This course is the second component of a five year dual degree program, comprising a three year Bachelor of Vision Science (OP45), followed by a two year Master of Optometry (OP85).

NOTE that:

• both degrees need to be completed before a graduate can apply for registration as an optometrist
• there is no direct entry to the OP85 course
• all applicants enter the program through the OP45 Bachelor of Vision Science and progress to the OP85 course on successful completion of the OP45 course

The profession of optometry is undergoing expansion in its scope of practice as a result of legislative amendments to allow appropriately trained optometrists to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in the practice of optometry. The five year program increases graduates’ depth of knowledge in the areas of general and ocular pharmacology, with 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 QUT Health Clinics, 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
Entry requirement
Completion of QUT’s Bachelor of Vision Science within the last two years.

Additional information
All current QUT Bachelor of Vision Science graduates will automatically receive an offer

Lauren Hutchinson
Share your success

Growing up in rural NSW, I was always aware of the lack of services available to communities like mine. What ultimately led me to optometry was spending time with my childhood optometrist and watching what he did. At QUT, having lecturers that were also practising clinicians was amazing. They were able to provide real-world case studies and examples which was invaluable. I also loved seeing patients at the QUT Health Clinics, doing external placements, as well as volunteer work at schools, screening days, and
to start within three weeks of the current semester two results being released.

**Deferment**
This course is open to deferment. Requests are made by responding to the offer email.

**2022 and onwards entry**
Completion of QUT’s Bachelor of Vision Science with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 4.00 within the last two years.

**Careers and outcomes**
Graduates in optometry have exciting careers that may include clinical practice in a range of optometric settings, or teaching and research positions in Australia and overseas. Many graduates enter private practice with a view to future partnership or the establishment of their own practice. An increasing number of graduates are working alongside other health professionals in medical ophthalmology clinics.

Graduates of the dual award program can work or specialise in areas such as contact lens practice, paediatric vision, occupational/public health vision, or low vision.

**Professional recognition**
The dual degree program Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry meets the requirements for accreditation by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand. Graduates of the program meet the requirements for registration by the Optometry Board of Australia.

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

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) requires that graduates demonstrate English language skills at IELTS level 7 or equivalent before being considered for professional registration. For further information visit the AHPRA website [www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Requirements.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Requirements.aspx)

Please refer to the Optometry Board of Australia website [www.optometryboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx](http://www.optometryboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx) for additional information on the Board's Registration Standards.

**Fees**

**HECS-HELP**
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

**Student Services and Amenities Fee**
You’ll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP information.

**Additional Costs**
There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. Some of these requirements have associated costs. Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.

**Student registration**
QUT automatically registers students enrolled in this course with the Optometry Board of Australia in accordance with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009. Details about student registration are available from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)

**Information for existing optometrists**
The Master of Optometry course provides the second component of the entry-level program to the profession in Australia - it is NOT designed to provide qualified optometrists with a masters level qualification. A route for further study is through higher degree research training.

**Information for overseas trained optometrists**
Overseas trained optometrists seeking to gain registration in Australia should contact the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand at [www.ocanz.org](http://www.ocanz.org) for details concerning eligibility for registration through the assessment process before considering further study.

**Course requirements**
There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. You will need to identify these requirements and ensure you allow sufficient time to meet them.

Some of these requirements have associated costs. Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.

---

This information has been prepared for Australian and New Zealand citizens and those with Australian permanent resident status. Some courses are not open to international students, and entry requirements and fee information may be different. For more information and to check if a course is available, international students should visit [www.qut.edu.au/international](http://www.qut.edu.au/international). Last updated on: 18/09/2020. Information contained in this document was correct at the time of printing. The university reserves the right to amend any information, and to cancel, change or relocate any course. CRICOS No.00213J