Undergraduate Programme Specification
BSc (Hons) Orthoptics

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION				
Programme Title	BSc(Hons) Orthoptics			
Final Award	BSc(Hons) Orthoptics			
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 and placements throughout the UK			
UCAS Code	B520			
Accreditations (PSRB)	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)			
Period of Approval	From:	September 2024	To:	September 27

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

The Orthoptics Programme aims to:

1. To provide an understanding of the scientific investigation of Ocular health and disease.
2. To produce graduates who have developed the skills, knowledge and competence to practice in Orthoptics at the Assistant and Practitioner level and are eligible for HCPC registration.
3. To produce graduates who are able to integrate theory and practice and who are critical, reflective thinkers.
4. To foster an ethos of career-long, self-directed learning through continuous professional development.
5. To provide students with a supportive learning environment that is inclusive of all sectors of society and responsive to the needs of individuals, employers, and stakeholders.
6. To be able to administer and supply medicines in line with the use of exemptions by Orthoptists legislation.
7. To give students confidence in themselves and in their abilities.

In addition, honours students undertaking the project will:

8. conduct a literature review to support an investigative dissertation/project;
9. propose reasoned lines of further investigation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

The BSc (hons) degree in Orthoptics meets the criteria laid down by HCPC and QAA in its core module requirements

A: Knowledge and understanding;

A1 Explain essential facts, concepts, principles and theories in the study of Orthoptics
A2 Understand the principles and areas of applicability of a range of data acquisition and data interpretation techniques
A3 The integrated study of relevant human diseases and disorders and their investigation
A4 The principles and practice of Orthoptic investigations
A5 Understand the theoretical and practical aspects of undertaking a valid measurement
A6 Research methodology
A7 The detailed study of a discipline-specific topic
A8 The required knowledge and understanding to be legible for annotation on the HCPC register as exempt qualified
A9 Knowledge of drug actions and side effects and an understanding of their safe and appropriate use
A10 Understanding of the psychology of use of medicines
A11 Knowledge of the pricing of drugs and their cost-effectiveness
A12 Legislation / legal frameworks relevant to exemptions, supplementary and independent prescribing

Teaching and learning methods will include interactive lectures for delivery of core material. Tutorials and seminars will allow students to reflect on lecture materials and their professional practice, thereby developing a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Workshops, laboratories, and work experience will further encourage an understanding of Orthoptics and the interplay between healthcare professionals in delivering enhanced patient care.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

B1 Develop strategies for the solution of practical problems of a familiar or standard nature.
B2 Ability to solve problems and thus plan strategies for their solution
B3 Make a reasoned choice from a range of strategies and techniques (from B1 & B2) as to which is most appropriate, considering all known circumstances
B4 Plan, conduct and accurately report on work carried out by themselves
B5 Critical discussion, evaluation and reporting of work carried out by themselves or others
B6 Review critically research material from a variety of sources
B7 Use of the Internet to access relevant material
B8 The ability to critically assess drug research

Students develop intellectual skills by participating in all programme activities. The library induction event early in the programme provides guidance on identifying, locating, and using available materials and access to e-journals and e-databases. Throughout the programme, students receive formative feedback and are encouraged to seek additional support to remedy any deficiencies in their skills base.
Assessment of intellectual skills is via written coursework such as student learning exercises, case studies, unseen examinations and project/dissertations and practical skills

C: Generic cognitive skills;

C1 Critical analysis of published information relevant to the discipline of employment
C2 Application of knowledge to healthcare practice
C3 Plan and produce a project dissertation
C4 Critically analyse current practice
C5 Apply appropriate statistical methodology where applicable
C6 Application of the principles of treatment interventions and drug actions to practice
C7 Assessment of patients and carers and selection of best care methods to achieve patient-centred care
C8 Ability to practice within the legal remit of exemptions
C9 Accountable and responsible for their own use of medicines available under exemptions and use evidence to support decisions

Teaching and learning methods: Students receive core material through taught modules. The relationship of these materials to the student's health care practice is developed through tutorials, seminars, workshops, and discussions to promote a deep understanding of the multidisciplinary aspects of Orthoptics and the IPE framework of interprofessional, multidisciplinary working. Professional and practical skills are assessed through clinical placement modules, student learning exercises, laboratory/workshop reports, unseen examination papers, project work, and presentations.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

D1 Critical thinking and problem solving
D2 Cognitive/intellectual skills
D3 Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject
D4 Key life skills
D5 Learning style and orientation to learning
D6 Time management (organising and planning work)
D7 Independent working
D8 Planning, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating own learning and development
D9 Self-marketing marketing/presentation skills
D10 Information retrieval skills and use of NHS e-library
D11 Group working
D12 Presentation skills, both written and oral, including IT skills
D13 Understanding the needs of patients and their carers and the ability to communicate with both patient groups and other health care professionals.
D14 Interpersonal skills during client and carer consultations, understanding consent
D15 Principles of Legal and Ethical Practice when Administering Care
D16 The ability to build therapeutic alliances
D17 Reflection on personal knowledge and its limitations when caring for patients and their carers

Teaching and learning methods: Transferable/key skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Examples of strategies include student-centred learning exercises, unseen examinations and project reports.
Assessment is through assessed student-centred learning exercises, unseen examinations, reports, poster presentations and oral presentations.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

E1 Develop academic ability and clinical competence enabling students to meet the requirements to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council as an autonomous practitioner
E2 Develop skills which will enable students to interpret policy and respond to change in legislation affecting healthcare delivery
E3 Develop awareness of, and sensitivity to, the benefits and challenges inherent within multi-disciplinary and inter-agency practice
E4 Identify the learning needs of self and others, and, as an autonomous learner, engage in the process of personal and professional development Understand the professional ethical and legal context of current practice and adhere to codes of professional conduct and practice
E5 Understand the professional ethical and legal context of current practice and adhere to codes of professional conduct and practice
E6 Be able to work, where appropriate, in partnership with service users, other professionals, support staff and others

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
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences – Hololens Live Streamed Clinics every week
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

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

ASSESSMENT METHODS

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

Across the programme, the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered in person or online, as appropriate, and the module leader will determine their delivery at the Module level.

