



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

### *Masters in Optometry (MOptom.)*

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

**March 2018**

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# COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>Masters in Optometry</i></b>
Final Award	M.Optom.
Exit Awards	CertHE Vision Science DipHE Vision Science BSc Vision Science BSc (Hons) Vision Science
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2583F / B510
Mode of study	Full Time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	from September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth / College of Optometrists
Faculty	Science Faculty & Health
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Health and Care Professions
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-health-sciences-and-social-work/">http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-health-sciences-and-social-work/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/health-sciences-and-social-work/moptom-optometry/">http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/health-sciences-and-social-work/moptom-optometry/</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	Provisional Approval (General Optical Council)
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	Level 4, 5, 6, & 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To provide a supportive learning environment which fosters academic and personal development, including those resources necessary to help students maintain, update and enhance their professional knowledge for future employment and/or study
- To provide students with the critical skills in the assessment, investigation and management of people with a range of refractive, visual, ocular and systemic health conditions.
- To enable students to demonstrate competence in the practice of optometric skills as defined by the GOC Stage 1 Core Competencies for Optometry Practice, in order to seek registration as an optometrist in the UK
- To develop a research informed understanding of the theory and practice of optometry
- To instil independent learning in students and to develop students' analytical, critical and problem-solving skills To develop students' intellectual, critical and practical skills in the acquisition, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and presentation of ophthalmic and optical information
- To introduce students to the practice and evaluation of scientific research
- To provide a course in line with the QAA Optometry benchmark statements (2015) and core curriculum as defined by the General Optical Council
- To develop students as reflective and person-centred practitioners, congruent with the values in accordance with the GOC Standards for Practice
- To provide opportunities for students to develop appropriate study and transferable skills including time management, independent and group work, laboratory and clinical expertise, experimental design, data collection, data management and analysis, numeric and IT skills, oral and written communication, information retrieval, literature review and report writing skills.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The key theoretical concepts of optometric practice including normal and abnormal anatomy, physiology, ocular and visual biology (SBS 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 )	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs.</i>	<i>Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, clinical OSCEs, portfolios.</i>
A2	Principles of visual perception and psychology (SBS 4.5)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs.</i>	<i>practical assessments, written examinations, Essays.</i>

A3	Principles of geometric, physical and visual optics (SBS 4.6)	Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.	Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, Essays, clinical OSCEs, clinical case reports, portfolios.
A4	Normal development of the visual system and the impact of developmental and acquired disorders and changes during the lifespan (SBS 4.8, 4.9, 4.14 )	Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.	practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, written examinations, Essays, clinical OSCEs, clinical case reports, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.
A5	Design, materials and optical principles and clinical examination techniques, for correction of vision using a range of ocular appliances and their effects (SBS 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13)	Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.	Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.
A6	General principles of pharmaceuticals, pharmacology and toxicology, including adverse ocular reactions and contraindications (SBS 4.15,4.16 )	Lectures, seminars, work based learning, anatomy labs, tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, practical labs.	Essays, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, practical assessments, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.
A7	The integration of core knowledge into evidence-based optometric practice via high quality patient centred care, recognising the contributions made by other health care professionals through partnership working (SBS 5.2)	Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs,	Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, , Clinical reports, Essays, clinical

		<i>rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.</i>	<i>OSCEs, clinical case reports, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.</i>
A8	Key policies and guidelines, including lifelong learning, reflection, continued professional development, peer support and multi professional working and the NHS Constitution, to enhance best practice and create a safe and effective care environment and the contribution that optometry can make to primary and secondary healthcare (SBS 5.1)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials.</i>	<i>practical assessments, written examinations, practice portfolios essays, vivas, dissertations.</i>

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
B1	Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between science, practice and theory, in particular critical evaluation of the existing optometric evidence base and its implications in the academic field of optometry (SBS 4.7)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.</i>	<i>practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, clinical case reports, clinical OSCEs, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.</i>
B2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key components of optometry and vision science as identified in the GOC key competencies, literature and maintain currency at the forefront of current knowledge (SBS 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning tutorials, anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.</i>	<i>Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, clinical OSCEs, clinical case reports, clinical portfolios, poster presentations, clinical portfolios.</i>
B3	Analyse, evaluate, interpret and integrate data from a variety of sources, research and synthesise existing knowledge and evaluate findings, including where there	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs,</i>	<i>Lab reports, practical assessments,</i>

