

Changes to previous information

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, we prioritised the health, wellbeing and safety of our students and staff.

As we start the new academic year, your health, wellbeing and safety remains our top priority. This means when we return to our campuses and buildings in September 2020 social distancing and other health and safety measures will be in place. This is to help keep you, and others around you, safe. We will respond to the requirements of vulnerable students regarding their personal safety on an individual basis.

We remain committed to delivering an outstanding education and student experience both on campus and online. Like most universities, we'll be providing a mix of on-site face-to-face and digital learning and teaching. The exact mix will vary between courses and course modules taking into account teaching requirements and other considerations such as meeting the safety of vulnerable staff.

It is important to emphasise that a face-to-face, on-site experience will be delivered within the Government and Public Health England guidance and providing there are no serious unforeseeable public health issues that result in the Government introducing further lockdown measures.

Our response to the pandemic means we may have made changes to your course. This is to take account of these important health and safety measures.

We ask you to read the information provided about course changes carefully. We detail what we include in our online prospectus and explain what has changed.

You should read our statement of changes alongside any information provided in videos, at open days or in other promotional materials. This is because the information may also have been affected by the changes we had to make. We are providing this information so you can make an informed choice about whether the course remains suitable for you.

When you register for your course, you will be asked to confirm you have read about our changes and you agree to them. It means that by choosing to continue with your application, and register with us, you accept these changes and are happy to study your course with us.

We really look forward to seeing you in the next academic year. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about University life from this September, and being part of our supportive and welcoming community, please visit our [September 2020 web pages](#).

Due to Covid-19, we have had to make some changes to your course. We have set out below what we told you in our prospectus material. We explain below what changes we needed to make. We want to make sure you know about these changes. When you register for your course, we will ask you to confirm you have read and understood this information.

Current published course related information		
Course title	Vision Science	
Award level	BSc– Single honours only	
How do you want to study?		
Start Date	Sept 2020	
Modes of study	Full-time	
Duration	N/A	
UCAS code	B503	
Location	ABDO College	
Partner institution	ABDO College	
Available with a Foundation Year	N/A	
Overview		
	<p>The Vision Science course offers a unique opportunity for dispensing opticians to ‘top-up’ to a degree while still working in practice.</p> <p>The course, offered by ABDO College in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University, is designed for fully qualified dispensing opticians who wish to gain a profession specific degree and acquire graduate skills that can be applied to the workplace. You will be taught through online distance learning via Christ Church's Virtual Learning Environment.</p> <p>The usual route is 18 months, however, can be completed over three years.</p>	
Why study Vision Science?		
	<p>On a day to day level, thousands of dispensing opticians carry out excellent work with the FBDO diploma and acquired years of skill and experience. For many, there was no choice to pick a degree course when they were studying. A significant number of well-qualified practitioners are</p>	

	<p>seeing the new wave of graduates and thinking, 'I would have liked a degree too.'</p> <p>ABDO College working in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University is now offering any dispensing optician with the FBDO diploma the chance to top up to a degree. The new BSc (Hons) in Vision Science course is designed for fully qualified dispensing opticians who wish to gain a profession specific degree and acquire graduate skills that can be applied to the workplace. It offers a unique opportunity for dispensing opticians to 'top-up' to a degree while still working in practice.</p>	
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Entry requirements	<p>ABDO Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing (FBDO) qualification. You will require current membership with the Association of British Dispensing Opticians.</p> <p>This course has not yet been validated for International students.</p> <p>More information about entry requirements.</p>	
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About the course

	<p>The degree progresses you through a mix of assessments; essays, a poster, a leaflet, a case study, and with the option of a workplace project on a topic that you choose according to your specific interests. There are no attended exams to take. The course comprises three compulsory modules and three optional modules from a list which includes contact lenses and low vision, so, again, you can tailor the degree to your interests.</p> <p>The compulsory modules are; Academic Skills Development, Evidence-based Practice, and Transforming Ophthalmic Practice.</p> <p>The optional modules include The Principles of Contact Lens Practice, The Principles of Low Vision Practice, Paediatric Eyecare, Ophthalmic Public Health, Dry eye & Ocular Surface Disease, and an independent study module where you select a relevant topic. Each module has around 8-10 lectures and several live seminars with your course tutors (via our online virtual learning environment, Blackboard).</p> <p>The whole degree is offered in a flexible timeframe. You can study two modules at a time and complete it within 18 months, the suggested time, but you have up to three years should you wish to proceed at a slower pace due to other commitments.</p>	
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Module information

- Please note that the list of optional modules and their availability may be subject to change. We continually review and where appropriate, revise the range of modules on offer to reflect changes in the subject and ensure the best student experience. Modules will vary when studied in combination with another subject.

Core		
	<p>Academic Skills Development Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module introduces you to the concepts of academic writing and information management, life-long learning, academic and professional development, and reflective practice using the University's VLE. The content will include accessing and critically evaluating information/evidence.</p>	
	<p>Understanding Evidence-Based Practice Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module will expose you to methods used when systematically examining the evidence used in our working practice. The content of the module will include the nature of evidence-based work practices and how audit and the research process can be used to explore problems. Research appraisal skills will be practised, using a published framework, to enhance the efficacy of a more analytical approach to the use of research findings and to interpret and challenge manufacturers' in-house research findings.</p>	
	<p>Transforming Ophthalmic Practice Core module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module aims to enable you to review service delivery in your practice environment and to critically evaluate a pilot or small-scale development initiative which will enhance service provision. You will develop a project aimed at improving service delivery. This will include making use of SWOT analysis, Gantt charts, workplace audits and liaise with stakeholders. This module will also develop project management skills.</p>	
Optional		
	<p>Paediatric Care in Ophthalmic Practice Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>As this is a protected category for dispensing opticians, the module aims to provide you with a detailed understanding and knowledge of how sight testing and paediatric dispensing differs from adult dispensing; including specialist fitting of</p>	<p>This optional module is not currently available and should be removed.</p>

