

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

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School of Optometry and Vision Sciences **Postgraduate** Research

cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences



Important Legal Information

The contents of this prospectus relate to the Entry 2019 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in February 2019. However, there is a significant period of time between printing this prospectus and applications being made to and processed by us, so please check our website 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 prospectus 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/offerters 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: postgradenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk
 Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 0084

Your degree:

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

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Welcome to the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences



We are extremely proud to introduce our vision sciences postgraduate research opportunities.

We are committed to providing an outstanding learning experience and research environment and offer you the opportunity to study with us to be part of a friendly, supportive network of researchers.

We offer a PhD degree in a wide range of research fields at the forefront of the vision sciences. These are focused on independent research in both basic lab-based and clinical science. Students enrolled on the PhD in Vision Sciences programme are supervised by our outstanding academics.

I very much hope you will decide to enhance your research or professional career by choosing to study with us. I believe you will find your postgraduate studies with us both rewarding and interesting, and we are here to support you every step of the way!

We are committed to providing an outstanding learning experience and research environment.



Professor Marcela Votruba
Head of School

Cardiff: a Capital City



Key

Cardiff City Centre

- 1 Cardiff University
- 2 Bute Park
- 3 Cardiff Castle
- 4 Principality Stadium
- 5 Shopping centre
- 6 Student neighbourhood

Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city, and an outstanding place in which to live and study.

A beautiful part of the world

Cardiff is located on the coast of South Wales, which has beautiful national parks and beaches only 30 minutes away. Cardiff is approximately two hours from London by train, with excellent transport links to the rest of the UK. Cardiff also boasts an international airport that flies to many cities in Europe and worldwide.

Cardiff is a small, safe, friendly and affordable city with a population of about 360,000 people, with approximately 20% of the population being made up by students. As a capital city it is full to the brim with culture, sports, shops, entertainment, and work opportunities.

The beautiful waterfront area of Cardiff Bay is a modern development of homes, shops, offices, visitor attractions, and the National Assembly for Wales.



Cardiff Fact Check

- ▶ Cardiff has more than 330 parks and gardens
- ▶ Cardiff has been confirmed as Europe's 'third best' capital city to live in, a European Union survey has revealed
- ▶ The popular TV shows Doctor Who and Sherlock are filmed in Cardiff
- ▶ Cardiff has one of the UK's biggest shopping centres, with around 40 million shoppers each year
- ▶ Cardiff boasts prestigious concert venues such as the Wales Millennium Centre, St David's Hall and the Motorpoint Arena, as well as the iconic Principality Stadium
- ▶ Welsh, Europe's oldest living language, is spoken by 20% of the population
- ▶ Cardiff also plays host to the National Museum Cardiff and Gallery of Wales, several theatres and the historic Cardiff Castle
- ▶ Cardiff has a 74,500 seater stadium, an international sports village and a professional football club: Cardiff City FC

Cardiff: the University



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.

In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, a prestigious national assessment exercise by the UK funding councils, Cardiff University was ranked 5th amongst UK universities when judged on research quality and 2nd on its impact.

This has confirmed our place as a world-leading centre of research excellence. Our research staff are world-class and include Nobel Laureates, fellows of the Royal Society and members of other prestigious institutions. We were also awarded our fifth Queen's Anniversary Prize – an award that recognises universities and colleges across the UK for work of outstanding excellence.

Location

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.

Facilities

A massive £600m capital investment programme across the University, including £260m in student facilities, will help us to ensure that we can give you the best student experience possible.

We are investing £300m in a new Innovation Campus, a research facility that will help to create economic and social prosperity.

One of our most ambitious projects is to create a £50m Centre for Student Life, to provide a central hub for our student support services as well as offering modern, flexible, social learning spaces and a 550-seat lecture theatre.

