Regulating and Professional Bodies for Optometrists, Orthoptists and Dispensers

- General Optical Council
- All students must register with the GOC and Disclosure Scotland
- Post graduate pre-registration year
- Health Professionals Council (HPC) for Orthoptists (No post graduate pre-registration year required)
- College of Optometrists
- British and Irish Orthoptics Society (BIOS)
- Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO)

Eye Care Professionals

- Ophthalmologist
- Optometrist
- Orthoptist
- Dispensing Optician
- Optical Assistant
- Optical Technician
- Optical Receptionist

Vision Sciences

- Training for:
  - Optometrists
  - Orthoptists
  - Dispensing Opticians

Vision Sciences

- Clinic Reception
- Clinic Rooms

Vision Sciences

- Assessing anterior eye with slit lamp
Orthoptists

Specialised in the diagnosis and management of eye conditions affecting children and adults. They use a variety of techniques to help children with strabismus, amblyopia, and other visual problems.

Nadia Northway, Orthoptist.

Dispensing

Contact Lens Fitting

Vision Sciences

Staff
Head of Dept, 3 Profs, 3 Emeritus Profs, 2 Readers, 5 Senior Lecturers, 10 Lecturers, Research Fellows, 20 Research Students (PhD) + 12 support staff

Funded Places

Three programmes giving total of about 326 students.
- Orthoptics: ~10 students per year
- Ophthalmic Dispensing: ~20 students per year
- Optometry: ~60 students per year

Programmes
- BSc (Hons) Optometry: 4 year programme + one year supervised clinical practice then take PQEs (Professional Qualifying Exams)
- BSc (Hons) Orthoptics: 4 year programme
- BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing: 3 year programme: ABOO (Association of British Dispensing Opticians) 1 & ABOO 2 taken in this period

Optometry

Global target about 300 students
Target intake 2001/12 is about 50
Some applicants can go directly into second year (for example dispensing opticians from GCU course)
Orthoptics
- New course starting 2012
- Global target about 10 * 4 years= 40 students
- Target intake 20012/13 is about 16
- Some applicants can go directly into second year (for example dispensing opticians from GCU course)

Ophthalmic Dispensing
- Global target 70 students
- Target intake 2011/12 is ~20
- Modified depending on the progression rates each year

Optometry/Orthoptics Year 1
- Semester A
  - Geometric optics
  - Applied optics for Optometrists (1/2)
  - Ocular Anatomy & Physiology 1
  - Fundamentals of Pathology and Pharmacology (1/2)
- Semester B
  - Visual Optics
  - Applied optics for Optometrists (1/2)
  - Ocular Anatomy & Physiology 2
  - Optometric Professional Studies

Optometry/Orthoptics Year 2
- Semester A
  - General and Systemic Pathology
  - Optometric Refraction (1/2)
  - Ophthalmic Materials
- Semester B
  - Advanced Diagnostic Techniques (1/2)
  - Ocular Diagnosis: Pharmaceutical Agents (1/2)
  - Binocular Vision
  - Optometric Refraction (1/2)

Optometry/Orthoptics Year 3
- Semester A
  - Communication Skills and Dispensing (1/2)
  - Visual Ergonomics (1/2)
  - Introduction to Ocular Disease (1/2)
  - Contact Lens Studies
  - Clinical Studies (1/2)
- Semester B
  - Physiological Optics
  - Clinical Ophthalmology
  - Clinical Studies (1/2)
  - Clinical Research Methods

Optometry/Orthoptics Year 4
- Semester A
  - General Optometric Practice (1/2)
  - Speciality Clinics (1/2)
  - Anomalies of Binocular Vision & Visual Development
  - Ocular Therapeutics (1/2)
  - Project/Dissertation (1 and 1/2)
- Semester B
  - Shared Care of ocular Disease
  - Speciality Clinics (1/2)
  - General Optometric Practice (1/2)
  - Project/Dissertation

