

Optometry and Vision Science

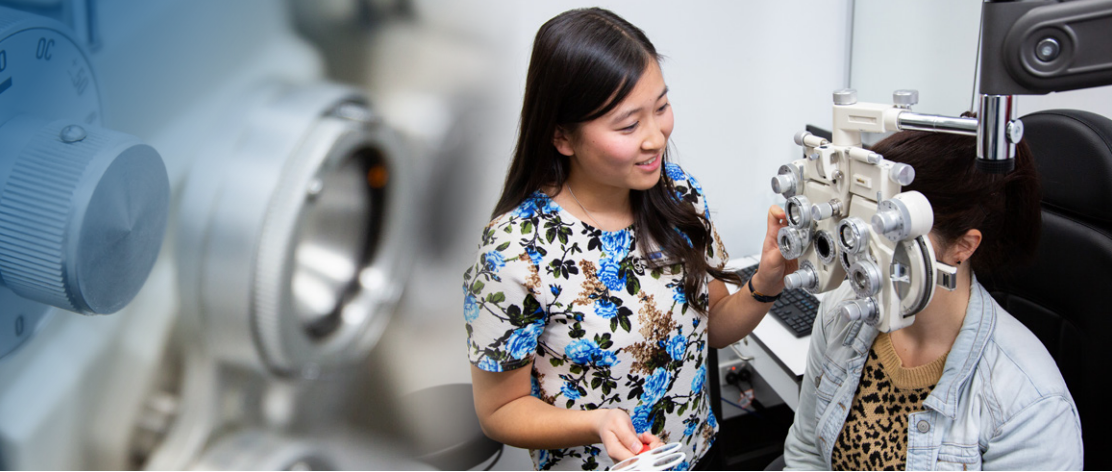
Undergraduate Handbook 2022



**UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND**
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY
AND VISION SCIENCE**



A warm welcome to the School of Optometry and Vision Science

As the only optometry school in Aotearoa New Zealand, we are unique in offering a bachelor degree that allows our graduates to practise optometry in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. We offer a blend of innovative teaching, in the context of cutting-edge clinical practice, supported by internationally recognised translational research.

While the study of optometry has a professional focus, we also provide you with a strong foundation in basic and health science. These skills will enable you to keep up with the expanding role of optometry in providing lifelong eye health and vision care to the community.

A particular strength of our programme is its emphasis on inter-professional engagement using our links with allied clinical disciplines such as pharmacy and ophthalmology. Our students undertake extensive work-integrated learning in private practice, hospital clinics and through our student-led vision screening programme in greater Auckland schools.

The School of Optometry and Vision Science occupies a modern space overlooking the Auckland Domain incorporating its own Optometry Clinic, teaching laboratories (including a virtual reality simulation suite) and state-of-the-art research facilities.

I wish you every success in your endeavours. My staff and I assure you that we will provide you with the support you need to achieve your goals.

Ngā mihi



PROFESSOR STEVEN DAKIN

Head, School of Optometry and Vision Science
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
The University of Auckland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Dakin'.

Optometry as a career

Optometrists are healthcare professionals

Optometrists are primary healthcare practitioners who examine the eyes and the integrity of the visual pathways, diagnose vision problems or impairments after thorough examination often using advanced instruments, and prescribe and provide treatment to remedy or manage various conditions. Optometrists work with other health professionals including general medical practitioners and ophthalmologists to ensure the best eye and vision health outcomes for their patients. Optometrists must be able to communicate easily and effectively, particularly when providing special services to children, the elderly and the partially sighted. Students considering optometry as a career should possess a genuine desire to help people.

Māori and Pacific optometrists

Optometrists have the opportunity to develop close links and improve vision-based health outcomes within their communities. However, in the most recent Health Workforce Survey, the proportion of practicing optometrists who identified as Māori (2%) and Pacific optometrists (1.5%) was well below their representation in the New Zealand population. The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences is committed to increasing the number of Māori and Pacific health professionals.

With an intake of only 60 students per year, the School of Optometry and Vision Science supports the principles of whakawhanaungatanga within the Bachelor of Optometry programme, encouraging a collaborative, relationship-based learning environment between students and staff.

For information about the Vision 20:20 commitment and support available to Māori and Pacific students, see:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/vision-2020

Opportunities in optometry

Optometry offers the opportunity to join a profession that is personally challenging, professionally in demand, and financially rewarding. Aotearoa's ageing population means there is an increasing demand for vision care to support good health and help prevent disease.

BOptom graduates may pursue the following opportunities:

- Apply for registration to practise as an optometrist in New Zealand and Australia in various settings including
 - Private practice (which offers the freedom to choose where to live and practise, and the opportunity to concentrate on areas of clinical interest)
 - Public hospitals
 - Private ophthalmology clinics
- Enquire with the relevant optometry registration board about requirements to register to practise in other countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and the USA
- Postgraduate education
- Research and teaching
- Other careers in the industry

For more information see:

www.auckland.ac.nz/optometry-vision-science

Becoming an optometrist

On completion of the Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) you will be eligible to apply for registration as an optometrist in New Zealand and Australia. No provisional or intern year is required post-graduation, as this clinical experience is incorporated in the final year of the degree.

www.odob.health.nz/
www.ahpra.gov.au/

Note: New Zealand Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters or PhD qualifications in optometry or in vision science are not accepted for registration as an optometrist in New Zealand.

“At the University of Auckland, you’re taught by world-renowned staff and researchers who are passionate about teaching their students and ensuring they succeed.

The combination of cutting-edge technology, teaching staff and clinical experience means you are ready to join the workforce and make a real difference from day one.”

Gabriel Lobo

Student: Bachelor of Optometry

What will I be studying?

The Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) programme is a set programme that consists of five years of full-time undergraduate study in consecutive years. It is the only qualification in New Zealand which leads to registration as an optometrist.

Part I comprises the seven prerequisite courses usually taken in the Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) first year, and 15 points in a General Education course. Details about the Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) first year can be found at: www.science.auckland.ac.nz/biomedsci-ug.

To complete the BOptom, you will need to pass a total of 600 points (including the required number of points in General Education Courses if applicable) over the entire BOptom programme. On admission, the required courses completed under the Bachelor of Science are transferred to form Part I of the BOptom.

The BOptom degree may be awarded with Honours where a student’s grades for Parts III, IV and V are sufficiently high. There are two classes of honours: First Class Honours and Second Class Honours. Second Class Honours are awarded in either First Division or Second Division. Completion with Honours allows the opportunity to undertake postgraduate study later.

The University of Auckland academic year consists of two semesters; most courses are run over both semesters and are labelled A & B accordingly. To complete these double semester courses, students must enrol in both A & B courses. The courses required are listed at:

www.auckland.ac.nz/boptom

You can find full course details by searching for the course code at:

<https://courseoutline.auckland.ac.nz/dco>



Degree planner

PART I

First year of the BSc Biomedical Science

BIOSCI 101 (15 pts)	BIOSCI 106 (15 pts)	BIOSCI 107 (15 pts)	CHEM 110 (15 pts)	MEDSCI 142 (15 pts)	PHYSICS 160 (15 pts)	POPHLTH 111 (15 pts)	GEN ED (15 pts)
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PART II

OPTOM 216 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 263 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 272 A/B (30 pts)	MEDSCI 203 (15 pts)	GEN ED (15 pts)
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PART III

OPTOM 316 A/B (60 pts)	OPTOM 345 A/B (15 pts)	OPTOM 353 A/B (15 pts)	OPTOM 375 A/B (15 pts)	MEDSCI 202 (15 pts)
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PART IV

OPTOM 416 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 430 A/B (15 pts)	OPTOM 442 A/B (15 pts)	OPTOM 450 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 783 A/B (30 pts)
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PART V

OPTOM 510 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 520 A/B (30 pts)	OPTOM 561 A/B (60 pts)
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Total 600 points. Of the 600 points required for this degree, a student must pass:

- 570 points from Parts I-V as listed in the Bachelor of Optometry Schedule.
- 30 points offered in either the General Education Open Schedule or the General Education Faculty Schedule approved for this degree.
 - A student who is required to meet the Academic English Language Requirement, may substitute an approved academic English course for 15 points General Education.
 - In order to meet the requirements for General Education students must pass the Academic Integrity Course.

BOptom Part I

Prescribed prerequisite courses

On entering Part II of the degree, a student must have taken or have been credited 120 points of courses as follows:

BIOSCI 101 (15 pts) - Life! Origins and Mechanisms

BIOSCI 106 (15 pts) - Foundations of Biochemistry

BIOSCI 107 (15 pts) - Biology for Biomedical Science: Cellular Processes and Development

CHEM 110 (15 pts) - Chemistry of the Living World

MEDSCI 142 (15 pts) - Biology for Biomedical Science: Organ Systems

PHYSICS 160 (15 pts) - Physics for the Life Sciences

POPHLTH 111 (15 pts) – Population Health

Plus 15 points from General Education courses listed in the Open or EMHSS Schedules

Note: students in the BOptom programme cannot choose OPTOM 101G: How We See as their General Education course

BOptom Part II

Pre-clinical optometry

Students in this year study courses focussed on developing a good foundation in the following topic areas:

- Anatomy and physiology of the eye and visual system
- Essential optics for optometry
- Introduction to optometry clinical skills
- Introduction to understanding the science of vision

BOptom Part III

Pre-clinical optometry

Students in the third year develop clinical skills and knowledge to prepare for undertaking patient examinations, with topics including:

- Optometry clinical skills
- Ocular pharmacology and pathology including microbiology and immunology
- Advanced vision science including introduction to research

BOptom Part IV

Clinical studies and project

In the fourth year students commence clinical workplace-based training within the University of Auckland Optometry Clinic. Topics studied include:

- Advanced clinical skills including specialist topics such as contact lens, paediatric and binocular vision, and low vision
- Diagnosis and management of eye diseases including therapeutic prescribing
- Undertake a research project

BOptom Part V

Clinical

Students in the final year focus on mastery of clinical skills and patient care through placements in the University of Auckland Optometry Clinic and other private and public clinics. A feature of the year is the 6-week practicum placement, usually in a community-based optometry practice within New Zealand or Australia. On completion of the degree, graduates can register as an optometrist and commence full-scope practice.

Clinical training

In addition to excellent teaching and laboratory facilities, the Grafton Campus houses dedicated clinical teaching facilities. These provide an ideal environment for training students in the final two years of the Bachelor of Optometry degree. Students are given the opportunity of not only using the latest optometric equipment, but also gaining hands-on experience in the use of advanced imaging techniques that have become a standard part of patient examinations and report preparation.

Optometry clinic onsite

Reflecting the importance of clinical training for optometry students, the University of Auckland provides 16 examination and four specialist consulting rooms on site in which students examine patients, including staff and students of the University as well as members of the general public.

Students work under the supervision of registered optometrists and carry out a wide range of vision and eye care examinations. It is important for students to examine as wide a range of patients as possible to enable them to develop their clinical judgment and management skills. This may mean prescribing spectacles, contact lenses or low vision aids; managing eye diseases with both topical and oral medicines; treating eye disorders with exercises; or giving advice on lighting and screen based equipment.

The dry eye clinic uses state-of-the-art technology and techniques to diagnose and manage dry eye according to the latest research. We offer a comprehensive evaluation of the tear film and the lipid glands to determine the exact cause of the dry eye, and offer a tailored treatment plan including Blephasteam, BlephEx, Lipiflow and E-Eye IPL. Where necessary, patients are referred to medical practitioners.

Clinical training offsite

Additional valuable experience is gained by attending the Eye Department at the Greenlane Clinical Centre of the Auckland District Health Board, Waitākere Hospital, and other ophthalmology practices. During their final year, students are expected to spend time in an approved practicum location which might include optometric practices, optometry schools, hospitals or other institutions in New Zealand and overseas.

Admission pathways

Entry to Part II of the programme is limited to 60 students each year. Applications close 1 October each year for admission to places starting the following year.

New Zealand and Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents

Applicants are considered through one of two entry pathways: undergraduate and graduate entry; both pathways include a selection process.

For info on entry pathways and the selection process see:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/boptom

For further advice on the graduate pathway contact the Student Centre:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/student-centre

Regional/Rural Admission Scheme

Students wishing to apply under the Regional/Rural Entry category must provide evidence of their regional/rural origin as specified at:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/ras

Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS) and He Rau Aroha scholarships

MAPAS provides admission, academic and pastoral support for Māori and Pacific students who are studying within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

For more information please see:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/mapas

International students

The Bachelor of Optometry degree is available to overseas students who meet the criteria set by the University of Auckland.

Email: fmhs@auckland.ac.nz

Prizes and scholarships

Each year a range of prizes, awards, and scholarships are available to optometry students from Part II to Part V.

Full details of official prize regulations please see:

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sovs-prizes-scholarships

The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

School of Optometry and Vision Science
Level 3, Building 503
85 Park Road, Grafton
Auckland

Mailing Address:

School of Optometry and Vision Science
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142, New Zealand

Phone: +64 9 923 6483

Email: manager-optometry@auckland.ac.nz

Web: www.optometry.auckland.ac.nz



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