Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

(2013-14)

Programme Title	Optometry
UCAS/JACS Code	B510 (Three year programme)
School/Subject Area	Life & Health Sciences
Final Award	BSc (Honours)
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Education for exit at end of first year Diploma of Education for exit at end of second year
Mode(s) of Study	Full time
Normal Length of Programme	Three years
Total Credits	360 credits
Programme Accredited By	General Optical Council
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	January 2012
Educational Aims of the Programme	The principal aim of the Programme is to prepare a student for a career as a UK registered Optometrist. On graduation, students will have the knowledge and skills to enable them to enter the pre-registration year administered by the College of Optometrists, satisfying the core competencies of the General Optical Council. An additional aim of the programme is to give students an introduction into life-long learning in their chosen profession.
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	QAA Benchmarking Statement 'Optometry' (2002) GOC Core Competencies Stage 1 and Core Curriculum (2001)

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits Stage I						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Elective	Condona	Pre-requisites
Basic Investigative Techniques	10	4	OP1BIT	Core	Y	N
Clinical Optometry	20	4	OP1CO1	Core	Y	N
Clinical Visual Biology	20	4	OP1CVB	Core	Y	N
Medical Biology and Pathology	20	4	OP1MBP	Core	Y	N
Ophthalmic Lenses	20	4	OP1OL1	Core	Y	N
Optics and Medical Imaging	20	4	OP1OMI	Core	Y	N
Personal Development Planning	Nil	-	-	Core	Y	N
Vision and Visual Perception	10	4	OP1VVP	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits Stage II						
Module Title	Credits	Lev	Module Co	Core/Elec	Condo	Pre-requ
Further Investigative Techniques*	20	5	OP2FIT	Core	Y	Y
Clinical Practice Development	20	5	OP2CPD	Core	Y	Y
Contact Lenses	20	5	OP2CL1	Core	Y	Y
Ophthalmic Optics	20	5	OP2OO1	Core	Y	Y
Primary Optometric Examination	20	5	OP2POE	Core	Y	Y
Vision Science and Research Methods	20	5	OP2VSR	Core	Y	Y
TOTAL	120					

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits Stage F						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Co	Core/Elec	Condona	Pre-requi
Anterior Eye	15	6	OP3AE1	Core	Y	Y
Binocular Vision and Paediatrics	15	6	OP3BVP	Core	Y	Y
Clinical Practice	25	6	OP3CP1	Core	N	Y
Elective Studies	20	6	OP3ES1	Core	Y	Y
Ophthalmic Drugs	15	6	OP3OD1	Core	Y	Y
Posterior and General Ophthalmology	15	6	OP3PEG	Core	Y	Y
Professional, Occupational and Low Vision	15	6	OP3POL	Core	Y	Y
TOTAL	120					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies

	A. Knowledge and Understanding		
	On successful completion of their programme students, are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1.	**Basic sciences** Graduates should possess knowledge and understanding of the fundamental scientific principles relevant to the practice of optometry in the context of primary eye care. In particular, they should be able to apply these principles to the following subject areas: a. Medical biology b. Ocular and visual biology c. Visual perception and psychology d. Geometrical and physical optics e. Clinical examination techniques	Lectures Related practical sessions Tutorials Directed learning Group work	Examinations (theory and practical) Class tests (theory and practical) Group presentations Essays
2.	**Clinical science** Graduates will be able to examine patients safely and competently under the supervision of an experienced optometrist, and be conversant with the following: a. Functional and developmental conditions b. Ophthalmic optics and the dispensing of ophthalmic appliances, including contact lenses c. Ocular disease and abnormality d. Pharmaceutics e. Systemic disease		

	B. Intellectual Skills		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1.	Assimilate scientific knowledge	Online narrated lectures, seminars, tutorials Independent study Clinical practice	Examination (theory and oral) Essays, elective study Case notes, hospital practice diary
2.	Critically review scientific literature		
3.	Form clinical judgements based on evidence from test results and patient history and symptoms		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	Carry out eye examinations using skills in the following areas:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1.	Contact Lenses	Practical and clinical teaching sessions	Clinical assessment by observation of accuracy and familiarisation with techniques. Assessment of clinical records.
2.	Dispensing Spectacle Appliances	Hospital and specialist clinic Placements.	Oral assessment of cases seen on hospital placement.
3.	Routine Eye Examination		Practical assessments of techniques.
4.	Binocular Vision		Clinical case presentations to peer groups
5.	Specialist Assessment		
6.	Professional Practice		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1.	The ability to maintain clear, accurate and appropriate records;	Clinical practice	Clinical assessment
2.	Communication skills, covering both written and oral communication and the ability to relate to various social and ethnic groups	Self-reflection	Dissertation
3.	Numeracy skills to evaluate data generated through audit and research;	Student centred learning	Hospital report viva
4.	Critical evaluation of relevant literature;	Hospital reports	Oral presentations
5.	Time management and organisational skills;		
6.	Problem-solving skills relating to qualitative and quantitative information;		
7.	Computation skills involving word processing, data manipulation and IT skills for self-directed and lifelong learning;		
8.	Sufficient learning skills to sustain lifelong learning and continuing professional development.		

