

Undergraduate Programme Specification

Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing		
Final Award	Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Department of Vision Sciences		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	B502		
Accreditations (PSRB)	General Optical Council		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2026	To: August 2031

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<p>The Ophthalmic Dispensing Programme aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide an understanding of the scientific investigation of human health and disease, and evidence-based practice; ii. produce graduates who have developed the skills, knowledge and competence to practice in Ophthalmic Dispensing. iii. produce graduates who are able to integrate theory and practice and who are critical, reflective thinkers; iv. foster an ethos of career-long, self-directed learning through continuous professional development; v. provide students with a supportive learning environment both be inclusive of all sectors of society and be responsive to the needs of individuals, employers and stakeholders; vi. encourage the development of high-level communication skills with all sectors of society. vii. Help students envisage new opportunities for themselves and for the profession of Ophthalmic Dispensing

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1 Demonstrates a critical knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the study of the eye and vision.
- A2 Demonstrates knowledge of mechanisms that underlie the development of refractive error and anomalies of binocular vision and oculomotor function and critical knowledge and understanding of how these may be managed.
- A3 Demonstrates a critical knowledge and understanding of the optical and design principles of devices for correcting vision, including spectacles, low vision aids, and specialist sporting and occupational appliances.
- A4 Demonstrates knowledge of the structure and function of the human eye and body in health and disease, as well as the strategies that may be used to manage disease of the eye and surrounding tissues.
- A5 Demonstrates knowledge of the use and sale of pharmaceutical agents within eyecare for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.
- A6 Demonstrates a critical knowledge and understanding of the legal, regulatory, and ethical principles that underlie both the practice of optometry and the prescribing of medications, and current issues that may affect the provision of eyecare services.
- A7 Demonstrates knowledge of the research process and the methodologies that can be applied to both clinical research and studies in fundamental vision science.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Demonstrates knowledge of the range of core and specialist clinical techniques for the assessment of the visual, refractive and oculomotor status of a patient.
- B2 Demonstrates knowledge of the range of core and specialist clinical techniques for the examination of the structure and function of the eyes, adnexa, and visual pathways.
- B3 Gathers, assesses and evaluates the risk factors, symptoms, signs and natural progression of a range of ocular conditions to triage this safely.
- B4 Exercises professional judgement, engages in evidence-based clinical decision-making, works within limits of competence and demonstrates self-directed problem-solving.
- B5 Develops and implements appropriate, patient-centred management plans, which may include refractive correction, shared management, and referral.
- B6 Critically reviews information relating to a patient's optical correction history, health conditions, visual tasks requirements in order to make appropriate dispensing decisions.
- B7 Demonstrates proficiency across a range of clinical techniques required for fitting and dispensing devices for correcting vision, including spectacles, low vision aids, and specialist sporting and occupational appliances.
- B8 Practises effectively across a range of clinical environments, including complex and unpredictable settings, and with a wide range of patient types, including children, the elderly, and those with visual impairment and complex needs.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Adopts a systematic approach to gathering and evaluating information from a variety of sources.
- C2 Demonstrates the ability to critically analyse, interpret, and apply the current evidence base when making clinical judgements.
- C3 Identifies current and anticipated challenges to the effective provision of optical devices, both at a local, practice level as well as more generally, and considers suitable approaches to address these.
- C4 Engages with peers in discussion and debate of current issues related to vision and eyecare.
- C5 Critically analyses, interprets and creates appropriate strategies for management of a range of complex visual task requirements.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Demonstrates effective written, verbal, and non-verbal communication skills with patients, the multi-disciplinary team, and other healthcare professionals.
- D2 Communicates effectively throughout the patient consultation and adapts their approach to meet the needs of individuals.
- D3 Demonstrates effective use of appropriate systems to ensure safe, secure, and accurate clinical record-keeping, data exchange, and patient referral.
- D4 Demonstrates proficiency in the use of software to present information and quantitative and qualitative data.
- D5 Demonstrates proficiency in the use of software for producing written reports and for the development and presentation of promotional or educational material to colleagues and service users.
- D6 Keeps abreast of changes to policy and practice, as well as the application of emerging technologies in eyecare, through the effective use of online tools to search for relevant clinical and scientific literature.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Establishes relationships with colleagues based on professional understanding and respect and works as part of a multidisciplinary team to ensure quality and continuity of care across settings.
- E2 Employs an adaptive and personalised approach to clinical care, taking into consideration the patient's social, personal, and cultural needs, and demonstrates effective collaborative working practices to ensure person-centred care, while understanding their individual role.
- E3 Upholds professional standards and ethical responsibilities and applies all relevant legislation, policies and guidance safely and effectively.
- E4 Works within their limits of competence and critically evaluates and identifies own learning and development needs and those of others.
- E5 Engages in critical reflection and applies clinical governance to safeguard and improve the quality of patient care.
- E6 Develops and utilises professional networks for support, reflection and learning.
- E7 Critically evaluates risk in relation to all aspects of clinical practice and implements appropriate measures to both minimise the occurrence of adverse incidents and mitigate the impact on patient outcomes when such incidents do occur.
- E8 Maintains clinical knowledge and skills appropriate to their individual scope of practice.
- E9 Demonstrates effective leadership and management skills in the clinical setting to ensure safe and efficient patient and caseload management.

