



Optometry at Melbourne

Doctor of Optometry 2011 intake

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- ▶ **What is optometry?**
- ▶ **Optometry programs**
- ▶ **Why Melbourne?**
- ▶ **O.D. – At a glance**
- ▶ **O.D. Course structure**
- ▶ **Entry requirements**
- ▶ **Accreditation**
- ▶ **Career Outcomes**





Optometry is a primary health profession that helps people with visual problems.

Optometrists

- ✓ **diagnose** the cause of eye problems
- ✓ **prescribe** and **dispense** glasses and contact lenses
- ✓ **treat** eye movement and eye coordination problems
- ✓ diagnose eye diseases and **provide primary treatment**
- ✓ provide **rehabilitation** for the visually handicapped
- ✓ **advise** on visual ergonomics and vision standards
- ✓ engage in **therapeutic treatment** of ocular diseases

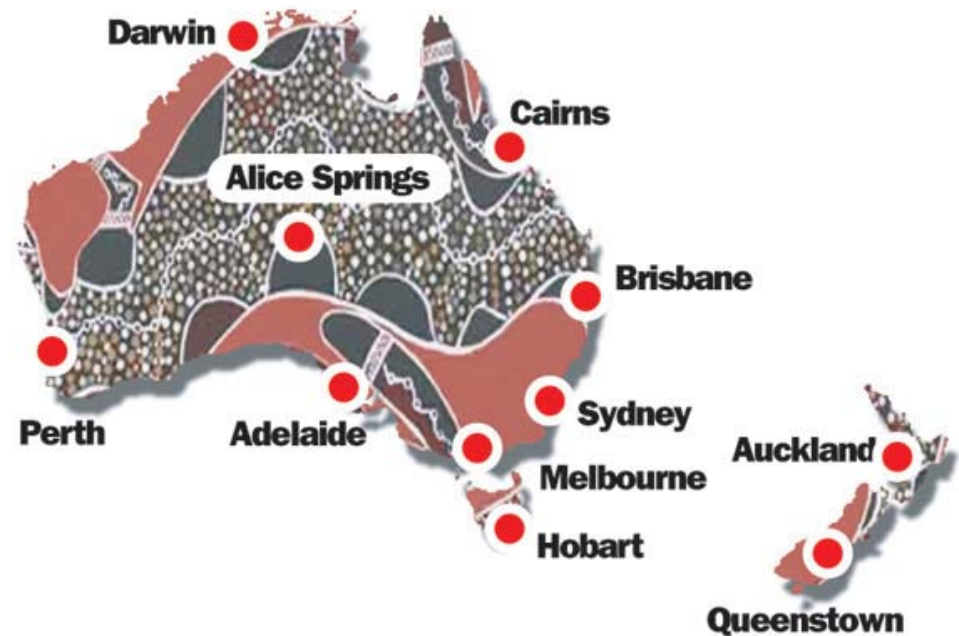


University Eyecare clinic



Australia

- ▶ University of Melbourne offers the only optometry course in Victoria – moving to graduate-level course
- ▶ 3 other optometry courses (UNSW, QUT, Flinders) – other optometry departments moving to 5 year undergraduate or undergraduate plus Masters courses



