

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

<b>Programme name</b>	Introduction to Optometry
<b>Award</b>	Certificate in Higher Education
<b>School</b>	School of Health & Medical Sciences
<b>Department or equivalent</b>	Optometry & Visual Science
<b>UCAS Code</b>	B513
<b>Programme code</b>	USIOPT
<b>Type of study</b>	Full Time
<b>Total UK credits</b>	120
<b>Total ECTS</b>	60

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Introduction to Optometry programme is offered as a one-year full-time programme of study. The programme provides a thorough education in the core subjects required to study Optometry at MOptom (with Hons) level, as well as an introduction to clinical and professional optometric practice. The theoretical and practical areas of 'Introductory Biological Sciences', 'Optometric Physics', 'Quantitative Methods', 'Introduction to Clinical Skills' and 'Introduction to Personal and Professional Development' will be taught.

In 'Introductory Biological Sciences' you will learn about the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and pathology of tissues and organs of the body related to ocular disease. During 'Optometric Physics' you will develop a basic knowledge of the optics of vision. You will also be introduced to the refractive errors of the eye and the means by which they may be corrected with spectacle lenses. In 'Quantitative Methods' you will be provided with the quantitative analytical skills required to deal with applied optical calculations, as well as training in experimental method and analysis and scientific report writing. In 'The Introduction to Clinical Skills' module you will learn how to measure visual acuity, and you will be introduced to the principles of some optometric instruments and techniques. In the Personal and Professional Development module you will foster effective communication skills and develop an ability to identify strengths and areas to develop.

You will develop skills of enquiry in your subject and develop different approaches to problem-solving as well as identifying the limitations of your knowledge.

#### Aims

The educational aims of the programme are to:

- Provide you with the knowledge and skills to prepare you for entering the Master of Optometry (MOptom with Hons) course
- Provide a supportive environment, which fosters academic and personal development and uses appropriate learning resources
- Enhance the development of your interpersonal skills
- Use a variety of appropriate teaching and learning methods, including workplace learning, to provide education and training that is relevant, intellectually challenging and enjoyable
- Develop your analytical, critical and problem-solving faculties

- Provide you with opportunities for shared multidisciplinary learning with optometry students

By completing the 'Introduction to Optometry' programme, you will develop skills of enquiry in your subject and develop different approaches to problem-solving as well as identify the limitations of your knowledge. The overall aims and objectives of this programme are consistent with City St George's, University of London's strategic aims, in particular 'to provide high quality education which meets the needs of our students and their employers'.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

### **Knowledge and understanding:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the key principles of Introductory Biological Sciences, Optometric Physics, Quantitative Methods, Introductory Clinical Skills and Personal and Professional Development.

### **Skills:**

- Develop an ability to comprehend new knowledge
- Access and use a range of learning resources
- Review, analyse and present experimental data
- Use numerical methods in solving problems
- Operate collaboratively as part of a team
- Communicate using multiple media including verbal, written, presentation, and word processing skills
- Apply Information Technology skills relevant to the activities of health care professionals
- Accurately record observations in various contexts, which can be transferred to this key aspect of a health professional's life
- Demonstrate that you have acquired a wide range of transferable, lifelong and independent learning skills
- Demonstrate the basic methods of assessing vision and visual acuity
- Demonstrate basic investigative techniques using optometric instruments

### **Values and attitudes:**

- Use appropriate interpersonal and communication skills with patients and professional colleagues
- Be aware of and respect the cultural needs of others
- Behave in a responsible and professional manner

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA FHEQ for the Certificate of Higher Education.

## **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The Introduction to Optometry programme is designed to satisfy the academic development needs of potential optometry students. Teaching and assessment methods are tailored to the learning objectives of each module component.

The range of teaching methods used to support lectures is wide and includes, tutorials, laboratories, and demonstrations. Lectures are used to communicate core material and as a foundation for further reading. Lectures are based around presentations and hand-outs provide core definitions and diagrams. Interaction with students in lectures is encouraged. Lecture notes are provided on the virtual learning environment Moodle. However, you are expected to take notes. In addition, during your self-directed study time you will undertake thorough background reading. Reading lists are provided for this purpose. Practical classes provide opportunities to develop clinical skills and to give demonstrations of techniques covered in lectures. Tutorials develop problem-solving skills in an environment that encourages an interactive approach to learning. Your self-directed study time will also be used to prepare for the practical sessions, and also to practice the techniques being taught during the labs. Formative feedback (oral or written) will be provided based on online exercises or in class tasks to aid you with your progress.

