

Programme Specification: MOptom (Hons) Master of Optometry in 4 years

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/master-of-optometry/>

Academic Entry Year:	2026/27
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Delivery Support Partners:	The College of Optometrists
Subject Benchmarks:	Optometry (QAA 2019)
Qualifications Framework:	Framework for HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2014)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Optometry with Honours (MOptom (Hons)) [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Honours Degree of Bachelor (BSc (Hons)) in Clinical Vision Science [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) Clinical Vision Science [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Clinical Vision Science [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Date(s):	September
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code B512) 4 years full-time

The General Optical Council (GOC) approves this MOptom programme. Our MOptom is delivered in partnership with [The College of Optometrists \(CoO\)](#), the professional body for optometrists, ensuring you gain real working experience as part of your training. This means that students completing the CoO placement assessments and graduating with the MOptom (Hons) award can apply to join the professional GOC register of fully qualified optometrists.

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. May 2024: Annual changes for the 2024 academic year.
2. July 2025: Annual changes for the 2025 academic year, including change to academic regulations.
3. May 2026: Annual changes for the 2026 academic year

Introduction

Optometry is a healthcare profession concerned with the examination, diagnosis and treatment of the human eye and visual system. In our ageing population, the demand for eye care is expected to increase, and optometrists are ideally placed to help meet this demand in both the NHS and private practice.

Completion of our integrated 4-year Master of Optometry (MOptom) programme enables you to proceed directly to registration with the General Optical Council (GOC) as a fully-qualified optometrist. Our programme was completely redesigned for 2024, taking into account views of employers, past students and internal and external teaching staff to fully update our course content and structure to reflect modern optometric practice. Our new programme has an enhanced clinical focus throughout, concentrating on developing the skills, knowledge and behaviours that will best prepare you for modern-day clinical practice and the changes to the profession that lie ahead.

Clinical, practical and theoretical topics are taught synergistically throughout the course, enabling you to develop deep understanding of the topics and skills that will enhance your clinical practice. Informed by student feedback, the course is structured so that the challenge builds organically. In stage 1 we will teach you the skills required for the role of optical assistant. These skills will aid you in securing part-time paid employment in an optical practice, should you wish to do so, and enable you to get the most out of your time in practice if you do. The vast majority of theoretical concepts are introduced by the end of stage 2, whilst stage 3 concentrates on honing your clinical skills and knowledge ready to enter supervised clinical practice in stage 4.

In stage 4 you will embark on an extended, clinical placement in optometric practice, working under the supervision of an experienced optometrist with support from the university and the College of Optometrists. Placements run in partnership with the College of Optometrists through their Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) scheme and last a minimum of 44 weeks beginning around July/August after stage 3 assessments. During your placement you will obtain the extensive patient-facing clinical experience required to satisfy the requirements of GOC registration and gain the confidence to practise independently upon completion of the programme.

Whilst on placement, you will undertake a structured programme of development and assessment run by the College of Optometrists. Alongside this, you will continue with online case-based learning provided by the university. Case-based learning can be done in your own time, fitting flexibly around your placement schedule and other commitments. You will return to the university for assessments midway through, and at the end of the placement. The CLiP placement is split into two components either side of the midway point. Students are required to complete the first component (CLiP 1), including passing the associated assessments, before embarking on CLiP 2.

Throughout the programme, and beyond, students must maintain registration with the General Optical Council, and thus adhere to their standards of practice.

Programme aims

The programme is intended to provide:

- A1. A supportive, structured learning environment that encourages an attitude of continuing professional development and independent lifelong learning.
- A2. A diversity of approaches to teaching and learning, incorporating both formative and summative methods of assessment.
- A3. Integration of theoretical, practical and clinical aspects of the curriculum.

- A4. Incremental development of students' learning and clinical skills development through the stages of the programme.
- A5. The range of clinical experience required for entry to the General Optical Council register as an optometrist.

