A close-up photograph of a student with long brown hair wearing a white headband, looking through the eyepiece of a large, white and black ophthalmic microscope. The microscope is mounted on a stand and has a blue light source. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

# School of Optometry and Vision Sciences **Undergraduate** Degree Programmes

Entry 2017 [www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences)

# Cardiff University School of Optometry and Vision Sciences

**WORLD  
LEADING  
research**

**ACADEMIC  
excellence**

**HIGH  
EMPLOYABILITY**

**Transferable  
SKILLS**





Friendly **Supportive** environment  
**Modern** teaching laboratories

**100% of our graduates**  
were in employment and/or further  
study six months after graduating

Insider Information – Find out more...

**Want to know what life at Cardiff is really like?**

Our insiders are real students studying a range of subjects. You can read their blogs, post comments and message them on Facebook and Twitter.

To find out more go to: **[www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders)**

# Discover the **Cardiff Experience**

## *A leading university . . .*

- ▶ You'll be part of a Russell Group university - one of the UK's world-class universities.
- ▶ You can choose from more than 350 degree programmes. The Cardiff University degree is known and respected worldwide with a substantial number accredited by the professions and other external bodies.
- ▶ You'll benefit from outstanding teaching in a research-led environment - Cardiff is ranked in the UK's top 5 universities for research quality.
- ▶ Staff include a Nobel Laureate and numerous Fellows of the Royal Society and other prestigious institutions.

## *in an outstanding city . . .*

- ▶ You'll live in a friendly, compact and safe city with all your study, living and leisure needs within walking distance.
- ▶ Your money will go further at Cardiff with capital city attractions at provincial prices - including one of the lowest average costs of living for university cities.<sup>1</sup>

## *with able and motivated students . . .*

- ▶ You'll be at a first choice university where demand for places is strong.
- ▶ You'll be studying in an environment with able and motivated students who have high grades at A-level or equivalent.
- ▶ You'll be at an international university with students from more than 100 countries.

## *who have excellent career prospects.*

- ▶ You can be confident of your future prospects - typically, 100% of our students were employed or had entered further study within six months of completing their studies.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ You'll be in demand - Cardiff is among the top 25 universities targeted by employers seeking high calibre graduates.<sup>3</sup>

### Notes

1. Moneysupermarket.com  
Quality of Living Index 2015 /  
Complete University Guide 2015
2. HESA Destination of Leavers  
Survey 2014
3. High Fliers Research  
The Graduate Market 2016



# Welcome

An undergraduate degree is a life changing and wonderful experience and it is a major investment in your future.

Your choice of subject and University is of major significance to you and we believe that at Cardiff you can achieve your full potential.

Optometry is a dynamic and respected profession and opens a range of options to graduates. The role of the optometrist as part of the professional eye care team is changing and expanding and the opportunities for a fulfilling career have never been better.

The School of Optometry & Vision Sciences offers a highly acclaimed degree in optometry, renowned for delivering excellent teaching and learning and superb professional prospects to its graduates.

We have an international reputation for our teaching and research. You will be taught by a highly motivated staff body, many of whom are world-leading experts in their fields. The School places a strong emphasis on vision sciences and encourages an ethos of enquiry and evidence-based learning and practise.

My colleagues and I are passionate about our academic standards in both teaching and learning and research. All our teaching is informed by research that has been shown to lie at the very cutting edge of optometry and vision sciences. We have strong links with future employers and encourage our graduates to embark on life-long learning.

In addition, every year there are a number of highly motivated graduates who embark on higher research degrees or taught courses. We have a strong reputation amongst our alumni and value links to our graduate community highly.

The School is housed in a £20million building with extensive facilities and offers a friendly, modern, dynamic and stimulating environment in which to study. The location is excellent and in Cardiff there are also many opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting, cultural, community-support and social activities, both through the School and University.

I would strongly encourage you to choose optometry as a degree. This brochure will give you more information about us, the degree programme that we offer and our admissions requirements. If you would like further information please visit our website at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences) or contact us directly.



**Professor Marcela Votruba**  
Head of School

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This brochure will provide you with more details of our programmes. We hope that they will give you more than just a flavour of what we have to offer you. However, we are always ready to answer any questions you may have, by post, telephone or email, or when you come to Cardiff for a visit. You will find the appropriate contacts at the end of this brochure.

## Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2017 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in October 2016. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website [[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)] before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at Cardiff University is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on our website [[www.cardiff.ac.uk/offerterms](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/offerterms)] and which you are advised to read before making an application. The terms and conditions set out, for example, when we might make changes to your chosen course or to student regulations. It is therefore important you read them, and understand them.

If you are not able to access information online please contact us:

Email: [enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk)