Entry Requirements	A levels: AAA Specific subject requirements: two sciences, preferably Biology with either Maths or Physics. General Studies is not accepted. IB: 34 points including: six points in Higher Level Biology and six points in Higher level Chemistry or Physics, or five points in Higher Level Maths or six points in Standard Level Maths and five points in Standard Level English. BTEC: Students applying with BTEC qualification are considered on an individual basis. Please contact LHS admissions for more information. GCSE: English and Maths grade B, Physics grade B (if not held at A level) or Dual Award Science grade BB Applicants with professional qualifications, degrees and International students are advised to contact LHS admissions for more information. In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must also satisfy the e requirements determined by the Learning and Teaching Committee and approved by Sen
Programme Regul	This programme is governed by the University's current General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes except where they are modified by the following Special Regulations below. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ORDINARY DEGREE** The Clinical Practice final year module must be passed for a pass degree to be awarded. **DURATION OF STUDY** The period for which credit is valid for progression from one stage of the programme to the next shall be two years. Should the credit of the previous stage of the programme become invalid, then the student will be required to withdraw from the programme. For the award of BSc Optometry, stages I, II and III must be completed within five years. **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS** In stages I, II and III, undergraduates who do not have a 100% record of attendance for practical classes in a module run the risk of having to take all practical classes for that module again in the following academic year, even if all examinations and coursework requirements have been met. Registers of attendance are taken and absences are considered by the Board of Examiners. For students who have not met the attendance requirement for a module, determined by the Board of Examiners but passed the module assessments and examinations, the credits for that module will be held back until satisfactory attendance has been achieved by repeating the practical element of that module. Continued absence may result in withdrawal from the Programme. **<u>Progression to Stages II and F</u>** A pre-requisite for progression to stage II from stage I and from stage F from stage II is that all modules in the previous stage must be passed. **<u>Opportunity to transfer to MOptom</u>** In week 25 students will be given the opportunity to transfer to the MOptom programme. Eligibility is dependent upon securing a pre-registration position by the end of week 30

	and having passed all modules with an overall average of 50% at the end of Stage III (weighted as 25% Stage II and 75% Stage III). Students who fail to achieve these entry requirements will exit following the BSc Optometry route. **FAILURE IN MODULES** Condonement is the process by which a Board of Examiners, in consideration of a student's overall performance, recommends that credit be awarded for part of a programme in which the student has failed to satisfy the assessment criteria, on the grounds that the positive aspects of the overall performance outweigh the area of failure. The decision to condone a module is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and will be based upon the student's overall performance in the Stage assessments. There is no automatic right to condonement. Normally for Stages I, II and III condonement may be applied only when the overall mark is within 2% of the normal pass mark (40%) for the module and when the candidate's overall weighted mark for the stage is 50% or above. Where exceptional circumstances have been received and accepted by the Board of Examiners, condonement may be applied when the overall mark is within 5% of the normal pass mark for the module and when the candidate's overall weighted mark for the stage is 50% or above. A maximum of 20 credits can be condoned in stages I, II and III. Where performance in a module is condoned, the student shall be awarded the full credits available for the module but the mark achieved shall be used to calculate the overall mark for the stage. **PROFESSIONAL EXEMPTIONS** Successful completion of the degree achieving a 2.2 classification or above leads to direc entry into the College of Optometrists pre-registration period.

Further Information	Information on the programme can be found in : BSc Optometry Programme Guide 2012-13 Year 1 BSc Optometry Programme Guide 2012-13 Year 2 BSc Optometry Programme Guide 2012-13 Year 3 BSc Optometry clinic handbook for students Further information on the requirements of the General Optical Council can be found

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be audited by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.