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: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate-orthoptics-glasgow

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the GCU Code of Student Conduct.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE FINAL EXIT AWARDS[1]							
The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:							
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credit Size**	**SCQF Level**	**CW %**	**CW %**	**Exam %**	**Practical %**
M1B527102	Foundations in Binocular Vision and Orthoptic Practice	20	7	50	50		
M1B530332	Visual Optics, Refraction and Binocular Vision	20	7	40		60	
M1B530327	Biology of the Human Eye and Supporting Structures	20	7	100			
M1B530330	Neural Anatomy and Physiology	20	7	100			
M1B530766	Optics for Orthoptics	20	7	50	50		
M1B527101	Clinical Practice Education 1	20	7	100			Placement Pass/Fail
Exit Award	**Certificate of Higher Education in Eye Care Support**	120					
SCQF Level 8							
Module Code	**Module Title**						
M2B530337	Introduction to Ocular and Systemic Disease	20	8	30		70	
M2B530336	Further Refraction and Binocular Vision	20	8	40		60	
M2B527093	Clinical Practice Education 2	20	8	0	100		Placement Pass/Fail
M2B530338	Ocular Pharmacology	20	8	30		70	
M2B530334	Diagnostic Instrumentation and Techniques A	20	8	50		50	
M2B530335	Diagnostic Instrumentation and Techniques B	20	8	50		50	
Exit Award	**Diploma of Higher Education in Eye Care Assistance**	240					
SCQF Level 9							
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credit Size**					
M3B530341	Further Ocular Disease	20	9	30		70	
M3B530690	Clinical Orthoptics 1	20	9	30		70	
M3B530342	Neuro-ophthalmology and Eye Movement Disorders	20	9	30		70	
M3B530344	Visual Perception and Methods of Enquiry in Vision Science	20	9	50	50		
M3B530343	Visual Development and Paediatric Eyecare	20	9	30		70	

M3B527094	Clinical Practice Education 3	20	9	100			Placement Pass/Fail
Exit Award – Bachelor of Science in Eye Care Assistance		**360**					
SCQF Level 10							

Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**CW %**	**CW%**	**CW%**	**Exam**	
MHB527103	Project / Dissertation	40	20	20	60		
MHB530691	Clinical Orthoptics 2	20	30			70	
M3B025797	Understanding Professional Teams and Leadership (Level 9 module taken in 4th year)	20	60	40			
MHB527095	Clinical Practice Education 4A	20	100				Placement Pass/Fail
MHB527096	Clinical Practice Education 4B	20		60	40		Placement Pass/Fail
Final Award – Bachelor of Science with Honours in Orthoptics		**480**					

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:

English Language Requirements

Where English is not a student's first language, they must evidence a standard of a minimum of IELTS 7 (no element below 6.5) or equivalent (University Exceptions Case 110).

Case 116

Individual Programme Regulations, approved at approval or review, may specify that Compensation may not be exercised in respect of specified modules, for example, a core module(s) that underpin a final Honours module or where professional standards are required to insist on a pass in a named module(s).

i) Students may not be compensated in core modules essential to orthoptic practice, namely Advanced Orthoptics 1,2 and 3 or any practice education modules
ii) Students are required to complete all components of practice education modules successfully.
iii) A student who fails/voids Clinical Practice Education Module(s) will normally be required to re-enter these modules either during the students' summer recess or as an attached student as determined by the Programme Assessment Board. The specific dates will be determined by placement availability and opportunity for a period of learning
iv) Failed practice education cannot be compensated and will require a repeat placement.
v) On successful completion of the Honours project and with no more than 40 credits of modules replaced (not because of failing a module) the student will be eligible for the exit award of: BSc (Hons) Life Sciences
vi) The awards above will not bring eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council register.
vii) On successful completion of Level Four of the full Orthoptics programme, the following exit awards are possible. Completion of this award provides the graduate with eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council: BSc (Hons) Orthoptics

In accordance with standards agreed by the Health and Care Professions Council, a degree awarded at either Level Three or Level Four WILL NOT allow a candidate to register with the Health and Care Professions Council. In line with other allied health programmes within the School, such an award will carry no other title than Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Life Sciences

HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and ethics 1st Sept 2024

https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/

https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-relevant-to-education-and-training/

6.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for the relevant part of the Register.

6.2 Assessment throughout the programme must ensure that learners demonstrate they are able to meet the expectations of professional behaviour, including the standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

6.5 The assessment methods used must be appropriate to, and effective at, measuring the learning outcomes.

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.**			
Version Number	*Changes/Updates*	*Date Changes/Updates made*	*Date Effective From*
1.0	Change to Level 1 Foundations of Optics Module – Optics for Orthoptics is the new module from 2025.	May 2025	September 2025