The programme is intended to encourage the development of:

- A6. A systematic understanding of the basic and clinical sciences relevant to the practice of optometry.
- A7. A professional attitude towards patients and colleagues.
- A8. A range of transferable skills. Interpersonal and communication skills.
- A9. Familiarity with the legal, ethical and commercial context of optometric practice.
- A10. Ability to think critically and proficiency in clinical reasoning.
- A11. Insight into research and scientific methods.

Teaching, learning and assessment

On our MOptom programme you will be taught at one of the UK's longest-established optometry schools, by academics and tutors who are experts in their fields. As well as our own staff, external experts from other professions teach on their areas of special interest; for example, ophthalmologists, orthoptists, and dispensing opticians are all involved in teaching aspects of the programme.

Our world-class teaching facilities have recently been refurbished with over £1.2 million of new state-of-the-art clinical teaching and digital imaging equipment and include an integrated eye clinic where you will spend significant time in stage 3. Students also have access to our unique directed learning suites: fully equipped clinical practice facilities for honing and demonstrating your clinical skills outside of scheduled lab teaching times.

A wide range of teaching and assessment methods are used throughout the course, catering for all learning styles. These include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals, pre-clinical labs, case-based learning, directed study and a variety of primary care and speciality clinics examining real patients. Key skills are embedded throughout the curriculum. Modules focus progressively on student-centred approaches to learning, such that students are expected to take increasing responsibility for their learning as they progress through the programme, in order to encourage development of the attributes needed for lifelong learning and continued professional development.

Assessments include written examinations, presentations, practical and clinical performance assessments, reflections and clinical logbooks. All modules include formative (mock) as well as summative (final) assessments, giving students the opportunity to obtain feedback on their performance and how it can be improved and/or maintained.

Case-based learning is embedded throughout all stages of the programme, enabling you to develop skills in clinical appraisal and decision making using simulated clinical cases. These cases are designed to reflect the diversity of patients you will encounter in the workplace and build in complexity as your knowledge broadens, simulating gradually more difficult scenarios encountered in clinical practice. Case-based learning is delivered in a consistent, online format throughout the course, giving you flexibility to study in your own time and at your own pace. In stage 4, when you are on clinical placement, university-delivered learning is also in the same, familiar case-based learning format. This means that wherever your clinical placement, you

will be able to access our high-quality learning and support without the need for frequent trips to campus. As case-based learning is conducted in groups, it also helps to foster a strong learning community, and to sustain this into your placement period.

Case-based learning is just one way in which you will work on "putting it all together". Another is through the extensive programme of clinical labs. Some labs focus on the development of specific clinical skills, while additional weekly labs in stages 1 and 2 give you chance to combine these skills, building towards the type of full eye examination performed in clinical practice. In stage 3, you will hone these skills in the university's on-site eye clinic, working to deliver clinical services to real patients.

You will be supported throughout your study by extensive engagement with experienced optometry staff, including an assigned personal academic tutor. Additional study support is available through the subject librarian, and ongoing engagement with the College of Optometrists throughout the course. The university offers extensive support services for students requiring further support or adjustments to be made. Equality, diversity and inclusion is a key driver of all aspects of life at the university and is embedded throughout our curriculum. Students are brought into contact with diversity at all stages of the course through case-based learning, peer learning and clinical work.

Upon graduation, you will be a highly skilled, patient-focused optometrist ready for modern optometric practice. You will be eligible to register with the GOC and to practise independently as an optometrist in the UK. Additionally, you will be well-equipped for lifelong learning and ongoing professional development throughout your career.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate award, students will be able to:

1. Identify the professional skills required to obtain and communicate relevant information from and to patients.
2. Define, recognise and explain the different types of ametropia and their causes, and outline the clinical methods available for assessment and correction of ametropia.
3. Describe and perform fundamental techniques for assessment of ocular health, analyse the results and recognise key signs of abnormality.
4. Recognise and use professional behaviour and refer to and illustrate the laws and ethical principles relevant to optometric practice.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma award, students will additionally be able to:

5. Explain and apply the key principles underlying patient care in optometry, demonstrate problem-solving and clinical skills relevant to the practice of optometry, and begin to apply knowledge of professional, ethical, legal and regulatory principles to patient care.
6. Employ a range of skills to communicate effectively and professionally with patients and other health care professionals.
7. Demonstrate and use appropriate technical skills to analyse patients' visual function and select and apply appropriate methods to correct or relieve defects.

