Optometry with Independent Prescribing

Glasgow Caledonian University

Content

If you're looking for a career where science meets people-centred care, optometry could be for you.

Optometrists diagnose and manage a wide range of eye conditions, from everyday vision problems like short sightedness (myopia) to more complex issues like cataracts, glaucoma and inflammatory eye diseases. They also prescribe glasses, contact lenses and other visual aids.

Glasgow Caledonian University is a key provider of Vision Science courses. Our MOptom (IP) degree was the first of its kind in the UK to be approved by the General Optical Council (GOC). We're also ranked 4th overall in the UK for Optometry, Ophthalmics and Orthoptics (Complete University Guide 2025).

As one of only two courses in the UK to provide training in independent prescribing as part of an undergraduate Optometry programme, this course gives you the chance to gain professional experience that will help launch your career in vision science.

We're the only UK institution where you can train as an Optometrist, Dispensing Optician or Orthoptist. This gives you the opportunity to learn within a multi-disciplinary environment and develop teamwork skills.

This course combines academic study with hands-on clinical experience from day one. You'll build a strong foundation in vision science and clinical care, exploring topics like anatomy, physiology, and optics. You'll also develop your critical thinking skills and make confident decisions in practice.

You'll work with patients in our on-campus Vision Centre – Scotland's only university primary eye care clinic. In Year 5, you'll take part in extended, paid clinical placements across Scotland. Developed in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland, these placements will help you gain practical skills and the chance to build professional networks.

Start Date

September

Qualification

Degree

Study Method

Full time

Award Title

MOptom (IP)

UCAS Code

B515

Course Length

5 years

Faculty

School of Health and Life Sciences

Department

Vision Science

Entry Requirements

2027 entry requirements

Standard entry: 5 Highers at AABBB including English or another English based subject, Maths and 2 from Biology, Human Biology or Physics.

Widening access entry: 5 Highers at ABBBC including English or another English based subject, Maths and 2 from Biology, Human Biology or Physics.

A Foundation Apprenticeship is accepted as equivalent of a non-essential Higher at B.

You would require a satisfactory PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) check to show you are suitable for this type of course. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details.

SCQF Level

10

Progression Routes

«ProgressionRoutes»

Combination Courses

«htmlCombinationCourse» «htmlCombinationUCASCode»

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