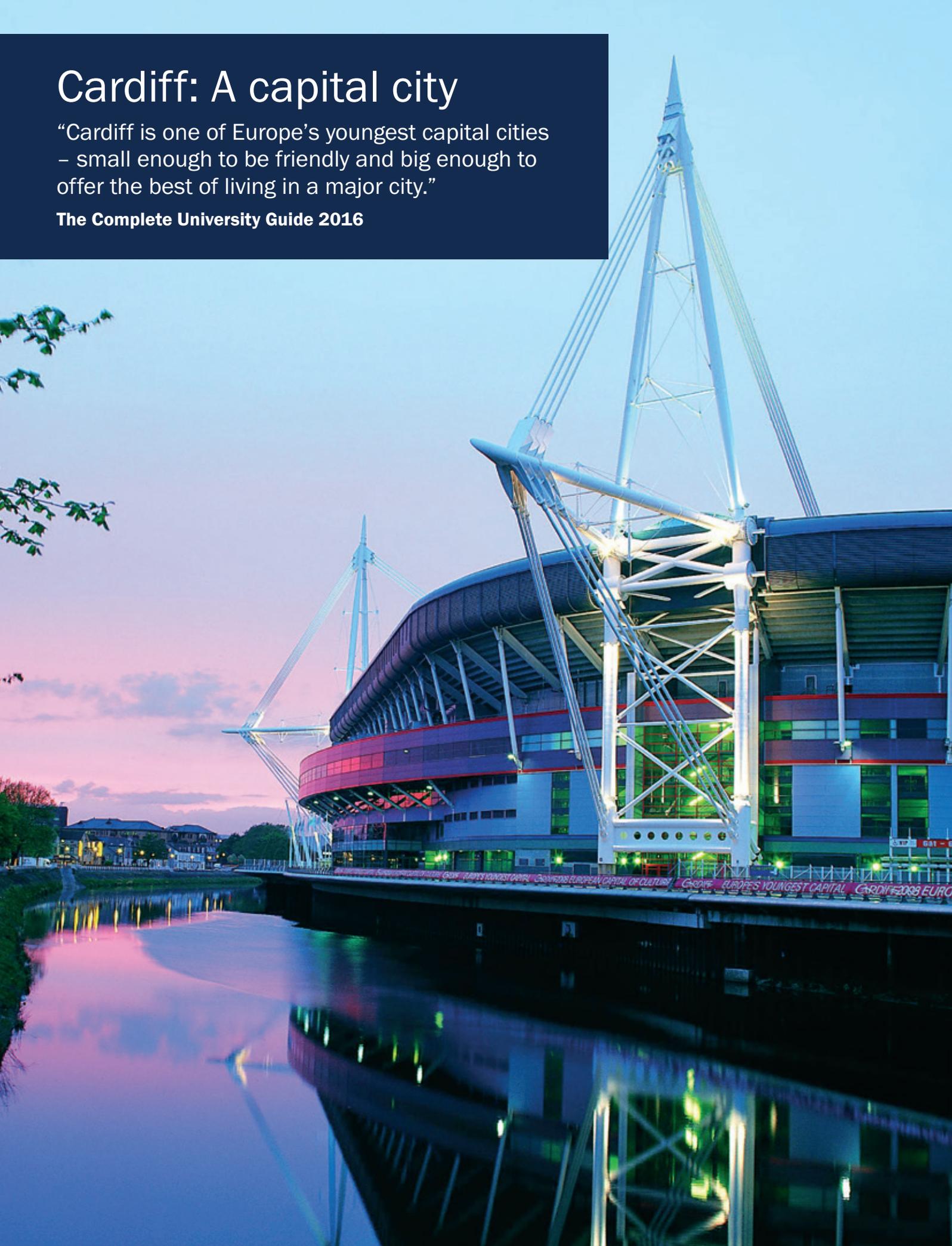
Tel: 029 2087 4455

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

# Cardiff: A capital city

“Cardiff is one of Europe’s youngest capital cities – small enough to be friendly and big enough to offer the best of living in a major city.”

**The Complete University Guide 2016**



The Principality (Millennium) Stadium nestles in the heart of the city, and is home to numerous sporting events and concerts throughout the year

**Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city, which is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live and study. It combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and inexpensive location, with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city.**

Cardiff offers everything from the excitement of the city to the peace and tranquillity of the nearby coast and countryside. With its distinctive character, good quality of life, and growing national and international reputation, it hosts many high-profile cultural and sporting events, including international rugby, soccer, cricket and motor sport.

When it comes to entertainment, Cardiff is well-equipped to satisfy student needs. There is a multitude of cafés, pubs and nightclubs. The city is home to the world-renowned Welsh National Opera, it boasts prestigious concert venues such as the Wales Millennium Centre, St David's Hall and the Motorpoint Arena, as well as the iconic Principality (Millennium) Stadium, the National Museum Wales, several theatres and the historic Cardiff Castle.

Cardiff is the location for award-winning television productions, including Doctor Who, Sherlock, Torchwood and Casualty, and the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff Bay is a popular attraction.

The city is one of the UK's best shopping destinations, with St David's Dewi Sant retail centre standing alongside pedestrianised shopping streets, indoor and outdoor markets, and a fascinating network of glass-canopied Victorian and Edwardian arcades.

Cardiff also has more urban green space than any other UK city, and offers easy access to the countryside, coast and mountains.

Lively, elegant, confident, cosmopolitan and ambitious are all words readily used to describe modern-day Cardiff. Together, the city and the University provide students with the 'Cardiff Experience', a lifestyle our students remember long after graduation.

**Don't just take our word for it . . .**

"Cardiff is a popular student city, relatively inexpensive and with a good range of nightlife and cultural venues"

**The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015**



The surrounding countryside and coast offer superb opportunities for outdoor pursuits



Cardiff is one of the UK's best shopping destinations

**Come and see for yourself . . .**

Cardiff benefits from excellent road and rail links with Britain's other major towns and cities. London, for example, is two hours by train, and the M4 links both the West and South of England, as well as West Wales. Travel to the Midlands and to the North is equally convenient. The journey by road from Birmingham, for example, takes only two hours. The main coach and railway stations are both centrally placed, and Cardiff also benefits from an international airport.



"Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside."

**Guardian University Guide 2016**

The Wales Millennium Centre is a world-class venue for the arts

# Cardiff: A leading university

“Cardiff University is one of Britain’s leading teaching and research universities.”

Telegraph Guide to UK Universities





**Cardiff University has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, built on a history of service and achievement since 1883, and recognised by our membership of the Russell Group of leading research-led universities.**

With attractive and compact campuses, excellent student accommodation, and a hugely popular Students' Union, all within easy walking distance of each other in a thriving city, it is not surprising that Cardiff is a university of first choice among well-prepared applicants.

We admit approximately 5,000 undergraduate entrants each year, the majority of whom are school and college leavers, and have high grades at A-level or equivalent. While competition for entry is strong, Cardiff is an inclusive university with a good record on widening participation and fair access, and we welcome applications, irrespective of background, from everyone with the potential to succeed at Cardiff University.

The University's Cathays Park Campus is located in and around the impressive Portland stone buildings, parks and wide tree-lined avenues that form Cardiff's attractive civic centre. The majority of academic schools are located here - just a few minutes' walk from the city centre. The three academic schools

offering healthcare courses (excluding Optometry and Pharmacy) are based at the Heath Park Campus, approximately one mile away, which is also home to the University Hospital of Wales.

Although dating from 1883, Cardiff is focused on the 21st century, and has modern state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. The University has invested substantially in its estate in recent years and continues to do so today. Most academic schools have benefited from major refurbishment, including new and well-equipped laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and computing facilities.

International opportunities are available via our Global Opportunity Centre. These include study, work and volunteering placements in 27 EU countries as well as international exchange opportunities. All students also have the opportunity to study a language, in addition to their degree, through the University's Languages For All programme.

The University takes its environmental, safety and security responsibilities very seriously. It has comprehensive policies in place which are making great savings in energy consumption and, to support the safety and security of all members of the University community and their property, there is 24-hour security cover throughout the campus.

#### What the Guides say ...

"The University is as confident and forward-looking as the city it's located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research."

*Guardian University Guide 2016*

"Cardiff is the perennial choice as the Sunday Times best Welsh University. It is the Principality's only member of the Russell Group of research-led universities and its sole representative in the top 200 of the world rankings."

*The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015-2016*



# Living in Cardiff

As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It's large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.



## Accommodation

Cardiff offers guaranteed University accommodation, good quality and value, and a range of residences to suit individual preferences and budgets.

All undergraduates who accept their offer of a place from Cardiff, on a firm basis, are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University residences during their first year of study.