8. Use appropriate clinical methods to detect, identify and recognise the signs of a range of ocular diseases and ocular effects of systemic diseases.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Bachelor's Degree, students will additionally be able to:

9. Individually and collaboratively, appraise, evaluate and research clinical scenarios to produce and communicate safe and effective person-centred management plans.
10. Show how to communicate effectively and professionally with a diverse range of patients and other healthcare professionals.
11. Show use of appropriate methods to analyse patients' visual function and to detect and evaluate ocular disease and ocular effects of systemic disease.
12. Individually and collaboratively apply professional and ethical principles, and knowledge of healthcare service organisation and inter-professional working to the examination and management of patients.
13. Research, review and critically analyse science and health-related literature and experimental data using independent learning skills and orally present findings.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Master's Degree, students will additionally be able to:

14. Provide safe and effective person-centred care in clinical practice.
15. Communicate effectively, professionally and independently with a diverse range of patients and other healthcare professionals.
16. Use appropriate methods to analyse patients' visual function and devise and communicate appropriate management plans to correct or relieve defects.
17. Use appropriate methods to detect ocular disease and ocular effects of systemic disease, and devise and communicate appropriate management plans to address signs of disease.
18. Act professionally, ethically and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations in clinical practice.
19. Recognise and mitigate personal, clinical and professional risks to patients, themselves and others.
20. Actively participate in clinical services and demonstrate knowledge of service management and collaborative working with other healthcare professionals.
21. Critically evaluate and reflect upon the knowledge, skills and practice of themselves and others to identify and meet ongoing learning and development needs for improvement of patient care.
22. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of current, future and emerging knowledge and technologies to optometry, and of the underlying principles relating to patient, public and digital health.

Curriculum

The Master of Optometry is an integrated Master's degree of 480 credits studied over 4 years.

Modules are listed in a set study period. All Optometry modules are studied over the University of Bradford Academic Year (ACYR) which starts in September (Semester 1), proceeds through January (Semester 2) and a summer period starting in May (Semester 3). Longer modules that may extend over the summer are Full Year (FLYR) or Non-Standard Year (NSYR) modules.

In **Stage 1**, students study 120 core credits:

Table 1: MOptom Stage 1 Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
OPT4017-D	Ocular Health and Disease 1	40	FHEQ 4	Academic Year
OPT4018-V	Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 1	50	FHEQ 4	Academic Year
OPT4019-C	Optometric Practice 1	30	FHEQ 4	Academic Year

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Clinical Vision Science if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. THE CERTIFICATE AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL AS AN OPTOMETRIST.

In **Stage 2**, students study 120 core credits:

Table 2: MOptom Stage 2 Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
OPT5020-D	Ocular Health and Disease 2	40	FHEQ 5	Academic Year
OPT5021-V	Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 2	50	FHEQ 5	Academic Year
OPT5022-C	Optometric Practice 2	30	FHEQ 5	Academic Year

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Diploma of Higher Education in Clinical Vision Science if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. THE DIPLOMA AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL AS AN OPTOMETRIST.

In **Stage 3**, students study 120 core credits in a single module:

Table 3: MOptom Stage 3 Module

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
OPT6023-G	Optometric Practice 3	120	FHEQ 6	Academic Year

At the end of stage 3, students will be eligible to exit with the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor in Clinical Vision Science if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE AWARD DOES NOT CONFER ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL AS AN OPTOMETRIST.

In Stage 4A, students begin their Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP). During CLiP, you'll work under supervision to build your clinical skills, grow your professional confidence, and sharpen key abilities like communication, decision-making, and teamwork - all essential for meeting the General Optical Council (GOC) learning outcomes.

Table 4: MOptom Stage 4a Module

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
OPT7011-E	Optometric Practice 4 (With Clinical Placement)	60	FHEQ 7	Semester 2 & NS Year

On successful completion of the CLiP component of Optometric Practice 4, and its associated assessments, students may proceed to Stage 4B.

Table 5: MOptom Stage 4b Module

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Study Period
OPT7012-E	Optometric Practice 5 (With Clinical Placement)	60	FHEQ 7	Semester 2 & NS Year

In line with the GOC's requirements to limit the number of reassessments students will be permitted a maximum of two attempts at the CLiP components of Optometric Practice 4 and Optometric Practice 5.

Students will be eligible for the award of Master of Optometry with Honours if they have successfully completed at least 480 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. THE MASTER OF OPTOMETRY DEGREE AWARD CONFERS ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER WITH THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL AS AN OPTOMETRIST.

Placement

Stage 4 of this programme requires students to undertake a 44-week placement in clinical optometric practice. Placements are organised and administered by the College of Optometrists, under a partnership agreement with the University of Bradford.

Placements are applied for competitively through a process run by the College of Optometrists. Students are responsible for applying for and securing their placement with the support of the university's Career and Employability Service and the College of Optometrists. You will be supported in building your CV and application skills during the earlier stages of the programme. As placements in the CLiP scheme are applied for in national competition with students from other optometry schools in the UK, students should note that availability cannot be guaranteed, and that relocation away from Bradford for the duration of the placement may be necessary. Students earn a salary whilst on placement, but must meet the costs of living, including relocation if necessary, whilst on placement, themselves.

Assessment Strategy

The Optometry programme includes a range of assessment methods. All modules include both formative (mock) and summative (final) assessments.

Formative assessment helps students learn more effectively by providing feedback on performance and how it can be improved and/or maintained. Examples of formative assessments include in-lecture polling of answers to questions with immediate feedback, specific tests to be completed prior to teaching sessions where answers are discussed, or designated assessments completed online with feedback provided electronically. Reflective practice by students sometimes contributes to formative assessment but is always used to allow students to identify areas of success and also areas requiring further work. Most practical sessions incorporate opportunities for reflective practice.

Summative assessment includes written exams and demonstration of practical or clinical ability or competence. Some of the assessments in the programme, for example in the Optometric Practice 1 - 5 modules, are synoptic in nature. Synoptic assessments are those that encourage students to combine elements of their learning from different parts of a programme and to show their accumulated knowledge and understanding of a topic or subject area.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website ((<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/search/index.php?collection=uobr%7Esp-meta-new&query=regulations>)

for undergraduate courses (Regulation 2) with variance from the regulation as outlined below and documented in the Variance Register.

Variance from Regulation 2 Part 4 (Assessment and pass criteria)

- Students must pass specified individual components within modules at the pass-mark stated in the module descriptor

Variance from Regulation 2 Part 5 (Reassessment)

- In OPT4017-D, OPT4018-V, OPT4019-C, OPT5020-D, OPT5021-V, OPT5022-C: Reassessment for the attendance requirement for Ocular Health and Disease 1, Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 1, Optometric Practice 1, Ocular Health and Disease 2, Vision, Optics and Refractive Correction 2 and Optometric Practice 2 is not permitted. Students who fail the attendance requirement will be required to repeat the module with attendance.
- In OPT6023-G: Reassessment for the clinical logbook assessment for "Optometric Practice 3" is not permitted and therefore students who fail this assessment will be required to repeat the module with attendance.
- In OPT7011-E and OPT7012-E: Reassessment for CLiP (Clinical Learning in Practice) components of Optometric Practice 4 and Optometric Practice 5 is not permitted and therefore students who fail these components will be required to repeat the modules with attendance.

