Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (OP43)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (part-time): 2 semesters
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: Full fee tuition $7,750 (indicative) per semester
International fees (indicative): 2010: $10,500 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: July
International Entry: July (non student visa applicants only, not CRICOS registered)
Course coordinator: All course enquiries to email: optometry.enquiries@qut.com or phone 07 3138 3368
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview
The Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics is designed to provide training to allow optometrists in Queensland to use a range of topical ocular Pharmaceuticals for the treatment of eye disease. The design and implementation of this program has been in response to legislative changes in Queensland to allow suitably qualified optometrists to use a range of S4 drugs to treat eye disease. This course is the only local means whereby Queensland optometrists can gain a qualification in ocular therapeutics, and it will be supplementary to their normal optometric registration.

Entry Requirements
Applicants for the course must hold a four year degree in optometry from a recognised School of Optometry, or have equivalent standing and have current registration as optometrists in any State or Territory of Australia or New Zealand.

Advanced standing will not apply and the course will not articulate with any currently offered course within QUT or other institution in Australia or elsewhere.

It is anticipated that The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (TOC) will conduct examinations in ocular therapeutics for optometrists from overseas as they currently do for such optometrists seeking registration to practice in Australia.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early as strict quotas apply.

Potential Careers:
Optometrist.

UNIT SYNOPSES

OPP001 Ocular Therapeutics 1
The aim of this unit is to provide optometrists with a sound knowledge of bio-medical sciences as they relate to ocular disorders and to enable them to therapeutically manage certain eye diseases. This unit covers: general pathology and immunology with reference to ocular tissues, microbiology with reference to organisms involved in ophthalmic diseases, pharmacology and pharmacodynamics including interaction of drugs with the body, disorders of the anterior eye, glaucoma, iritis and uveitis, management of cataract, post-surgical management, legal requirements for therapeutic drug use, workshops on skills related to the management of disease.

Credit points: 24  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

OPP002 Ocular Therapeutics 2
This unit enables optometrists to develop an understanding of the properties of ocular therapeutic drugs and their applications in clinical practice, and to develop experience with the clinical management of certain eye diseases. The following topics are covered: Examination and diagnosis of anterior eye conditions (including acute red eye), glaucoma, iritis and uveitis, and cataract; development of management strategies including establishing appropriate treatment plans and evaluating the need for referral for specialist treatment; management of post-surgical conditions.

Prerequisites: OPP001  Credit points: 24  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2