Please see our website for full details of our accommodation guarantee and associated deadlines:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences)

The University is continually investing in its student residences, and the views of students are taken into account at the design stage. Unusually for a civic university, most of our residences are within easy walking distance of lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, the Students' Union and city centre.

There are 15 different residences, providing more than 5,500 study bedrooms and students can apply for the residences which best suit their preferences, interests and budgets. Some 70% have en-suite shower and toilet facilities and all halls of residence have computer network connection points and access to Wi-Fi.

Fees depend on the facilities included and whether catered, part-catered or self-catered, but prices compare very favourably with those of other UK universities. Besides managing University property, the Residences Office maintains close links with the private sector and provides assistance to students seeking to rent or share houses or flats.

## Student Life

### The Students' Union

Cardiff Students' Union is one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain. A multi-million pound investment has been made in Union facilities in recent years, which has included a new venue called Y Plas, which at night becomes a nightclub.

Hosting live music, club nights, stand-up comedy, fashion shows and awards ceremonies, there's lots to keep you entertained from your first day to your last.

Other facilities include a new food court, a bank, a print shop, a hair salon and a bookshop. The Lounge offers IT and Skyping facilities, meeting rooms and a "chillout" area, as well as snooker tables and multi-faith prayer room. The Union also has its own letting agency and an Advice and Representation centre. In addition, it is home to CU TV and Xpress Radio (the students' own TV and radio stations) and more than 200 cultural, political, religious, social, sporting societies and clubs.

### Jobshop

Jobshop is the Union's own student employment service and provides casual, clerical and catering jobs around the University to hundreds of students.

### OpSoc

The main focus for student social (as well as more educational!) activities is the Optometry Society. OpSoc is run by students for students. The Society organises parties, social evenings and days away. The activities, including the annual Eye Ball, contribute greatly to the friendly atmosphere enjoyed by the School.



### What the Guides say . . .

Cardiff is ranked 3rd amongst the UK's top cities for quality of life. Research by moneysupermarket examined factors such as cost of living, average disposable income and life satisfaction in the UK's twelve biggest cities.

#### Moneysupermarket.com – Quality of Living Index 2015

"The cost of living for a student in Cardiff is generally lower than elsewhere in the UK."

#### The Independent A-Z University Guide 2015

"Cardiff has one of the biggest, best and most active students' unions in the UK and is currently benefiting from a multi-million investment."

#### The Complete University Guide 2016

# The School of Optometry and Vision Sciences

The School is the leading optometry department in the UK and the only one of its type in Wales. It is long established, well-resourced and enjoys an international reputation for its teaching and research activities.





**In the most recent Higher Education Funding Council assessment of undergraduate teaching in UK Optometry departments, the School's teaching was assessed as 'excellent'. This top designation is based on the academic and clinical expertise of our lecturers, as well as visiting supervisors. It also reflects the quality of staff-student relations and the friendly atmosphere that exists within the School. Feedback from the National Student Survey contributes to our position as the top UK optometry school.**

The quality of our teaching is also illustrated in our pass rates for the final Professional Qualifying Examinations run by the College of Optometrists. For the last four years, Cardiff's overall pass rate has been consistently at the top of participating UK optometry departments.

The optometry degree programme at Cardiff has been designed to be stimulating, flexible and relevant to the needs of a career in optometry. Great emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of the subject and you will spend considerable time in our purpose-built clinic.

The School has 36 academic members of staff, many of whom are experts in their respective fields of research. Their work attracts large numbers of external research grants and contracts from government research councils, charities and other agencies. In 2015/16 these grants and contracts totalled more than £1.2million.

The School also has 7 clinicians, 15 postdoctoral fellows, and 24 support staff. In addition there are a large number of visiting lecturers who support the clinical supervision of undergraduate students.

About 80 UK/EU students, along with a small number of international students, are accepted onto the programme each year. In total, the School has around 300 students, which includes more than 24 postgraduate students undertaking research for their higher degrees and doctorates.

### Teaching Methods and Assessment

The School follows a student-led learning philosophy to help you develop the independent working skills required by a successful healthcare professional. The teaching methods range from formal lectures to independent research projects, with practical classes and tutorials in clinical topics. At the beginning of each academic year, you will be given details of the content of each study module and includes information about the methods of assessment used in your course.

Small group teaching and tutorials will allow you to develop your communication skills, encouraging you to present your ideas and learn the necessary skills for managing patients. You will sit exams at the end of each session to give you the opportunity to show what you have learned throughout the year and to earn some of the marks that contribute to your final degree.

In your final year, you will undertake a research project that will draw on the practical skills that you have learned, and also develop your ability in scientific writing; the project carries marks that will contribute to your final degree classification.

### Personal Tutors

At the start of your studies, you will be assigned a personal tutor, who is a member of the academic staff of the School. Personal tutors are there to advise on academic, non academic and personal matters in a confidential and informal manner. We hope that you will enjoy a friendly relationship with your tutor throughout your time as a student.

In addition to personal tutors, the University has a whole range of specialist advisors who you can call upon. We aim to overcome any problems, however big or small, as quickly as possible.

### Learning at the Frontiers of Knowledge

The School of Optometry and Vision Sciences has an international reputation for its research. This is built on the research expertise of the academic staff and the quality of the research facilities. The high quality of research contributes significantly to the teaching, with students studying in an environment where they can benefit from being taught by researchers working at the frontiers of knowledge.

The School has consistently achieved the highest ratings in the periodic Research Excellence Framework undertaken on behalf of the UK Government.

# The Optometry Building

A £20 million building that provides our students with outstanding facilities.





The ground floor of the building is occupied by Cardiff University Optometrists, a large well equipped clinic, which is open to the public. There are also several training clinics and a large lecture theatre, which is equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment. Facilities on the upper floors include student study spaces, numerous teaching and research labs, seminar rooms, IT rooms and office space.

The School is conveniently located close to the other academic buildings, the Students' Union, city centre shops, attractive parkland and several of the student residences.

### Cardiff University Optometrists Practice

Integral to the School is its Eye Clinic where third year students conduct thorough eye examinations under the supervision of a fully qualified optometrist. The clinic offers free examination tests for the general public throughout the autumn and spring semesters. There is also an extensive range of designer frames to suit every budget, as well as a full contact lens service.

Thousands of people have benefitted from the expertise of 'Cardiff University Optometrists' in the past and there are currently 17,000 patients on the register.

Cardiff University Optometrists also offer innovative Special Assessment and Low Vision Clinics which are internationally recognised. The Special Assessment Clinic provides eye care for adults and children with learning disabilities.



These unique clinics can achieve great results by testing in a more comforting environment, creating a positive experience for those who can find eye tests intimidating. They have helped transform the lives of many young people. Meanwhile, the Low Vision Clinic caters for patients with severe sight problems, helping them to make use of their remaining vision.