	is uncertainty (SBS 5.1, 5.2)	<i>work based learning anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, tutorials.</i>	<i>written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, clinical OSCEs, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios poster presentations, vivas, dissertations.</i>
B4	Formulate and test a hypothesis through the design, justification, evaluation and reporting of a programme of independent research (SBS 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials.</i>	<i>vivas, dissertations.</i>
B5	Demonstrate critical thinking and evidence-informed decision-making when assessing, prioritising, planning, delivering and evaluating care required by patients in primary eye care (SBS 4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, work based learning, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, practical labs.</i>	<i>practical assessments, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, essays.</i>
B6	Demonstrate critical problem-solving skills when dealing with complex information and the ability to critically reflect on practice (SBS 4.2, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, work based learning, practical labs</i>	<i>practical assessments, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, essays.</i>

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
C1	Communicate effectively with patients and peers, in a range of settings. (SBS 5.1)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials.</i>	<i>Practical assessments, written examinations, practice portfolios essays, vivas, dissertations.</i>

C2	Demonstrate best practice, professional and subject specific skills at threshold level for registration as an optometrist (SBS 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning tutorials, anatomy labs, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic.</i>	<i>Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, clinical OSCEs, clinical case reports, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios, poster presentations.</i>
C3	Use a variety of approaches for optical assessment, dispensing optical appliances and providing therapeutic interventions to provide appropriate safe and effective, evidence informed care for patients in the primary eye care environment (SBS 4.6, 4.7, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 5.1, 5.2 )	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic</i>	<i>Lab reports, practical assessments, written examinations, clinical case reports, clinical OSCEs, poster presentations, essays,</i>
C4	Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in history-taking, assessment, diagnosis and treatment, including referral, of patients with impaired visual function (SBS 4.14, 4.15, 4.16)	<i>Lectures, seminars, practical labs, work based learning, tutorials, anatomy labs.</i>	<i>practical assessments, written examinations, Clinical reports, Essays, practical assessments, clinical OSCEs, practice portfolios, clinical portfolios, poster presentations.</i>
C5	Support patients, families and colleagues and undertake appropriate clinical decision making and respond effectively to patients' changing needs, within their scope of practice (SBS 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, work based learning, practical labs</i>	<i>practical assessments, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, essays, practical assessments.</i>

C6	Demonstrate leadership in the management of care not only in the primary eye care environment but also in other clinical settings and self-manage own continuing professional development and demonstrate reflection on own practice and that of others (SBS 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, rotations within University of Portsmouth Eye Clinic, work based learning, practical labs.</i>	<i>practical assessments, clinical portfolios, practice portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, practical assessments.</i>

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

<b>LO number</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching methods</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b>
D1	Communicate complex ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means (SBS 5.1)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials.</i>	<i>Vivas, dissertations.</i>
D2	Be competent in the use of Information Technology (word processing, databases, spreadsheets, statistical packages, electronic mail & Internet) and demonstrate numerical and statistical skills appropriate to a scientist and independent practitioner (SBS 5.1)	<i>Lectures, seminars, tutorials.</i>	<i>Vivas, dissertations.</i>
D3	Approach problem solving in a systematic way and demonstrate the values required for safe, effective and person-centred practice (SBS 4.7, 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, work based learning tutorials.</i>	<i>Clinical portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, vivas, dissertations.</i>
D4	Show an awareness of contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams and be able to work independently and as part of a team (SBS 5.1, 5.2)	<i>Lectures, seminars, work based learning, tutorials.</i>	<i>Practice portfolios, clinical portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, written examinations vivas, dissertations.</i>
D5	Demonstrate effective time management by	<i>Lectures,</i>	<i>Vivas,</i>



	undertaking self-directed study and projects (SBS 5.1)	<i>seminars, tutorials.</i>	<i>dissertations.</i>
D6	Recognise the need to assess one's own skills and to harness them for future learning (SBS 5.1)	<i>Lectures, seminars, work based learning, practical labs</i>	<i>practice portfolios, clinical portfolios, poster presentations, written examinations, clinical OSCEs, essays.</i>

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services, students will also receive professional guidance from University Eye Clinic staff, placement supervisors and will have a hospital mentor whilst undertaking hospital eye service placement.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement: Optometry](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook: Routes to Registration for Optometry](#). General Optical Council.
- [Scheme for Registration Handbook](#). College of Optometrists
- National Occupational Standards

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

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