Facts about Cardiff University

- ▶ We have been ranked 5th among universities in the UK based on research quality (REF 2014) and in the world top 100
- ▶ We are a member of the elite Russell Group of top 24 UK research-led universities
- ▶ We have more than 30,000 students from more than 100 countries
- ▶ Accommodation in University residences is guaranteed for most international students and is within walking distance of the University
- ▶ We have 13 libraries, 28 IT suites, a Wi-Fi enabled campus and more than 1.3m printed books
- ▶ The University is on two campuses at the very centre of Cardiff, the capital city of Wales

Accommodation



We know that where you live is very important to you. You will want to settle quickly and live in a secure, sociable location that is also a suitable study environment.

International postgraduate students are guaranteed a single-occupancy place in University residences for the full duration of their studies, and EU students for the first year of their studies.

Living in a University residence provides you with the opportunity to meet and get to know students from a variety of backgrounds and studying a range of different subjects. Dedicated postgraduate flats and blocks are available so that you can meet, live and work alongside students who understand the demands of postgraduate study.

We have numerous residences, with facilities, locations and budgets to suit every student.

Your choices include:

- ▶ Single or mixed gender accommodation
- ▶ Private or shared bathrooms. About 70% of University residences have private bathrooms
- ▶ Self-catered, part-catered or fully catered (with vegetarian options)
- ▶ A variety of social and sporting facilities
- ▶ A limited supply of residences suitable for couples or families*

Information on how to apply for University residences will be sent electronically to all eligible offer-holders.

Safe and supportive

Each residence has a network of administrative staff, student wardens and security staff to provide you with 24-hour assistance. Only you, your guests, and staff are allowed on University residences sites.

How much do University residences cost?

University residences are great value for our students. The price includes utility bills, internet, and furniture. By combining everything in to one payment, we want to make things as easy for you as possible.

Residences fees depend on a range of factors such as facilities within the residence and whether residences are catered, part-catered or self-catered. Typically a study bedroom in catered residences costs approximately £147 per week. A self-catered residence costs between £108-£137 per week (2018/19 prices for single occupancy residences).

Residences fees and associated charges are payable by Direct Debit in three instalments (usually in October, January and April).

* Please note this cannot be guaranteed and so we would advise you not to bring your family to Cardiff until suitable accommodation has been secured.

Private Sector Accommodation

For UK students, or for any international or EU students who wish to rent privately owned accommodation rather than live in University residences, there is a good variety of accommodation available for rental in the city and close to the University. Cardiff has a diverse accommodation market, with a wide range of housing options for you to choose from. You can contact our Residences Office for lists of properties available to rent. Our Students' Union also runs its own professional letting agency, Cardiff Student Letting, who provide a varied selection of student houses without charging agency fees.

How does Cardiff compare with other places?

“Cardiff boasts one of the lowest living costs in the UK.”

The Complete University Guide 2018

“Compact, multicultural Cardiff dances to its own beat, with abundant cultural and historical sights, independent businesses and a friendly atmosphere.”

Lonely Planet, 2017

Postgraduate Student Support Services

You might be wondering what life is like for the 28,000 students at Cardiff University?

Outside of academia you will find a vast range of opportunities to try new things, meet new people and enjoy the exciting atmosphere on campus.

The Students' Union

- ▶ The University's social life revolves around an organisation called the Students' Union.
- ▶ Every student enrolled at Cardiff University is automatically a member of the Union.
- ▶ The Union is run by a committee of students and is dedicated to the social and welfare needs of all students on campus. All profits made go back into improving the services available to you.
- ▶ The Union building includes a bar, nightclub, concert venue, shopping mall, cafés and an advice centre.
- ▶ The Union runs its own student newspaper, magazine, radio station and television station.

The Lounge

The Lounge is located within the Students' Union and is open to all, free of charge. It boasts state of the art multimedia stations with Skype and VOIP capabilities, versatile work spaces, modern meeting rooms and touch screen tables giving students access to international channels and games.

Student societies

The best way to make friends is to join a student society. These clubs are very important to student life and are run by other students. There are more than 120 societies, many of which represent areas of the world including: Arabia, China, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and many more.

