paediatric patient, including co-management with other professionals involved in paediatric care. A range of areas will be covered, encompassing the developmental, visual and educational issues relevant to paediatric optometry. Specific areas covered will include amblyopia, strabismus, ametropia, accommodative-vergence dysfunction and visual processing disorders. Childhood development and how this affects our evaluation of vision and its impact on learning is covered. The ocular and visual challenges seen in common childhood syndromes such as Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy will be investigated, including associated ocular diseases relevant to other special needs paediatric populations.

OPTO90009: Management of Contact Lens Patients



Coordinator:
Dr. Laura Downie

This Specialist Certificate/subject is designed to provide optometrists with the opportunity to extend their capabilities in contact lens practice. Optometrists will explore a range of practical topics, including: contact lens comfort, microbiology and infection associated with contact lenses, paediatric contact lens fitting, the application of new imaging technologies to contact lens practice and the impact of new materials and solutions, using an evidence-based approach. Optometrists will also extend their knowledge in more advanced contact lens fitting techniques, including: corneo-scleral and mini-scleral modalities, the optical correction of keratoconus, orthokeratology and contact lens fitting after refractive surgery and keratoplasty.

OPTO90015 Management of Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders



Coordinator:
Dr. Kwang Cham

This Specialist Certificate/subject is to enable optometrists to extend their abilities to evaluate the sensory and motor pathways of the visual system, both in the context of evaluating visual complaints themselves as well as gaining further knowledge of how visual and ocular motor signs may reflect a range of systemic conditions, particularly of the central nervous system. Because complaints related to these pathways may reflect problems arising anywhere from the anterior visual pathways to the higher-order visual cortices, optometrists should benefit from gaining a deeper understanding of the current state of knowledge of these pathways and their assessment.

OPTO90031: Research Studies in Optometry



Coordinator:
Dr. Mike Pianta

This research subject introduces students to the research culture in the discipline through involvement in a research project in clinical optometry. Students will conduct the project under the supervision of a member of academic staff. In the first few weeks they will perform a literature search and will present an annotated version to their supervisor as a prelude to the development and submission of their research proposal. Students will then be expected to implement methods for collecting, analysing and evaluating data. During the development and data collection phases of the project, students will maintain a diary documenting the research process and reflecting on any logistical and/or ethical issues that arise. The project will culminate with students presenting their research findings as a draft manuscript, in a format suitable for submission for publication. They will also create a video abstract that summarises the basic elements of their research and how their findings relate to practice.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the demand to critically analyse primary literature sources to bring together case studies. This, along with sharing in the diversity of thought through the regular online discussions with fellow clinicians, further enriches daily practice.”

Ms Rosemary Wilson
Specialist Certificate in the Management of Paediatric Patients, 2015

About the University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is among the oldest and largest universities in Australia. It is a research intensive, comprehensive institution with a strong postgraduate commitment. It aims to be one of the finest universities in the world - a proud institution of higher learning producing graduates, scholarship and research that matters to the nation and beyond. It is ranked 1st in Australia and 16th in the world for Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013-2014.

About Melbourne Consulting and Custom Programs

Melbourne Consulting and Custom Programs is part of the Commercialisation group of the University of Melbourne. Its role is to develop and deliver demand driven consulting services and custom award and non award education programs. Academic capacity for this particular program is provided by the Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences.
www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au

About the Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences

In 2015 the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences joined the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, in the Melbourne School of Health Sciences. The Department currently comprises 24 academic staff (10 teaching and research, 5 teaching specialists and 9 research focussed). The Department is located, in the purpose built facilities, in the Alice Hoy building on the Parkville Campus, and also includes Visual Neuroscience research groups in the Melbourne Brain Centre. In 2009, the Department opened The University of Melbourne EyeCare clinic which provides clinical training for Optometry students and service to students and staff of the University, as well as to the general public. In 2011, the Department commenced the four year Doctor of Optometry (OD) postgraduate degree as part of the new Melbourne curriculum. The Department teaches vision science subjects in the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Biomedicine degrees. Approximately 250 students are enrolled in these professional optometry programs.
www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au

More Information

For details of application and enrolment, please visit our website:

www.commercial.unimelb.edu.au/optometry

For subject/course specific information and questions please contact:

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences

Phone: +61 3 8344 7008 or +61 3 8344 7012

Fax: +61 3 9035 9905

Website: <http://mdhs-study.unimelb.edu.au/degrees>

For enrolment and fee specific questions please contact:

Melbourne Consulting and Customs Program

Program Coordinator

Phone: +61 3 9810 3248

Email: TL-Optometry@unimelb.edu.au

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DISCLAIMER

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. Changes may be made to such things as course content and presenters. Students will be advised of changes as soon as practicable.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE