Master of Optometry (commences in 2012) (OP85)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 065379E
Course duration (full-time): 2 years
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: CSP $3,800 (indicative) per semester
International Fees (indicative): 2010: $10,500 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February
Total credit points: 192
Course coordinator: Dr Peter Hendicott
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview
NOTE: The Master of Optometry is NOT offered 2009-2011. Commonwealth-supported places will be offered from 2012.

This course is the second component of a dual award program - Bachelor of Vision Science (OP45)/Master of Optometry (OP85).

In 2008 and previous years, the Faculty of Health has offered a four year Bachelor of Applied Science (Optometry) degree. A five year dual degree program will be offered from 2009 - a three year Bachelor of Vision Science (OP45), together with a two year Master of Optometry (OP85).

This change has resulted from the profession of Optometry undergoing expansion in its scope of practice as a result of legislative amendments occurring (or pending) in all states and territories to allow appropriately trained optometrists to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in the practice of Optometry. The new program increases graduates' depth of knowledge in the areas of general and ocular pharmacology, with increasing training in the therapeutic management of eye disease.

Why choose this course
A graduate of OP45 Bachelor of Vision Science must also complete the Master of Optometry to be eligible for registration as an optometrist.

The course provides increased exposure to real world learning experiences both within the QUT Health Clinic, and in the workplace via the inclusion of extended clinical placements.

Case-based learning and case-based assessment will enhance the training in diseases of the eye and ocular therapeutics. Guest lecturers and practising optometrists are involved in the clinical training.

Entry requirements
The requirement for admission to the course is completion of QUT’s Bachelor of Vision Science or equivalent.

Graduates of QUT’s BVisSc will have automatic entry to the Master of Optometry.

Career options
Graduates are highly employable, with all students employed on graduation. Graduates can work or specialise in areas such as contact lens practice, children’s vision, occupational/public health optometry or low vision, as well as general primary care clinical practice. The majority of optometry graduates enter private practice and work initially in established practices, often with a view to future partnership or the establishment of their own practice. Graduates are also employed in government service, including hospitals. A number of graduates are working in secondary clinical care environments, primarily in ophthalmology medical eye care practices. The course also provides a route to employment within the ophthalmic industry, or students may enter the teaching and research fields after further study.

Professional recognition
Boards of Optometrical Registration regulate the practice of optometry in Australia. QUT graduates are eligible to apply to the Optometrists’ Board of Queensland for registration to practise as an optometrist in Queensland and all states and territories of Australia.

Students must complete the Master of Optometry as well as the Bachelor of Vision Science to be eligible for registration.

Other requirements
Ophthalmic instruments costing approximately $5000 are required for the clinical program. These should already have been purchased for the undergraduate program which precedes the Master program (Bachelor of Vision Science).

A uniform shirt (approx $40 per shirt) must be purchased for wear by all students whilst they undertake patient consultations and perform clinical eye examinations in the Optometry Clinic.

Students will also be required to maintain First Aid Certification and have a Blue Card before undertaking the clinical units.

Further information
For information about this course, please call the Public Health and Optometry Student Centre on +61 7 3138 3368 or email optometry.enquiries@qut.edu.au

Course structure - Full-time

**Year 1, Semester 1**
- OPN160  Optometry 7
- OPN161  Optometry in Special Needs Groups
- OPN162  Contact Lens Practice
- OPN163  Primary Care Clinic 7

**Year 1, Semester 2**
- OPN260  Optometry 8
- OPN261  Therapeutic Management of Eye Disease
- OPN262  Specialist Clinic 8
- OPN263  Primary Care Clinic 8

**Year 2, Semester 1**
- OPN361  Evidence Based Optometry
- OPN362  Specialist Clinic 9
- OPN363  Primary Care Clinic 9
- OPN364  Clinical Externship 9

**Year 2 Semester 2**
- OPN461  Optometry in Professional Practice
- OPN462  Specialist Clinic 10
- OPN463  Primary Care Clinic 10
- OPN464  Clinical Externship 10

**Potential Careers:**
Optometrist.