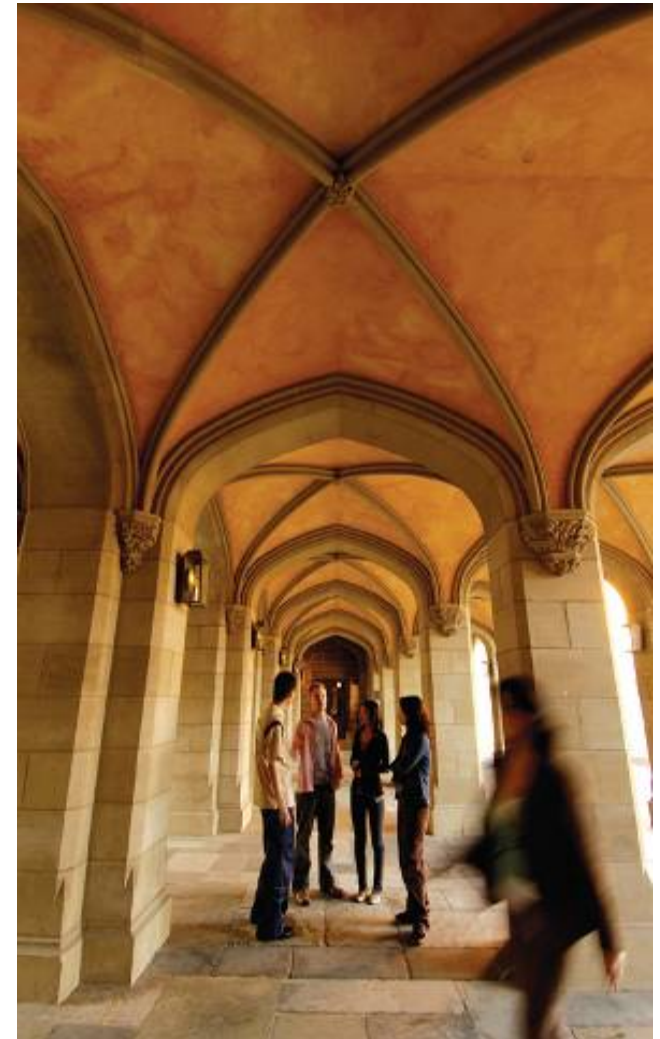
New Zealand

- ▶ Auckland University

Image source: www.australiantravelclub.com/Images/CentreMap.jpg



- ▶ It is ranked the top optometry department in Australasia
 - by teaching and research (grants, publications and research students) by independent Federal Government assessors.
- ▶ Strong research-led teaching curriculum further improved for the 4-year graduate Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) program.
- ▶ The O.D. provides the highest standard of optometry education in the world, competitive with the very best.



Old Quadrangle



Optometry is a profession which has undergone regular expansion of its scope of practice:

- ▶ introduction of therapeutic drugs - management of ocular disease e.g. glaucoma
- ▶ Looking to USA - will not be long before introduction of oral drug treatment and laser surgery are likely to be part of the scope of optometry practice.

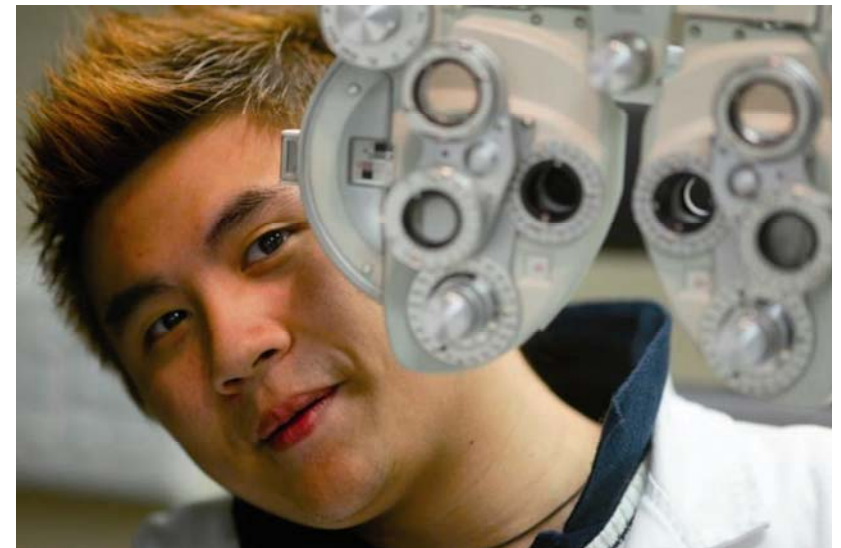


The Doctor of Optometry program has the structure to best prepare for future scope of practice expansion while also providing the most clinical exposure anywhere in the southern hemisphere.