The programme consists of around 30% contact time and 70% self-directed study time. Independent study times are for you to revise and prepare for teaching sessions, including preparation of coursework. Resources to aid your independent study will include online formative quizzes, sample questions, and additional reading material. These will be available via Moodle and also the module lead.

Entrants to the programme will attend for a week of induction at City St George's, University of London. During this week, you will be given an introduction to the structure and organisation of the programme.

### **Registration Period**

- The normal period of registration for this programme is 1 year
- The maximum period of registration for this programme is 2 years

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### **Assessment and Assessment Criteria**

Assessment on the Introduction to Optometry programme is through a variety of methods. Methods of assessment include: Closed book summative examinations, laboratory/clinic based coursework, practical examinations (including formative assessments), MCQ and short answer formative tests, and assessment of reports. Theory examinations are utilised to ensure the core biological, mathematical and physics concepts are understood and allow you to demonstrate your scientific knowledge. Practical assessment allows you to demonstrate your ability to assess vision and visual acuity and also basic investigative techniques and the knowledge of the basic anatomy of the external eye. Coursework assessment permits you to spend time on compiling work, reflecting on the application of your studies and putting your knowledge into context.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an

assessment. These criteria providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, or on the virtual learning environment attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback on your work, as well as your mark will be provided to you. This may be in a number of different forms; including written feedback, discussion feedback in a group, or individual oral feedback.

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

[Assessment and Feedback Policy](#)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully the relevant core modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The overall pass mark for each module is 40%. Full details can be found in the Module Specifications.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City St George's, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: [Senate Regulation 19](#)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Certificate in Higher Education

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without Classification	40

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Introduction to Optometry programme incorporates four modules. All the modules are core modules and will provide grounding in entry level to Optometry. The numbers of allocated credits indicate the relative proportions of subject matter for each module. All modules need to be passed to apply for progression to the Master of Optometry (MOptom with Hons) Programme Stage 1.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introductory Biological Sciences	OV1113	30	C	N	4
Optometric Physics	OV1114	30	C	N	4
Quantitative Methods for Optometry (QMO)	OV1115	15	C	N	4
Introduction to Clinical Skills	OV1118	30	C	N	4
Personal and Professional Development	OV1117	15	C	N	4

## TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Successful completion of the Introduction to Optometry programme provides several career routes. These include:

1) You will be eligible for progression to Master of Optometry (MOptom with Hons) at City St George's, University of London (Programme Stage 1) subject to all of the following:

- achieving >40% overall with no failed modules
- successful completion of interview to progress to MOptom
- satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

2) Providing an additional qualification to your academic achievements and CV for the application to higher education courses at City St George's, University of London and other institutions nationwide.

3) Providing an additional qualification to your academic achievements and CV for the application to work as an Optical Assistant within the private sector or within the Hospital Eye Service.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City St George's, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

## WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

You will be given the opportunity to do voluntary work in the university's eye clinic, City Sight. You will demonstrate professional behaviour and help the staff with the daily running of the

eye clinic. This will help to improve your communication skills and will serve as an introduction to interaction with patients in an optometric environment.

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

Admissions are considered from students with a wide range of backgrounds. In general, applicants for the Introduction to Optometry programme will require:

#### **A LEVELS:**

- Three A level subjects with grades BCC (or equivalent) with at least two from Biology, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
- **OR** any other three A level subjects with grades BBB (or equivalent)

**We do not accept BTEC or Access courses.**

#### **GCSE/National 4 / National 5**

- All applicants will also require GCSE grade 4 (C) or above in five subjects to include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Language and Mathematics

**Overseas qualifications** are considered on a case-by-case basis. In addition to the above, English Language requirements must include one of the following:

- GCSE: English Language Grade 4 (C)
- IELTS: 7.0 overall, with at least 7.0 in the listening, reading, writing and speaking sections

#### **Tier 4 visa applications**

We welcome applicants on Tier 4 visa applications. If you have any queries we recommend that you speak to the admissions tutor before applying.

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