	optical appliances for those children with additional needs.	
	<p>Principles of Contact Lens Practice Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>This module will allow you to critically evaluate the choice and uses of RGP, soft and scleral contact lens types and the comparative use of spectacle lenses that may be encountered by the dispensing optician in practice. Therapeutic uses of contact lenses, used for patients with low vision and fitting philosophies for rigid and soft lenses are explored. Techniques for insertion and removal of all types of contact lenses, and purposes and types of care regimes and common constituents in solutions uses are all considered. It is an ideal preparatory module for those students considering becoming a contact lens optician, and for current practitioners to obtain a greater critical understanding of the products they are providing their patients.</p>	
	<p>Principles of Low Vision Practice Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>Following this module, you will be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the pathophysiology and assessment in low vision, the application of biopsychosocial models to the management of those with low vision. You will be better equipped for the increasing number of visually impaired patients you come into contact with in practice. It will provide an excellent introduction, that may lead students on to studying toward the Associations Low Vision Certificate.</p>	<p>This optional module will only run on alternate years and is unavailable for selection this academic year.</p>
	<p>Concepts of Ophthalmic Public Health Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>You will explore and understand the wider public health agenda and will undertake a critical review and analysis of an ophthalmic issue in public health. You will work on producing an academic poster on a local enhanced eyecare pathway.</p>	
	<p>Dry Eye and Ocular Surface Disorders Optional module - (20 Credits)</p>	<p>This optional module will only run on alternate years and is unavailable for selection this academic year.</p>

	<p>Dry eye has become a common symptom reported by patients, and there is a varied aetiology. This module aims to cover the current theories of the tears film and will look to compare traditional tear tears to modern techniques for dry eye assessment and treatment. You will explore current workshop groups such as DEWS and DEWS II, and therefore critique the latest dry eye and ocular surface research and recommendations for suitable treatments and products available to patients.</p>	
	<p>Independent Study Optional module - (20 Credits)</p> <p>You will be able to undertake a study on a topic of interest, applied to an area of professional practice. You can enhance your knowledge on a range of graduate attributes, moving on from the initial module of Understanding Evidence-Based Practice. You will become more familiar with identifying and understanding research and being able to apply it to your everyday practice as a Dispensing Optician. This will help you become better, more enquiring and well-informed practitioners for the benefit of your patients.</p>	

How you'll learn

Teaching	<p>The team have a range of expertise and experience in delivering research-informed teaching. All of your tutors are experienced dispensing opticians, contact lens opticians or optometrists. They will have significant experience in the subject area and will, therefore, be able to guide you throughout your degree journey. Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) will work in collaboration with our partners, the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) College.</p> <p>You will be taught through a combination of recorded lectures, live seminars and directed study. You will typically have around 2-4 hours directed study and tutor contact per week. Seminars will enable you to discuss and develop your understanding of topics covered in the recorded lectures. You will be able to discuss your progress live with your academic, personal tutor, via video-link, within our virtual learning environment, called Blackboard Collaborate.</p> <p>All programmes are informed by the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy 2015-2022.</p>	
Independent study	<p>When not reviewing recorded lectures, attending virtual seminars or other timetabled sessions you will continue learning through self-study. Typically, this involves reading journal articles and books, undertaking research, working on projects, and preparing for coursework assignments/examinations, workshops and seminars. Your module tutor will direct you to specific readings and/or activities to complete each week.</p>	
Overall workload	<p>Your journey through your degree will typically take 18 months. However, you may opt to take one module at a time, staggering the workload and completing your degree over three years instead. Each module will count as 20 credits toward your 120 credit total which will enable you to achieve a BSc (Hons) in Vision Science. You will require access to a computer, ideally with a headset and microphone and web camera facilities.</p>	

Academic input	N/A	
How you'll be assessed		
	<p>The course provides you with opportunities to test your understanding of the subject informally before you complete the formal assessments that count towards your final mark. Each module normally contains at least one piece of practice or 'formative' assessment for which you receive feedback from your tutor. Feedback from formative assessments will not count toward your final grade.</p> <p>Each module will provide at least three exemplars of acceptable work expected at the assessment. There is a formal or 'summative' assessment at the end of each module.</p> <p>Assessment methods include various essays, academic posters, case studies, leaflets and presentations. All assessments are designed around the virtual learning environment and are submitted electronically via the 'Turnitin' service.</p> <p>The grades from formal assessments count towards your module mark. You must achieve a minimum pass mark of 40 and above in all modules. Each module may be made up of more than one final assignment piece with a varied weighting of each element. You must pass each of these at 40% to be able to pass the module. Each module is weighted evenly when calculating your degree award classification.</p>	
Your future career		
	<p>Once you have completed the degree, it will open a gateway to career opportunities such as lecturing or research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be more respected within your workplace, and your patients will benefit from your evidence-based recommendations. • You can progress from your bachelor's degree to master's and then to doctorate level taking your research skills and knowledge to the next level and carrying out groundbreaking research. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will enjoy the foundations for the ABDO low vision certificate and contact lens practice certificate and may go on to study these at ABDO college. 	
Fees		
UK/EU (each module)	Full-time £1,027.50	
	Part-time N/A	
Overseas (each module)	Full-time N/A	
	Part-time N/A	
Course specific costs		
	<p>Students must have access to the internet via a computer, and ideally have a webcam and headset with microphone.</p> <p>Students must maintain membership with the Association of British Dispensing Opticians and professional registration with the General Optician Council.</p>	
Professional accreditation	N/A	
Industry links	N/A	
Other important information		
	N/A	
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