Ophthalmic Dispensing Year 1
- Semester A
  - Geometrical optics for dispensers
  - Communications, Law & Management (1/2)
  - Anatomy & Physiology in Human Visual Function (1/2)
  - Optical appliances
- Semester B
  - Visual optics for dispensers
  - Communications, Law & Management (1/2)
  - Anatomy & Physiology in Human Visual Function (1/2)
  - Optical appliances

Ophthalmic Dispensing Year 2
- Semester A
  - Clinical Dispensing studies (1/2)
  - Low vision (1/2)
  - Refractive management (1/2)
  - Ophthalmic Pathology and Pharmacology (1/2)
- Semester B
  - Clinical Dispensing studies (1/2)
  - Ocular examination and technique
  - Low vision (1/2)
  - Refractive management (1/2)
  - Ophthalmic Pathology and Pharmacology (1/2)

Ophthalmic Dispensing Year 3
- Semester A
  - Clinical studies and review (1/2 elective)
  - Low vision studies 1/2 (elective)
  - Management 1/2
  - Clinical lenses
  - Environmental Dispensing, Optics and Photometry
- Semester B
  - Clinical studies and review 1/2 (elective)
  - Low vision studies 1/2 (elective)
  - Management 1/2
  - Delegated functions
  - New Venture Creation (Entrepreneurial skills)
New Curriculum

- We are in the process of re-structuring the curriculum for Optometry, Ophthalmic Dispensing and a new course in Orthoptics for year 2012.
- Entry requirements for Optometry and Ophthalmic Dispensing remain the same for 2012.

Number of Applicants for Optometry and Ophthalmic Dispensing

- Optometry: Total number of applicants ~250
  - Over half Scottish
  - The rest are English, Irish and International
- Dispensing: Total number of applicants ~100
  - Mostly Scottish, some Irish, English and International.

Entry Requirements for Optometry

- Currently, 6th year Scottish students
- Minimum of 5 Highers: AAABB UCAS = 370
- 2 sciences
- Maths
- English
- One other
- Must have Physics to at least Standard Grade (1) or Intermediate 2(A)
- If retaken then higher qualifications will be expected
- Higher Art, Home Economics, Music, Graphic Communication, PE and Media Studies.

Entry Requirements Orthoptics

- Scottish students: Minimum of five Highers: BBBC UCAS = 310
- Two sciences: Maths, English; One other
- Must have Physics to at least Standard Grade 1 or Intermediate 2(A)
- Exams retaken then higher qualifications will be expected
- Excluded subjects: Higher Art, Home Economics, Music, Graphic Communication, PE and Media Studies
- Advanced Higher levels are considered individually and have higher UCAS points (cannot double count a Higher and AH in the same subject)

Entry Requirements for Ophthalmic Dispensing

- Scottish Highers: 3 Highers BBC UCAS Tariff: 180
- Must have English, Maths and Physics to a minimum of Intermediate 2 at A/B but Maths and English recommended to Higher
- English/Northern Irish A levels: CC UCAS Tariff: 175
- Must have Maths and English to at least GCSE A or B
- Must have dual science award at BB at GCSE
Salaries
- Optometrists average salary about £35k (Association Of Optometric Practitioners 2011) and can rise considerably, but they must be prepared to move for jobs.
- Orthoptists average salary about £30K in NHS
- Dispensers average at about £25k, and job prospects are good.
- Both Dispensers and Optometrists can run their own practices as businesses and earn more.

Careers
- BSc Optometry: practice or hospital or research
- CPD courses run here for all qualified Optometrists to upgrade knowledge and information allowing them to participate in shared care of patients between eye care professionals in Scotland.
- MSc Optometry: practice, practice management, transfer into Optometry. Other graduate careers.
- Both Dispensers and Optometrists can run their own practices as businesses.

OPTOMETRY SCOTLAND
- New Contract for Scottish Optometrists
- More responsibilities
- More training to adhere to the contract
- Higher eye examination fee than in England from NHS