### Special Assessment Clinic

Dr Maggie Woodhouse OBE is a Senior Lecturer in our School and one of our longest serving members of staff. In 2014 she celebrated 40 years with the University.

With her colleagues Andy Millington and Mike George, Maggie runs our Special Assessment Clinic which specialises in eye care for children and adults with disabilities.

Students have the opportunity to spend time in this unique clinic during their Final year because of her pioneering work in this field, Maggie is a very well-known figure in Optometry and gives talks all over the UK (and beyond) to eye care practitioners, health care workers, teachers and many others.

In research, Maggie is best known for her work with children with Down's Syndrome, work that has changed the way hospital clinics and optometrists care for these children. Her contribution was recognised in 2014 with an OBE in the Birthday Honours List and in 2015 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Optical Practitioners.

# BSc Optometry

► UCAS Code: B510  
Three Years





## Introduction

Optometrists are healthcare professionals who work in primary care settings to detect any disease that may affect the eye or the visual system, and correct long and short sightedness. The course at Cardiff lasts three years and is designed to provide you with the scientific and clinical knowledge that will enable you to become a fully qualified, practicing optometrist. Great emphasis is placed on the clinical aspects of the profession.

## First Year

The first year is an important period for any student. It is a year in which you will discover a new way of life and a new way of learning. Your initial year is designed to give you a sound foundation in the discipline, with clinical and dispensing techniques introduced at the very beginning to enhance your clinical skills.

First year modules include lectures, tutorials, and clinical practice. In the first year, attention is given to developing the academic skills that you will need when reading for a university undergraduate degree.

### You will study the following modules:

- ▶ Basic Clinical Techniques
- ▶ Optometric Dispensing and Appliances
- ▶ Geometrical and Visual Optics
- ▶ Research and Study Skills
- ▶ From Cells to Systems
- ▶ Ocular Anatomy and Physiology
- ▶ Physiology of Vision

## Second Year

The second year builds on the foundation of the first year, and develops all the main themes of the optometry degree. You will receive lectures on binocular vision, contact lenses, physiology of vision and pharmacology. Clinical studies and dispensing techniques will continue and during the second year you will, with close supervision, be introduced to your first patient.

### You will study the following modules:

- ▶ Ocular Pharmacology
- ▶ Binocular Vision and Optometric Neurophysiology
- ▶ Colour Vision and Perception
- ▶ Clinical Studies and Dispensing
- ▶ Investigative Techniques
- ▶ Contact Lenses

## Third Year

In your final year, you will develop your knowledge and clinical skills further. Modules in advanced optometric topics are introduced, and you will also carry out a project, which may be laboratory, clinical or library based. This will be under the close supervision of a member of academic staff.

You will spend about eight hours per week with patients in our clinic and will attend hospital clinics.

Lecture courses in abnormal ocular conditions, binocular vision, visual psychophysics, and paediatric optometry are designed to complete the integrated course.

### You will study the following modules:

- ▶ Occupational Optometry, Law and Business
- ▶ Low Vision and Contact Lenses
- ▶ Binocular Vision and Special Needs
- ▶ Research Project
- ▶ Investigative Optometry and Case Studies
- ▶ Optometric Practice
- ▶ Abnormal Ocular Conditions

## Teaching

Your timetabled classes will typically include 10 hours in lectures and 12-14 hours in practicals, clinics and support sessions each week. Our expectation is that you spend an equal amount of time in personal study and reading to support your learning.

## Pre-Registration Year

Following your degree at Cardiff, in order to become a UK-registered Optometrist, you must undertake a pre-registration period. This is a period of supervised practical experience carried out in multiple or independent practice, or sometimes in a hospital setting. Cardiff students are highly sought-after by all types of employer, meaning that virtually all of our graduates quickly find a pre-registration position to suit them. You will sit professional exams arranged by the College of Optometrists, and successful completion of these will lead to full registration with the General Optical Council, allowing you to practise independently as an Optometrist. Cardiff students are consistently the best performers in the UK in these professional exams reflecting the high quality standards of teaching that we provide.

Once qualified, salary levels vary considerably depending on location, but tend to be within the range £28,000-£60,000.

# Optometry with a Preliminary Year (BSc)

► UCAS Code: B511  
Four Years

## Introduction

Optometry with Preliminary Year is a route that has been designed for a small number of people who have the desire and academic ability to study for a degree in Optometry, but who don't necessarily have the right academic background.

The four year course consists of a foundation year followed by the three year B510 Optometry BSc course. To succeed in their optometric studies, students will be expected to fully engage with the course and take advantage of all the learning opportunities that are presented to them. Whilst progression to the three year B510 Optometry BSc is the intended outcome of the foundation year, students will only progress if they show that they have sufficient knowledge and intellectual ability, and are able to apply the scientific skills gained in an appropriate context.

During the foundation year, students will study six modules. These modules will not only give them the necessary scientific knowledge in order to enter the first year of the BSc, but will also emphasise the logical thinking and analysis skills necessary to succeed in a science-based discipline.

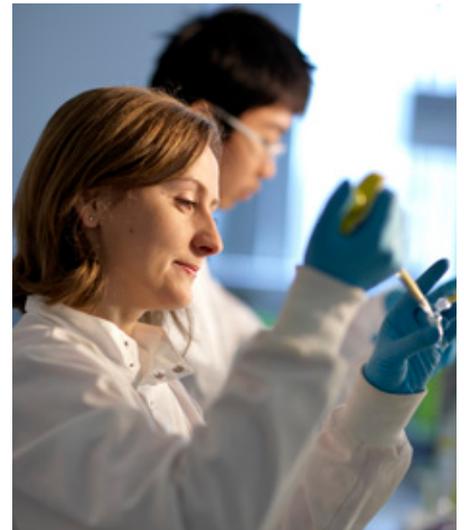
### You will study the following modules:

- Human Development
- Systemic Pathology
- Biochemistry for Optometry
- Optometric Physics
- Introductory Optometry
- Written and Communication Skills

Teaching is conducted through a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops and practical sessions and is assessed by coursework throughout the year together with written exams in the summer. The teaching methods rely

heavily on class participation and group work together with discussion sessions.

Students get the opportunity to gain practical experience of experimental work throughout the year.



# What the students say . . .

**Josie Carmichael**  
Graduated June 2016

I thoroughly enjoyed my three years of study at Cardiff University's School of Optometry. The school's small size means that I was able to get to know everyone across all three year groups, as well as the members of staff, making it feel like its own community.

The experiences you gain through the opportunities offered, go far beyond the hours of studying. I personally was lucky enough to take part in a refraction project in Malawi in my second year, complete a university funded summer research project to get a feel of what it would be like to enter a career in research, and travel to Spain for the annual "Opski" trip. These however are just a few of the opportunities that the school offers.

The course itself is very vocational. For me, it had the perfect balance between theory work and hands on clinical experience. The high standard of teaching as well as the support provided throughout the three years meant that I could enter my pre-registration year feeling prepared.

Cardiff University has such a good reputation, especially for Optometry, and as a place has so much to offer. The University campus is right on the doorstep of the city centre, so you're in walking distance of beautiful parks, great nightlife and of course, shopping!

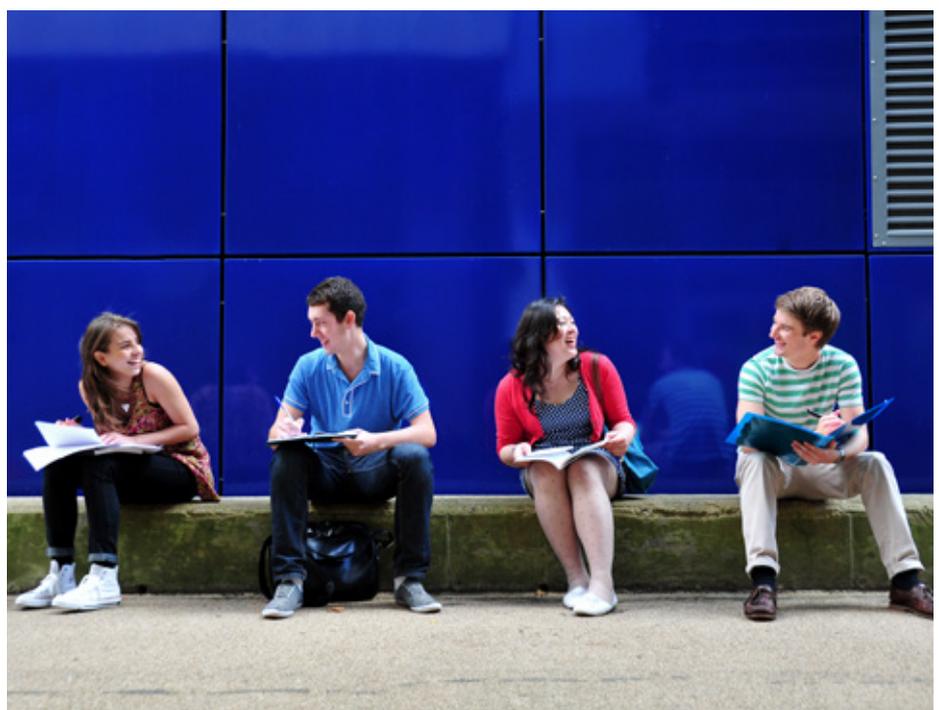
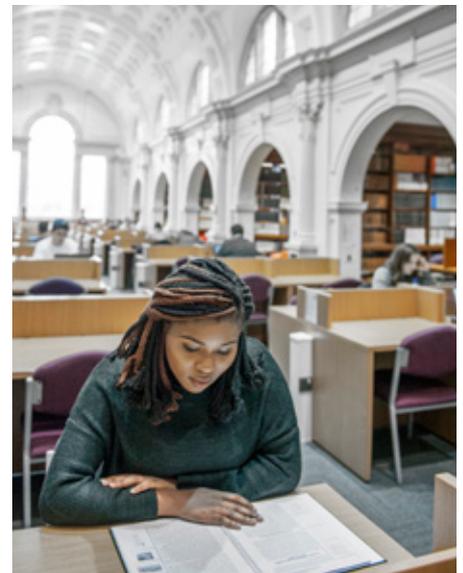
Cardiff University School of Optometry was my first choice, I would recommend it to anyone.

**Drew Johnston**  
Graduated June 2016

The Optometry and Vision Science program at Cardiff University is second to none. The quality of research being conducted in the department is outstanding, and that manifests itself in the quality of teaching; I always felt as though I was surrounded by Professors, Lecturers and Supervisors that are truly passionate about what they do.

As this is my second degree, I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of one on one time with Supervisors for feedback and questions. This, paired with being in a facility with up to date technology, allowed for an applied and hands-on approach to clinical teaching and training, ensuring we were prepared and confident to begin our new careers as Optometrists.

There is an atmosphere of togetherness amongst Cardiff University optometry students, with everyone helping each other along the way, each wanting the other to succeed.



# Careers and Employability



The optometry degree at Cardiff will equip you with the specialist skills you will need to embark on a career as an optometrist. The optometry profession, improving the visual quality of life for people, is very rewarding for those who enjoy an intellectually stimulating environment, working with people. Graduates of the School have little difficulty in finding employment and most of our graduates go on to pursue professional careers in both the public and private sectors.

## Professional Training

Having completed your degree, you will need to spend a further 'pre-registration' year of training under the supervision of a qualified optometrist, and pass qualifying professional examinations. Graduates from our School rarely experience difficulties in obtaining 'preregistration' posts. You will then be able to register with the General Optical Council as an optometrist and begin to practice in your own right.

## After Cardiff...

### Amar Shah

I wanted to pursue a career in Optometry for a range of reasons but primarily because it was a vocational degree course that was allied to medicine. I didn't realise, at the time, the wide range of opportunities that the career would offer.

I undertook my Pre-registration year at Boots Opticians in Bristol city centre and passed my Professional Examinations at the first attempt and continued to work for Boots as a qualified Optometrist. I progressed to an Optometrist manager and held a few different clinical and training roles. During my time with Boots, I reduced my working week to enable me to supervise the Final Year Clinics at Cardiff University.

More recently, I have bought my own franchise of Boots Opticians and am now a Company Director of a store in South Bristol. This has given me the freedom to develop my clinical skills in the way I want and to broaden my working week. I am currently Chair of my Local Optical Committee.

I regularly volunteer for the charity Action for Blind People as part of the Living with Sight Loss program. I am also a trustee for a local children's charity.

I don't know of many professions that would allow the varied week that I have - it's great to be able to spend time with patients but also know that I can use my skills elsewhere should I choose. My working week still allows quality time with my wife and young daughter.

**Sarah Farrant**

I graduated from Cardiff University in 2002 and undertook my pre-Registration year for Boots Optician in Somerset. I then worked for 6 months as a Registered Optometrist before going to New Zealand. I worked in the North Island for Visique Optometrists for just under a year and travelled the country. On returning to the UK, I undertook locum work for various companies and independent practices in Somerset.

I taught in the Second Year Contact Lens and Third Year Primary Care clinics at Cardiff University for a few years which was great fun. I undertook the Additional Supply therapeutics course at City University, London. I set up one of the first dry eye clinics in the country as I felt more needed to be done for these patients.

