Studying Optometry at Manchester has so far been an exciting and rewarding experience. The course here is well structured and the units we study are taught brilliantly. I think seeing real patients from our first year has been so important in the development of not only the necessary communication skills, but confidence in yourself as a future optometrist. Optometry is a great career choice and I can’t wait to practice the discipline after my time at Manchester.

Melissa Costello
Making things happen
Influential, forward-thinking and down-to-earth, we’ll give you an amazing university experience rooted in a rich academic heritage. We turn enthusiasm into achievement and ground-breaking theory into innovative practice.

We accomplish feats of global significance, from splitting the atom, to giving the world graphene – the two-dimensional wonder material that is one atom thick, but 200 times stronger than steel.

With more Nobel laureates on our staff than any other UK university, and strong links to industry and public services, we vitalise our undergraduate courses with pioneering research.

Learn more about us:
www.manchester.ac.uk

Our city

Always moving forward
Manchester lives on the edge of tomorrow, ever a step ahead in science, industry, media, sport and the arts. The Mancunian character – exemplified by the city’s central role in the industrial revolution – strives for excellence and originality in all walks of life.

This is a city of many accents, having become a cosmopolitan magnet for students and professionals eager to experience its can-do attitude, independent spirit and cultural wealth.

Never content to live on past glories, Manchester has a passion for progress. Join us at the heart of Britain’s most popular student city.

Discover what makes Manchester unique:
www.manchester.ac.uk/cityofmanchester

Your experience

More than just a degree
With resources from the hi-tech 24/7 learning environment of our Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, to the countless personal development opportunities and specialist support services we offer, we will empower you to be your best.

Outstanding sport facilities, nearly 300 student societies, supported community volunteering, study abroad pathways, career development programmes, mentoring and much more all enable you to grow and develop outside of the lecture hall, giving you a well-rounded university experience that prepares you for life after graduation.

The only thing you won’t experience is boredom.

Hear from some of our students:
www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/profiles

Your career

On a course to success
We are consistently one of the UK’s most targeted universities by employers, thanks to courses and careers services designed with your employability in mind.

Our problem-based approach to learning inspires you to think critically, creatively and independently. Volunteering, personal development programmes and interdisciplinary learning could also give you a broader perspective and shape the socially responsible leaders of tomorrow.

We have the UK’s best careers service, providing a wealth of advice and skills-development opportunities, and connecting you with employers to put you on a path to career success.

Take control of your career:
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Learn more about us:
www.manchester.ac.uk
Today, the optometrist’s role goes beyond the correction of refractive errors, such as long- and short-sightedness, using spectacles and contact lenses. It also includes: detection and monitoring of eye disease; management of paediatric and geriatric eye disorders, binocular vision problems; care of patients with low vision; offering advice on colour vision; and assessing the role of vision at work and in sport.

Until recently, the optometrist’s formal responsibility was to recognise and refer abnormality, stopping short of diagnosis and management. In the last few years, however, there has been a steady increase in optometrists being involved in the primary care of patients with diseases such as diabetes and glaucoma. This has given rise to more emphasis on the study of patients with diseases such as diabetes and glaucoma.

Facilities and resources

Our optometry clinics and labs moved into a new facility at the heart of the biomedical section of the campus in summer 2011. Over £4 million was spent on refurbishing the Carys Bannister Building, where facilities incorporate: more than 30 custom-designed optometric examination rooms, specialist low vision, binocular vision and clinical investigative techniques, facilities for contact lens and paediatric optometry education and dedicated teaching laboratories for optics and vision science. As an enhancement to the formal curriculum, you have opportunities to attend, free of charge, the fortnightly continuing education lectures for local optometrists that are organised by the Northern Optometric Society, and held on the university campus. Staff also organise trips to visit leading contact lens manufacturers.

Why Manchester

• Emphasis on practical skills at one of the few universities in the UK that enables you to see patients from early in Year 1
• Clinical experience at one of Europe's leading eye hospitals: the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital
• £4 million spent on new custom-built optometry facilities

Why study at Manchester?

Taking into consideration all of the above and more, we constantly reassess our course to ensure that our graduates are prepared for the opportunities of the future. This includes a new course in Personal and Professional Development covering a range of transferable skills to optimise career opportunities. The great breadth and depth of our staff research interests in optometry ensures a very high standard of teaching, which is further enhanced by over 30 optometry professionals: optometrists, dispensing opticians, orthoptists and ophthalmologists from private and hospital practice, who attend on a part-time basis. This large group of enthusiastic part-time clinical instructors specialises in many different aspects of optometry.

A major advantage of this form of instruction is that the part-time instructors all have extensive experience of ophthalmic practice outside of the academic environment. They can therefore offer you a perspective on optometric problems and their management, which complements that of the full time academic members of staff.

Compulsory payments

The General Optical Council student registration fee is currently £20 (renewable each year). At the beginning of your first year, we recommend that you buy a white coat and a trial frame (up to £300), so you are equipped for patient examinations. By the end of your second year, we recommend that you purchase your own ophthalmoscope and retinoscope, which can cost between £800 and £1,000. The Optometry Society invites the main manufacturers of these instruments to come and talk about their summer placement schemes and the pre-registration year, providing refreshments after each talk. This gives you the chance to learn more about the opportunities available to you and to find out what employers look for in an ideal candidate.

The Optometry Society

Our Optometry Society is run by a committee of second year students and includes representatives from all years. Active and sociable, the committee meets every week and organises sports events on Wednesday afternoons and social events, including the formal ‘Eyeball’. These events are fantastic opportunities for you to meet other people on your course and get helpful hints and advice. The Optometry Society also arranges for high street optometric companies to come and talk about their summer placement schemes and the pre-registration year, providing refreshments after each talk. The committee meets every week and organises sports events on Wednesday afternoons and social events, including the formal ‘Eyeball’. These events are fantastic opportunities for you to meet other people on your course and get helpful hints and advice.

Kamile Sadauskaite

Optometry combines the two things I enjoy the most – science and communicating with people. It is not just about doing refraction; you cover a wide variety of topics and disciplines. For example, from Year 1 you already use ophthalmic equipment and meet patients, followed by Year 2 which includes a lot of new interesting topics such as Ocular Diseases, Contact lenses, and everyone gets a hospital placement which is a great clinical experience.

Elizabeth Perumpillichira

I chose to study Optometry at Manchester because the course is very clinically focused, yet you receive a vast amount of knowledge on the theory behind it. You start seeing patients in your first year, giving plenty hands on experience and enabling you to master your clinical skills. Teaching staff are approachable and supportive. I found it easy to settle in – everyone is so friendly. Although the course is challenging at times, this helps you reach your full potential and equips you to become a confident and efficient optometrist. Now I can’t wait to enter the profession.

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### BSc (Hons) Optometry

This is a three-year, full time course with each year organised into two semesters. You will have around 20 hours of lectures, clinics, practicals and PPD sessions timetabled each week, and are expected to spend at least an equal amount of time in private study and reading. Lecture units are accompanied by complementary e-learning units that support and enhance your learning, providing resources such as lecture notes, discussion boards and lecture podcasts. Practical experience is undertaken in our well-equipped laboratories and clinics and at the new Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

#### What you study

**Year 1**

You will begin to discover the scientific principles that underpin optometry, including the properties of light, the anatomy of the eye and the processing of vision in the brain. You will learn about ophthalmic appliances such as lenses, and instrumentation such as retinoscopes. The clinical element of the course will introduce general eye examination techniques, which you will initially carry out on fellow students. And in semester two you will start to meet patients – an opportunity unique to the Manchester degree course.

Course units currently include:

- Geometrical Optics
- Functional Anatomy of the Eye
- Optometric Examination A
- Dispensing A
- Physical Optics
- Clinical Methodology
- Visual Neurophysiology and Fundamentals of Visual Perception
- Excitable Cells
- Mathematics
- Body Systems

**Year 2**

You will cover a broad range of new topics, including human disease processes, pharmacology, contact lens practice and binocular vision, and further develop your knowledge of ophthalmic appliances and optometric instrumentation. The clinical element of the course will develop your skills so that by the end of the year, under supervision, you will have the competence and confidence to examine members of the public.

You could spend a week in the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital on a one-week, full-time placement during the summer vacation between your second and third years. This provides invaluable clinical experience in hospital departments, which sets the theoretical teaching in ocular disease in a practical context, as you examine the wide range of patients seen in hospital.

Course units currently include:

- Dispensing B
- Instrumentation
- Optometric Examination B
- Vision in the Real World
- Visual Optics
- Ocular Health and Disease Mechanisms
- Binocular Vision A
- Contact Lenses A
- Pharmacology A
- Advanced Visual Neurophysiology
- Visual Psychophysics and Neurophysiology

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### Course Details

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COURSE DETAILS

Year 3

We place even greater emphasis upon the clinical element of your course in your final year. You will have several clinics each week, including contact lens, low vision, paediatric and orthoptic clinics – some of which take place at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. You will work on placement at a local high street optometrists, and visit a private eye hospital.

We introduce you to new topics in your final-year lectures, including the legal and professional skills required to open your own practice. You will also write an in-depth Dissertation on an optometry-related topic.

Course units currently include:
- Clinical Practical Sessions
- Binocular Vision B
- Low Vision
- Pharmacology B: Ocular Pharmacology
- Contact Lenses B
- Ocular Disease
- Dissertation
- Optometric Practice
- Emerging Optometry

For full details on course units, see: [http://bit.ly/yTQCe1](http://bit.ly/yTQCe1)

Our four-year MOptom course extends the scope of the university degree course, while simultaneously incorporating this pre-registration year into the formal structure of a Masters course. Instead of obtaining a pre-registration position independently after leaving the University, MOptom students remain registered for four years.

Your clinical experience will be obtained in private practice for six months and at an eye hospital for six months, giving you an excellent opportunity to experience both types of practice before deciding which area you wish to concentrate on.

Please note: You can only apply to the BSc course; continuation on the MOptom course is dependent on your performance during your first two years. We have approximately four places per year for the MOptom course.

Assessment

Course units that you complete within one semester will be assessed at the end of that semester, usually by a combination of coursework, practical examination and written examination. Subjects that are taught throughout the year will be examined at the end of the second semester.

Your final degree classification is based on the marks you obtain during the first (10% weighting), second (30% weighting) and third (60% weighting) years.

Communication skills

As an optometrist, you will deal with patients who may be worried about their condition. It is therefore essential that you develop good communication skills.

The extensive experience of working with patients that we offer you, starting from the very first year of your studies, and the presentations and group work you undertake during your tutorials, will help you build these skills.

Choosing to study Optometry at Manchester was by far the best choice for me! The course is exceptional and every lecturer and supervisor is fantastic and really approachable. The Carys Bannister Building provides a fresh and modern learning environment, with optometric examination rooms so similar to those in practice, and the size of the course allows us to get to know everyone.

Studying Optometry at Manchester is definitely giving me all the skills to have a successful Optometry career!

Gemma Gould

Master of Optometry (MOptom)

What you study

Years 1 and 2

The first two years of the BSc and MOptom are the same. If your performance reaches the required standards in these years, you have the option of progressing onto the MOptom.

See BSc (Hons) Optometry pages above for details of course structure and units in Years 1 and 2.

Year 3

In semester one, clinical sessions help prepare you for your placements. You will continue with lecture units, developing your existing knowledge and tackling new topics such as low vision and legal and organisational aspects of the optometric profession. At the end of your first semester this year, you will leave to gain clinical experience.

Course units currently include:
- Pre-Placement Clinical Practical Sessions
- Binocular Vision B
- Low Vision
- Pharmacology B: Ocular Pharmacology
- Contact Lenses B
- Ocular Disease

In order to practice as an optometrist in the UK, graduates with a BSc in Optometry must spend a further pre-registration year in supervised practice undertaking the Scheme for Registration of the College of Optometrists. Our MOptom is recognised by the General Optical Council as a separate, registerable qualification. Successful MOptom students do not therefore need to undertake the pre-registration year.
Year 4

Following your clinical experience, you return to the University for a further single semester of study. Here, clinical sessions will enhance the clinical skills you developed in your placement year. You will also learn to understand and evaluate scientific and clinical literature across a range of optometric topics.

Course units currently include:

• Post-Placement Clinical Practical Sessions
• Project / Dissertation
• Physiology of Ocular Tissues in Health and Disease

Background reading

To get a good overview of the course, we recommend the following books for useful background reading. During the course, many lecturers will direct you to additional reading from recommended texts and journal articles. Many students choose to borrow library copies, at least in the early stages when they are unsure which book will best serve their requirements, or which of two alternatives they find easiest to read. We advise waiting before buying expensive books that might not be as useful as you hoped.

Clinical Procedures in Primary Eye Care
David Elliott, Butterworth Heinemann

Clinical Visual Optics
Bennett and Rabbetts, Butterworth Heinemann

Clinical Anatomy of the Eye
Snell and Lemp, Blackwells

Principles of Human Physiology
German and Stanfield, Pearson Benjamin Cummings

Optics
Tunnacliffe and Hirst, Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO)

Since my graduation, I have begun working full time as an Optometrist in a hospital setting and have progressed to the role of Senior Optometrist. During my undergraduate studies at Manchester we were given the opportunity to spend a week at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. It was this week that really inspired me to want to work in a hospital setting rather than in the community. I get to work with a fantastic team of Ophthalmology staff and also a wide range of different patients.

Michelle Walton BSc Optometry 2008

Most of our BSc Optometry students go straight on to do their pre-registration year and take the Scheme for Registration examinations, which, when successfully completed, allow entry to the General Optical Council register.

To help you think about the pre-registration year, our Optometry Society arranges visits from the Association of Optometrists, hospital optometrists and the multiple chains. Representatives from these organisations give our students valuable presentations representing their different viewpoints of the pre-registration year and its objectives.

The main employers of graduate trainees are the large optometric groups. They have well-developed recruitment schemes, summer placement schemes and specialised courses for their students. Advisors are an ideal sounding board at this stage. We encourage you to discuss your strategy for obtaining a pre-registration position with your advisor, who will help you to prepare your CV and provide you with a reference.

After registration with the General Optometry Council, a career is open to you in practice, either privately, or within the National Health Service. Some optometrists choose to work in the Hospital Eye Service team alongside an ophthalmologist.

Alternatively, you could choose to teach, or undertake research in industry or academia. Many of our graduates choose to return to Manchester for further study.

Postgraduate studies

We have first-class research facilities in optometry at Manchester, and are active in a wide variety of research areas.

Our research specialties include the development of the nervous system, the molecular biology of retinitis pigmentosa and Alzheimer’s disease, visual neurophysiology and psychophysics, eye movements and retinal image quality, along with more clinically oriented projects in contact lenses and corneal physiology, paediatric vision and visual impairment.

For further details of research opportunities in Optometry, contact our Faculty of Life Sciences Postgraduate Research Office on +44 (0)161 275 5608.
CONTACT DETAILS
For further information about the courses, or about qualifications, please contact:

Admissions Office
Faculty of Life Sciences
G683 Stopford Building
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PT
United Kingdom
tel: +44 (0)161 275 5032
e-mail: ug.lifesciences@manchester.ac.uk
For the most up-to-date course information, visit our website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/lifesciences

Disclaimer
This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Consequently, details of courses may vary with staff changes. The University therefore reserves the right to make such alterations to courses as are found to be necessary. If the University makes an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which the offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept the offer.