

Optometry and Vision Science

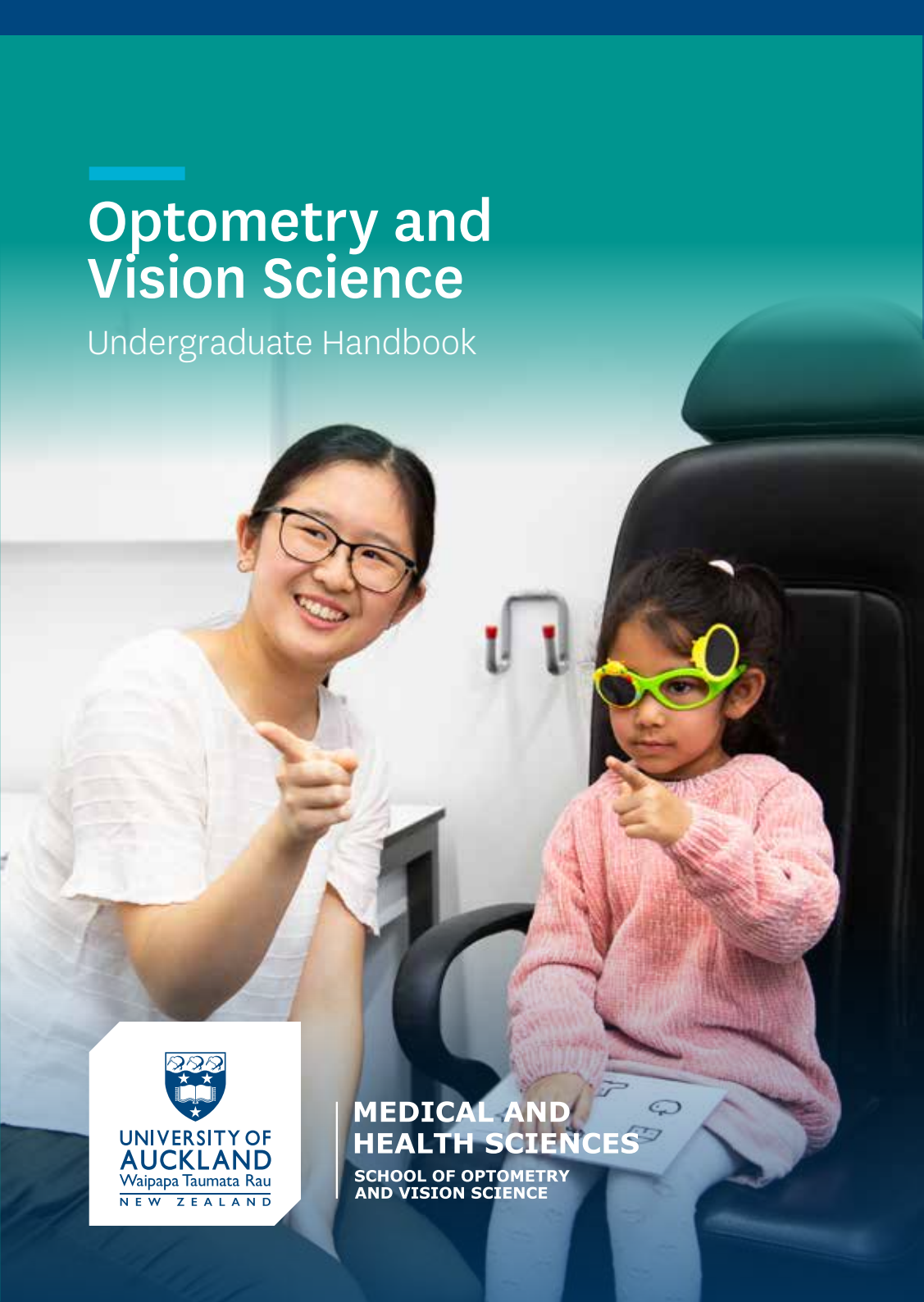
Undergraduate Handbook



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

**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY
AND VISION SCIENCE**





Welcome to the School of Optometry and Vision Science

Optometry is an engaging and expanding choice of career in which you can provide eye health care to a diverse range of people. It is an area of increasing demand, due to Aotearoa New Zealand's ageing population. The Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) is your pathway into a financially rewarding, community-based healthcare profession which will enable you to make a real difference in patients' lives every day.