Variance from Regulation 2 Part 6.1 (Eligibility to continue)

- A student will be eligible to continue to the next stage of the programme if they have passed all modules in the current stage.
- In OPT7011-E and OPT7012-E: Students must pass the Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) assessments delivered by the College of Optometrists in Optometric Practice 4, in order to continue to complete Optometric Practice 5. Students who pass the CLiP assessments but fail Optometric Practice 4 for other reasons may continue onto OPT7012-E Optometric Practice 5 whilst resitting OPT7011-E Optometric Practice 4 at the next opportunity.

Variance from Regulation 2 Part 6.2 (Third attempt without attendance) and Part 6.3 (Restudy with attendance)

- In OPT7011-E and OPT7012-E: Students are permitted a maximum of two attempts at the CLiP components of Optometric Practice 4 and Optometric Practice 5 and therefore not permitted a third attempt with or without attendance. A third attempt at the University-delivered assessments is offered without attendance only for students who have passed the CLiP components.

Variance from Regulation 2 Part 7.1 (Programme Specific Award Calculation)

- The MOptom award classification is calculated based on a 10:20:30:40 stage split, where 40% of the award is based on Stage 4 performance.
- Performance at each stage is calculated by: average of the best 100 credits at Stage 1 for 10%; average of the best 100 credits at Stage 2 for 20%; average of the best 100 credits at Stage 3 for 30%; and average of the best 100 credits at Stage 4 for 40%.

Admission Requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond. People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

We are committed to raising aspirations and widening access to higher education, regardless of your background. The [University of Bradford Progression Scheme](#) welcomes applicants from a number of groups including adult learners who are 21+ on the first day of term, British armed forces families, carers and care experienced learners, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller family members.

Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience. Offers of places are made following detailed consideration of individual applications.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/master-of-optometry/>

The minimum entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

English, Mathematics and Science Entry Requirements (Level 2)

- Applicants need 5 GCSEs at grade 4/C or above, including English Language, Mathematics, and two Sciences (or Double Award) of Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics.
- We regret that we cannot admit UK students with equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications, such as Key Skills, to the Optometry programme.
- However, applicants seeking entry with RQF Level 3 Access to HE Diplomas will only need one GCSE Science at grade 4/C.

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-session English course](#).

Examples of other equivalent international qualifications for entry are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

Typical Applicant Profiles (Level 3)

Applicants seeking entry through the UCAS scheme should expect to need 136 points from the current tariff in addition to the above requirements.

- **A-Levels:** AAB including at least 2 sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics) and preferably a 3rd science, a related subject (such as Psychology, Geography, Computing) or a key supporting subject (such as English Language).
 - The practical element in Science A-Levels must be passed (since 2017).
- **Access to HE:** UCAS tariff score of 136 in Science, Medicine, Science and Engineering, Dentistry, Pharmacy or Medical Sciences.
 - Applicants are allowed a maximum of two attempts at an Access course to meet our entry requirements. A second attempt at an Access course must be a full 60 credits in a relevant course - you cannot resit individual modules to top up the previous Access course results.
 - Applicants who meet these requirements, as well as from students with non-traditional qualifications, will be considered on an individual basis based on suitable paid employment history that demonstrates strong communication, inter-personal, scientific and/or numerical skills.
- **Other qualifications:** As listed on the course website or on application.

There is no Foundation Year available for UK/home students. International applicants completing the International Year Zero route for Optometry will need to achieve 70% overall, 70% in both optional modules and at least 50% in English Language for Specific Academic Purposes.

Professional Entry Requirements

All students of Optometry in the UK are required to register with the General Optical Council (GOC) from the date on which they enrol on the Optometry programme, and to maintain this registration thereafter. The cost for this is £30 per year (2025/6 cost).

The GOC also requires student registrants to adhere to its Code of Conduct and the GOC may take disciplinary action against any student found to be in breach of this Code. For more information about registration and what it means, visit the GOC website: <https://optical.org/registration/join-the-register/register-as-a-student.html>

A period of relevant paid employment is mandatory for applicants with Access and non-traditional qualifications. For other applicants, whilst not mandatory, a period of paid employment in an optical practice (supported by an employer reference) will strongly support an application.