I became a Council member of the College of Optometrists Council in 2007 as I wanted to get involved in steering the direction of the Profession. I felt as a young practitioner I had a good perspective. To this day, I still enjoy driving the profession forward. I undertook the College glaucoma diploma to improve my diagnostic skills as felt I needed more confidence. I also obtained the College Diploma in Independent Prescribing.

I became involved in lecturing to fellow optometrists in 2008 when I was invited to give a talk in Holland. I enjoyed the challenge of public speaking and realised I had developed quite a lot of knowledge about dry eye and could tell others about what I had achieved with my clinics. Since then, I have given many lectures at various regional and national conferences.

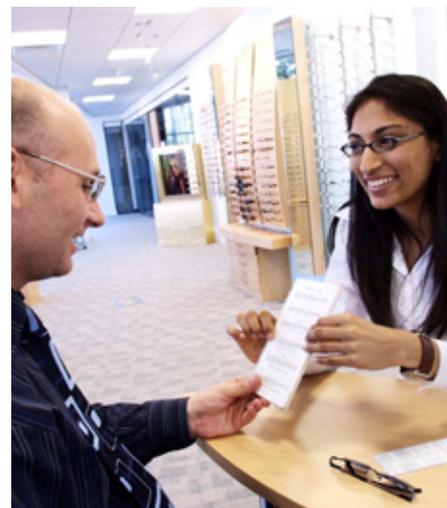
I have written a few articles about dry eye for the Optometric journals. When the opportunity arose in 2009 to start a new practice called East Quay Vision within East Quay Medical Centre, Bristol, I launched the project alongside the GP's and was Practice Manager. I became a partner of Earlam and Christopher Optometrists, a long established practice, in Taunton in 2010. Since then, we have made significant changes to the practice including specialist clinics and services, coupled with fantastic dispensing and frame ranges. The Practice has its challenges, but that is the fun of it - rising to the challenges and coming up with great solutions! I became involved in my Local Optical Committee and am now the Chair. I really do love my career and like to push the boundaries of what it means to be an optometrist.

**Research**

The School has a strong reputation for the quality of research that it conducts and attracts research grants and contracts from a variety of sources. The research of the staff and postgraduate students leads to the publication of many articles each year in prestigious scientific journals. This also means that our teaching is at the forefront of knowledge, with staff lecturing on subjects that they are personally involved with developing.

**The current research interests of the School are widespread and include the following areas:**

- ▶ Functioning of the retina
- ▶ Mechanisms that maintain the transparency of the cornea
- ▶ Inherited retinal and optical nerve disease
- ▶ Paediatric and non-communicative patients
- ▶ Ocular changes associated with diabetes
- ▶ Glaucoma
- ▶ Ageing retina + Cas Vision
- ▶ Psychophysics
- ▶ Eye movements
- ▶ Ocular imaging
- ▶ Myopia and eye development

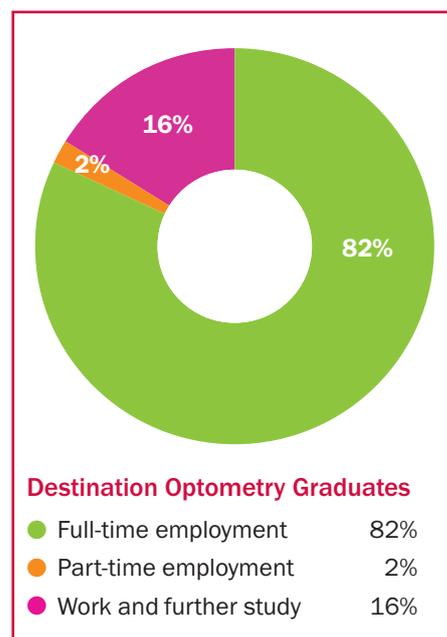


*The Optometry profession is very rewarding for those who enjoy an intellectually stimulating environment.*

**Careers and Employability Service**

The University offers a careers and employability service for students, graduates and postgraduates. You can access careers information, explore your options and speak to a consultant who can advise you of opportunities relating to your degree or preferred field, including advice on postgraduate degrees. The service offers guidance on preparing a CV and job applications and gives you the chance to meet and network with top graduate recruiters at Careers Fairs and events. If you are looking for work experience, the careers service can assist with planning and organising your placement.

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentsupport](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentsupport)





## Introduction

The Wales Optometric Postgraduate Education Centre (WOPEC) is the first postgraduate education centre for optometry in the World, dedicated to excellence in eye care education through quality and independence.

We provide a wide range of postgraduate taught courses as well as short courses for optometrists and eye care professionals in the UK and Internationally. We have more than 7000 eye care professionals learning with us.

WOPEC is accommodated within the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences at Cardiff University and benefits from the involvement of Cardiff's internationally renowned academic staff.

Our objective is to ensure the provision of excellent education and training for optometrists, and other eye care practitioners, to produce a workforce of professionals who are able to deliver the highest quality of care to their patients.

Since its inception, WOPEC has attracted business in England (from Local Optical Committees, Primary Care trusts and the LOC Support Unit) and it has developed a portfolio of popular practical skills based courses. This is in addition to our core role in providing training and assessment for over 600 primary care optometrists in Wales who provide the Wales Eye Care Service.

Our distance learning programmes of Certificates, Diplomas and MScs have been developed to allow students to enhance their skills and knowledge in key areas, with the opportunity to obtain quality postgraduate qualifications in a flexible and supportive environment. A wide range of modules are available to study with many including practical training. Find out more by visiting our website: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/optom/pgt](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optom/pgt)

For news and information on all WOPEC courses and events, visit with our website and register with us: [www.wopec.co.uk](http://www.wopec.co.uk)

## PGT

Our MSc in Clinical Optometry is specially designed for practising optometrists who want to advance their clinical skills and knowledge. It gives the flexibility of distance learning with support from experts, and most modules also include practical training in our purpose built postgraduate clinics, which were built in 2015 especially for our postgraduate courses.