The BOptom primarily focuses on clinical skills and competency to prepare graduates for professional registration on completion, and for employment in New Zealand and Australia.

The programme is also underpinned by a strong foundation in vision science to support your clinical practice in future as the field of optometry evolves and adopts new technologies to address eye health and vision care needs.

World-class research informs the teaching and practice of optometry within the school, which is based in a purpose-built space overlooking the Auckland Domain. You and your cohort will learn in specialised teaching laboratories which include advanced simulation technologies, and in an optometry clinic where you will gain experience treating real patients under supervision.

A small intake (60 students per year) enables a collaborative, relationship-based learning environment. The principles of whanaungatanga and

manaakitanga are important within the school, the faculty, and the optometry profession.

If you are interested in a rewarding healthcare profession with a strong basis in high-quality research, we warmly invite you to apply for the Bachelor of Optometry.

Ngā mihi,



DR ANDREW COLLINS

Urumatua o te Kura
Head of School of Optometry and Vision Science
Mātauranga Hauora
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

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 and provide treatment to remedy or manage various eye 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:

auckland.ac.nz/vision2020

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 United States of America
- Postgraduate education
- Research and teaching
- Other careers in the industry

For more information see:

auckland.ac.nz/fmhs/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.

“The University of Auckland is the only university in New Zealand that offers a Bachelor of Optometry.

“Optometry graduates from the University of Auckland are highly sought after throughout New Zealand and Australia and there are often more job availabilities than graduates each year.

“The University of Auckland BOptom programme has supported me to achieve my goal of becoming an optometrist and improve visual health outcomes for my community.

“The programme is committed to ensuring their students receive the best knowledge and expertise through internationally recognised lecturers, state of the art technology, and many opportunities for clinical experience.”

Tiana Williamson

Ngāti Kahungunu

Graduate: Bachelor of Optometry with First Class Honours

What will I be studying?

The Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) programme is a set programme that consists of five consecutive years of full-time undergraduate study. 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 first year of the Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) can be found at: 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:

auckland.ac.nz/fmhs/boptom

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

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)

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)

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)

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)

PART V

OPTOM
510 A/B
(30 pts)

OPTOM
520 A/B
(30 pts)

OPTOM
561 A/B
(60 pts)

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 their second year will 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 their third year will 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 their fourth year, students will 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 their final year will focus on mastering their 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

Because of the importance of clinical training for optometry students, we provide 16 examination and 4 specialist consulting rooms onsite, wherein students are able to examine patients (including University of Auckland staff and students, 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 of 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.

Helpful information

Optometry and Vision Science

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

Bachelor of Optometry programme

auckland.ac.nz/fmhs/boptom

Academic dates

auckland.ac.nz/dates

Career Development and Employment Services

auckland.ac.nz/cdes

Faculty website

auckland.ac.nz/fmhs

Fees

auckland.ac.nz/fees

Frequently Asked Questions

auckland.ac.nz/askauckland

General education

auckland.ac.nz/general-education

How to apply

auckland.ac.nz/apply

How to enrol

auckland.ac.nz/enrolment

International students

auckland.ac.nz/international

Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS)

auckland.ac.nz/fmhs/mapas

Scholarships and awards

auckland.ac.nz/scholarships

The University of Auckland website

auckland.ac.nz

The University of Auckland calendar

www.auckland.ac.nz/calendar

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

**Subject to University Council approval. For the latest information, please refer to the Key Dates tab on the online programme page: auckland.ac.nz/fmhs/boptom*

Questions about Bachelor of Optometry and application closing dates? Contact our FMHS Student Hub: fmhs@auckland.ac.nz

The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Student Hub

Te Herenga Hauora | Philson Library
Building 503, Level 1
85 Park Rd, Grafton
Auckland

Phone: +64 9 923 2760

Email: fmhs@auckland.ac.nz

Questions: auckland.ac.nz/askauckland



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Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences – University of Auckland



Watch us on YouTube

FMHS UoA

Disclaimer: Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official document, the University of Auckland Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.