At a glance:

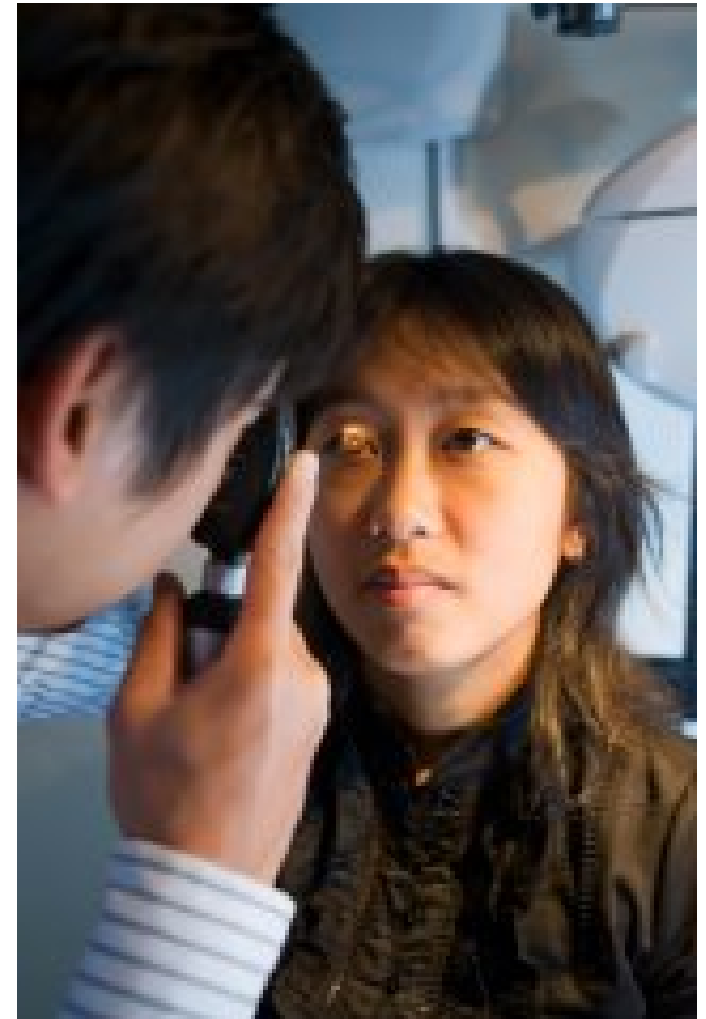
- ▶ 4-year program, full-time, offered from 2011
- ▶ Mix of coursework and clinical practice
- ▶ Internationally recognised qualification
- ▶ Access to the University's state-of-the-art optometry practice as well as the University's strong links to hospitals, community and professional bodies in Australia and worldwide
- ▶ Eligible to register to practise as a therapeutically endorsed Optometrist in Australia, and to register to practise in several overseas countries.
- ▶ 64 places available





Strengths of the program:

- ▶ Research-active staff
(Internationally-recognised optometric researchers)
- ▶ A portable optometry qualification
(Eligible for registration overseas)
- ▶ State-of-the-art facilities
(Placements in EyeCare Clinic, Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital)
- ▶ Hands-on clinical experience
(From the first year of study)
- ▶ Capstone experience
(Placements, including overseas)





OD Course Structure



Year 1 2 x 12 wks	Integrated Ophthalmic Sciences 75 points	Pre-Clinical Optometry 25 points	Fusion 1: Seeing the Links 6.25 points
Year 2 2 x 12 wks	Research Studies in Vision & Optometry 25 points	Applied Clinical Training 75 points	Fusion 2: Exploring the Links 6.25 points
Year 3 2 x 20 wks	Clinical Optometry Practice 100 points		Fusion 3: Embracing the Links 6.25 points
Year 4 44 wks	Advanced Clinical Optometry Practice 100 points		Fusion 4: Forging New Links 6.25 points

*Course structure pending final approval from Academic Board



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Students will:

- ▶ Study core biological and physical vision sciences, building on their previous study to understand the structure and function of the visual system.
- ▶ Commence their clinical training, learning and practicing the key techniques of an optometric examination.
- ▶ Start to integrate their understanding of visual system function with their initial clinical training.