**We have a wide range of modules available for study including:**

**Glaucoma** - A series of modules guiding you from referral refinement to specialist glaucoma optometrist (accredited for the College of Optometrists Certificate, Higher Certificate and Diploma)

**Medical Retina** - Knowledge of common medical retina conditions including screening, referral and treatment pathway (accredited for the College Certificate)

**Low Vision** - Basic and advanced levels (accredited for the College Certificate and Higher Certificate)

**Paediatrics** - Led by Maggie Woodhouse OBE with the opportunity to work in our specialist clinics (accredited for the College Certificate)

**Tear Film Disorders** - Bringing the practitioner up to date with the latest evidence-based assessment and treatment for dry eye

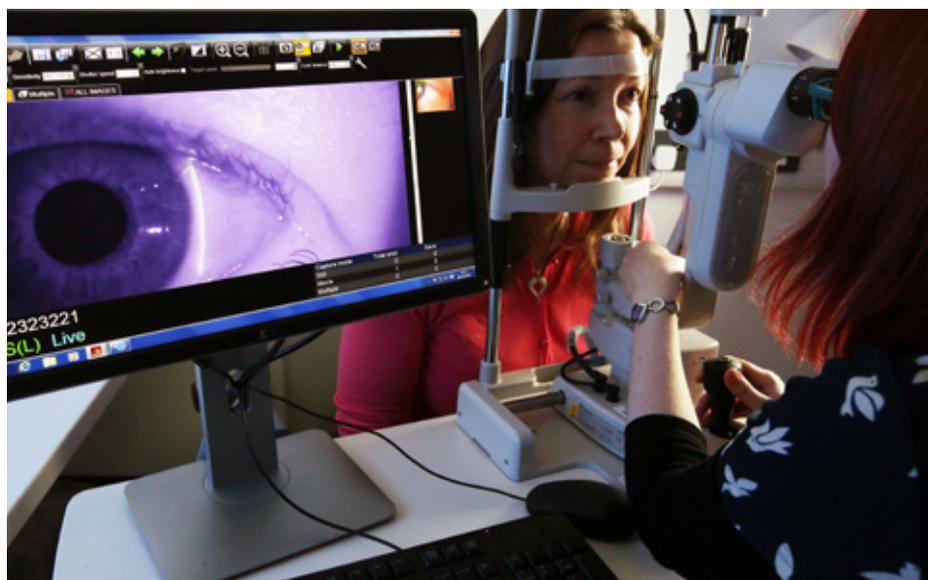
**Acute Eye Care** - Distance learning and practical modules relevant to optometrists in practice

**Anterior Segment** - Providing optometrists with detailed insight into anterior segment examination, imaging, diagnosis and management

**Leadership** - A module for anyone who wants to lead including those in business or LOC chairs

**Primary Care** - To update theoretical knowledge and practical skills in UK optometric practice

Eye Care professionals can study a module at a time or work towards a Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or MSc in Clinical Optometry with CET points available for most modules.



## Short courses and Commissioned work

WOPEC work closely with other companies to develop training and accreditation to support the development of pathways to facilitate enhanced eye care services in local areas in the UK. Often courses are free for optometrists who live in an area supported by a Local Optical Committee (LOC).

Online courses available include Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS), Pre and Post-Operative Cataract Care, Glaucoma, Low Vision and Eye Care for People with Learning Disabilities.

We also run short courses for eye care professionals such as ophthalmologists, nurses and orthoptists.

To find out further information, please contact us at [WOPEC@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WOPEC@cardiff.ac.uk)

## Wales Eye Care Services

The Welsh Government has introduced a free eye care service in Wales for anyone with an eye problem that needs attention straight away, those most at risk of developing eye diseases and those who would find losing their eye sight especially difficult. This service is known as the Eye Health Examinations Wales and WOPEC coordinates the training and accreditation for this service for any optometrists who works in Wales.

Patients who have a Low Vision problem in Wales are also entitled to a free evaluation and may be loaned magnifiers and other equipment which can help through the Low Vision Service Wales

For further information, contact: [WECS@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:WECS@cardiff.ac.uk)

# Admissions



**To be considered for entry onto the course you should apply online via the UCAS website using the 'UCAS Apply' facility. To use this facility you need to log onto: [www.ucas.ac.uk/apply](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/apply)**

The website will provide you with information on how to apply and explain the procedure. Applications should be made by 15th January.

UCAS will send your application to the University. After we have received and considered it, we may invite you to visit the School sometime during the period November to early March.

There will not normally be a formal interview, but there will be a guided tour of the School, Students' Union and campus. You will meet students and staff, providing us with the opportunity of getting to know more about you and enabling you to find out what life is like as an optometry student at Cardiff.

Number of places available in the first year: 80

### Equal Opportunities

Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission. The University aims to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocom/equalityanddiversity/index](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocom/equalityanddiversity/index)

### Applicants with Disabilities/Specific Needs

All offers to study at Cardiff University are made solely on the basis of academic merit. Where applicants have specific requirements that relate to a disability or medical condition, they are encouraged to discuss these with relevant staff in order that appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure the University provides an accessible environment. Specifically, applicants are invited to contact the Disability Adviser who can provide information about the applications procedure, course delivery and access to the physical environment. Where appropriate, informal visits can be arranged in which applicants can view accommodation and meet academic staff.

The Disability Adviser can be contacted at: Student Support Centre  
50 Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT  
Tel/Minicom: **+44 (0)29 2087 4844**  
Email: [disability@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:disability@cardiff.ac.uk)

### Entry Requirements

**B510** – 3 Year Optometry Degree Course

**A-level:** A typical offer would be AAA or AAB if studying three science subjects.

All applicants must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C including English Language and Mathematics.

Students taking **Scottish Higher examinations** to achieve a minimum of 340 points from 5 subjects (at least three science subjects) with no less than 60 points (grade B) in any individual subject. Scottish Higher scores will be subsumed into Advanced Higher scores in the same subject.

Students taking the **Irish School leaving Certificate** at Higher level to achieve a minimum of grade A2 (231 points) in three science subjects, with a further 110 points in two subjects.

Students taking the **International Baccalaureate Diploma** to gain 34 points overall, with 6 in to science subjects a Higher Level.

**Other:** Applications from those offering alternative/vocational/overseas qualifications are welcome, as are those who may have combinations of qualifications or other relevant work/life experience.

**B511** – 4 Year Optometry Degree Course

**A-Level:** A typical offer would be ABB in a number of different subjects.

BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science pass with DDD may be considered if offered together with two A level's, with a minimum grades B, in the B511 – 4 Year Optometry Degree Course.

You must complete a student registration form prior to enrolment.

### International Students

International applicant's entry qualifications should be of equivalent to GCE A Levels as described as above. For further information on entry requirements, visits and the advisor available to help you in your home country, please contact: International Department  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international)

### General Optical Council Registration

The General Optical Council (GOC) requires that all students studying on an optometry training course in the UK are registered with the GOC.

**The following is taken from the GOC website:**

*“By law, students on a GOC-approved training course in optometry or dispensing optics must be registered with the GOC.”*

*“Studying for an optical qualification involves learning the core competencies that are necessary to practise safely and effectively. These competencies include technical, clinical and communication skills. To gain these skills and appropriate clinical experience, students work with patients and the public throughout their course of study. The patients they treat need to be protected in case there is a problem.”*

As a new entrant to the BSc Optometry course, you will be sent a student registration form prior to enrolment which you must complete and bring with you to enrolment.

Please visit the GOC website for more information on student registration. If, after looking at the GOC website you are unsure whether you will have a problem gaining registration, you may not be able to complete the BSc degree course.