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Large group interactive sessions (including flipped classroom approaches)
- Laboratory sessions
- Tutorials
- Practical skills sessions
- Clinical sessions
- Peer discussion and review
- Online discussion forums
- Seminars

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Formal examinations and class tests
- Laboratory reports
- Data analysis exercises
- Clinical portfolios
- Practical skills assessments
- Clinical assessments
- Objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE)
- Quizzes and polls
- Reflective reports
- Case-study exercises
- Oral and poster presentations
- Viva voce examinations
- Literature reviews

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is: **TBC**

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
M1B530587	Clinical Dispensing and Professional Studies 1	Core	7	40	100		
M1B530594	Foundations of Optics	Core	7	20	40	60	
M1B530595	Foundations of Spectacle Dispensing	Core	7	20	100		
M1B530596	Human and Ocular Biology	Core	7	20	100		
M1B530597	Refractive Error and Binocular Vision Development	Core	7	20	50	50	
M2B530619	Clinical Dispensing and Professional Studies 2	Core	8	40	100		
M2B530620	Instrumentation in Clinical Practice	Core	8	20	50	50	
M2B530621	Introduction to Ocular and Systemic Disease	Core	8	20	50	50	
M2B530622	Low Vision and Special Optical Devices	Core	8	20	100		
M2B530623	Management of Refraction and Binocular Vision Anomalies	Core	8	20	60	40	
M3B530627	Clinical Dispensing and Professional Studies 3	Core	9	40	50		50
M3B530624	Abnormal Binocular Vision and Advanced Paediatric Eyecare	Core	9	20	50	50	
M3B530625	Advanced Dispensing	Core	9	20	40		60
M3B530628	Fundamentals of Contact Lens Practice	Core	9	20	50	50	
M3B530626	Assessment and Screening Techniques used in Clinical Practice	Core	9	20	60	40	

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Certificate of Higher Education in Visual Optics- *achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits*

Diploma of Higher Education in Visual Optics - *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits*

Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing - *achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits*

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulationsandpolicies

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: *tbc 1*

Details: *Exception to GCU delivery principal minimum face to face hours: this is due to the delivery of the programme being block and blend while the students work in clinical practice alongside their studies. An exception was granted by the UEG in the initial programme approval stages*

Case No: 237 part a

Details: Exception to the activity hours/ credits rules.

GCU Qualifications Framework (Section 3.3)

2.3 Credit Points (Page 1), Notionally, one credit = 10.

There is a professional body requirement that the student must complete 1600 hours in practice as part of their qualification. This will be carried out during the whole programme but cannot be associated with credits as this would use up 160 of the 360 credits in the programme. The hours must be assigned to the modules, to ensure that they are completed and that the programme conforms to regulatory requirements.

Case No: 237 part b

Details: Exception from weighted assessment/ graded elements in assessment regulations (use of P/F zero weighted element)

University-Assessment-Regulations-2023-24 – Section 13.

In order to sign off and demonstrate the hours were completed (for the GOC), each module has an additional zero- weighted, Pass/Fail element that captures these hours in the clinical logbook.

Case No: *tbc 4*

Details: *The GCU standard admissions requirement for those whose native language is not English is an average IELTS score of 6 (or equivalent) with no element less than 5.5. In line with General Optical Council (GOC) requirements, the BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing programme has an approved exception that requires those whose native language is not English to achieve an overall IELTS score of at least 6.5 (or equivalent) with no element less than 6, as a condition of entry to the programme.*

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	Approved PSP	May 2025	September 2026