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Students will:

- ▶ Understand the rationale of therapies for managing ocular disease.
- ▶ Be introduced to contact lens theory and to the provision of visual aids.
- ▶ Undertake a clinically-relevant research project to bring the course's evidence based practice theme to the forefront.
- ▶ Begin examining their first patients in a clinical practice setting.



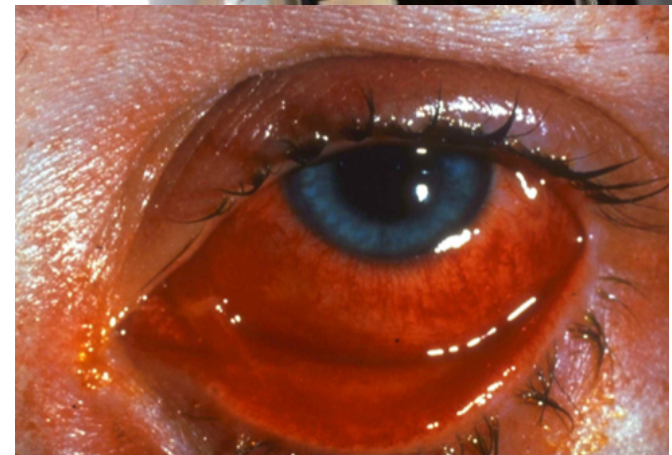


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Students will:

- ▶ Start seeing patients on a regular basis.
- ▶ Further develop clinical skills in advanced diagnostic techniques.
- ▶ Apply advanced detection, diagnosis and management techniques to solve their patients' problems.





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Students will :

- ▶ Be entirely clinically based, gaining experience in all areas of clinical practice, including general practice, disease management, contact lenses, paediatrics, low vision, and practice management.
- ▶ Practise in a diverse range of clinical practice settings e.g. University practice, private practices, hospitals, rural practices.
- ▶ Have their 'Capstone Experience' through overseas externships that provide different practice opportunities.



Paediatric practice



An undergraduate degree (or equivalent) *and:*

- 1 A first, second or third year (or equivalent) level subject in physics or optics
- 2 A second or third year (or equivalent) level subject in anatomy or cell biology;
- 3 2 additional subjects at second or third year (or equivalent) level from one or more relevant biological science disciplines
e.g. molecular biology, cellular biology or physiological sciences

Completion of the **GAMSAT** or **OAT**

Result is valid for 2 years

A written statement

Explaining the motivation to study optometry
(no more than 500 words)





English Requirements

IELTS

Academic English only: 7.0 (written 7.0
no band less than 6)

TOEFL

- ▶ Paper-based: 600 + TWE 5.0
- ▶ Computer-based: 250 + 5.0 essay
- ▶ Internet-based: 100 + written score of 24, no band less than 21





Entitled to be registered immediately:

- ▶ All Australian states
- ▶ New Zealand
- ▶ Malaysia
- ▶ Hong Kong
- ▶ Singapore
- ▶ UK but with further examination
- ▶ Canada (subject to provincial requirements and undertaking bridging studies)
- ▶ Some EEC countries

We will be seeking accreditation of the O.D. in Canada and the USA in the near future.



University's EyeCare practice



100% placement rate for Melbourne graduates in recent years

Salaries range from AUS \$60,000-120,000 depending on the amount of work experience*

Employment opportunities as an optometrist:

- ▶ Private practice
- ▶ Public health
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Ophthalmic industry
- ▶ Government or non-government organisations



* Source: <http://www.payscale.com/research/AU/Job=Optometrist/Salary>

Questions?

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MELBOURNE