### Notes for Welsh Language Applicants

We recognise that if you are a Welsh speaker you may feel more comfortable speaking to a Welsh speaking personal tutor. Provided there are Welsh speaking members of staff in your subject area, every effort will be made to allocate a Welsh speaker to you. If you wish, you can also submit your assessed work and take your examinations through the medium of Welsh, regardless of the language of tuition of the course you are following.

Some of the accommodation at Talybont and Senghennydd Court student residences has been allocated for Welsh speakers and learners who would like to be grouped together. If you would like to take advantage of this please make a note of this in your application for accommodation.

## Open Day

University open days are held throughout the year and provide the opportunity to visit all schools in addition to residences, the Students' Union and sports facilities.

For further information please visit our website at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays)

The School of Optometry and Vision Sciences is sometimes available to welcome visitors at other times. The Admissions Tutor is also very willing to discuss queries, either by telephone or by letter.

## Tuition Fees

The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by applicants not currently registered. Please note that the charges for accommodation are additional.

Tuition fees for UK/EU and international students are published on our website at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

Scholarships and Bursaries  
For more information please visit: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/scholarships)

## Assistance towards Student Tuition Fees

More information about tuition fees and maintenance grants/ students loans is also available on all the following websites:

Cardiff University Website:  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

Student Loans Company  
[www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

For applicants living in Wales:  
[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

For applicants living in England:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

For applicants living in Scotland:  
[www.student-support-saas.gov.uk](http://www.student-support-saas.gov.uk)

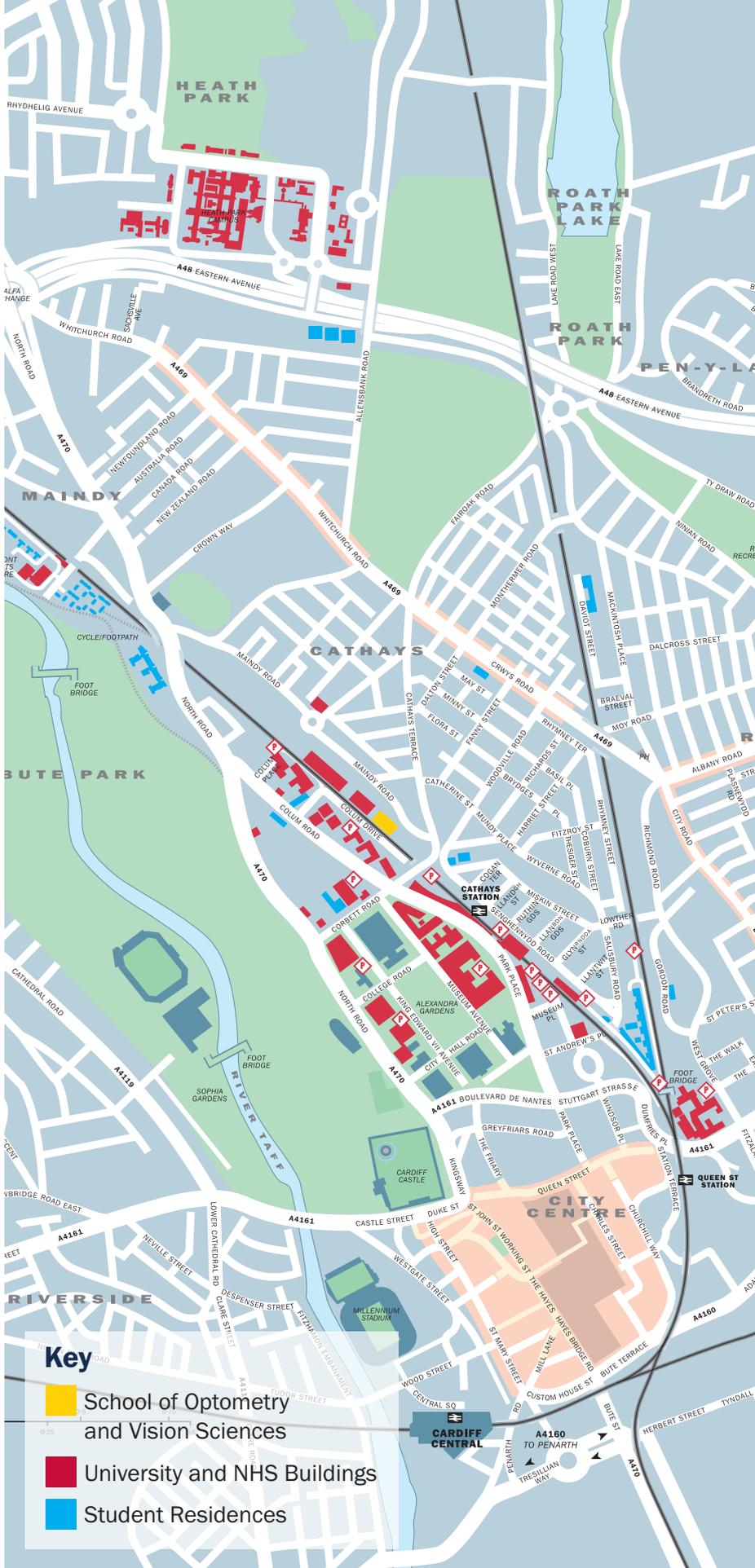
Applicants from Northern Ireland should contact their Education and Library Board.

EU Students applying for financial assistance need to complete form EU12N.

You can download this from:

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/StudentsFromOtherEUCountries/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/StudentsFromOtherEUCountries/index.htm)





### How to find the School

The School of Optometry and Vision Sciences is housed in a purpose-built, state-of-the-art building. The School is conveniently located close to the other academic buildings, the Students' Union, city centre shops, attractive parkland and several of the student residences.

### Terms and Conditions

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is correct at the time of going to press. However, the University does not accept any liability for any errors that it may contain, or for any subsequent changes to the University or Government policy that may affect the information given. Cardiff University expressly excludes any representations or warranties (whether expressed or implied) and all liability including direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use of the information on these pages, to the fullest extent possible under law.

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Tel: 029 2087 4455  
Email: RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

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To find out more about the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences please visit our website: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences)

INSIDERS  
meet our students

Got questions about student life?  
Get them answered at:  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders)

Some of our current students are sharing their experiences online through their Facebook pages, so if you want to know what life as a student at Cardiff is really like, then you can find out now. There is also lots of information about what is happening in Cardiff, including articles written by our students, videos, and much more.

#### Enquiries

Tel: 029 2087 4374  
Email: [OPTOMAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:OPTOMAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)

School of Optometry and Vision Sciences  
Cardiff University  
Maindy Road  
Cathays  
Cardiff  
CF24 4HQ

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