For two weeks every year the international societies celebrate **Go Global** – a festival that showcases the University's diversity involving dance, music and food.

Sport and keeping fit

The University takes sport very seriously, and the Athletic Union runs 60 sports clubs and arranges fixtures against other universities. Almost every popular sport is played at the University and whatever your level you will find an opportunity to play and participate.

Supporting you

The University knows that while you are here you may need some help. You might have an academic question, or you might have a more personal issue.

Cardiff University offers support in many ways:

- ▶ Every student is allocated a personal tutor. Your tutor can assist with any academic or personal problems you may have.
- ▶ The Student Support Centre has specialist international advisers who can help you with visas, housing, finances and anything which you would like to talk about.
- ▶ If you want to talk to someone outside the University, the Students' Union also has an advice centre.



About the School





THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2017



Our research, teaching, and clinical practice are housed in a purpose-built optometry and vision sciences centre with the facilities we need to achieve our ambitions.

A vision for the future

We are a leading optometry and vision sciences school providing opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate and research study – the only one of its kind in Wales.

We are long established and well-resourced with an excellent international reputation. Our teaching and research activities are also enhanced by our on-site optometry clinic, which provides opportunities for involving patients in research, and trialling research in a clinical setting.

Our research

We undertake research at the forefront of vision sciences that delivers advances in knowledge, impact in clinical practice and improvements in quality of life.

Research at our School has a wide range of fascinating real life applications and has made a positive and lasting impact on the lives of people affected with vision disorders. For example, our Down's Syndrome Vision Research Unit, led by Dr Maggie Woodhouse OBE, was awarded the UK's most prestigious academic award – a Queen's Anniversary Prize – for its pioneering research and treatment of vision problems in children with Down's Syndrome. We are also investigating the generation of corneal cells from human induced pluripotent stem cells, in collaboration with colleagues at Osaka University in Japan. Other examples of research in the School are the investigation of genetic and environmental factors in the development of myopia (short-sightedness), understanding the neural basis and visual effects of neurodegenerative conditions such as glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and nystagmus and development

of novel techniques for identifying and managing these conditions in the clinical setting.

Our programme

The PhD in Vision Sciences is focused on independent research, in which students are supervised by our outstanding academics. Our researchers work in multidisciplinary teams enabling them to work collaboratively, within and externally to the School, and share knowledge/skills with people from different scientific backgrounds. Many of our academics collaborate with colleagues in other Schools and Centres in the University, such as the School of Psychology, School of Biosciences, School of Medicine, and the Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC).

Facilities

Our School is housed in a £22million, custom-built research and teaching facility, situated in the Maindy Park Innovation Campus. Within the School, the Translational Research Facility (TRF) houses laboratories dedicated to studies of human vision and visual neuroscience (e.g. psychophysics, ocular imaging, and electrophysiology). The Clinical Education and Research Facility (CERF) and the Cardiff University Eye Clinic, both contained within the School, offer bespoke testing areas for clinical examination of research participants. The School also has several fully-equipped biomedical wet laboratories in which cellular, molecular, and structural biophysics research is undertaken. Students enrolled on the PhD in Vision Sciences will attend seminars and research skills courses organised by the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences and the Doctoral Academy.

The **School of Optometry and Vision Sciences** is **ranked No. 1** in The Complete University Guide 2018

In the 2014 REF (Research Excellence Framework), **our research quality was ranked 4th in the UK** as part of the 'Allied Health' unit of assessment

Study in our **£22 million purpose-built optometry and vision sciences facility**



We collaborate with leading external institutions such as **Bristol Eye Hospital, UCL, University of Bristol** and other **GW4 universities**, as well as **Schepens Eye Research Inst (Harvard)**

PhD in Vision Sciences



A message from our Director of Postgraduate Research

Dr Tony Redmond
Director of Postgraduate Research

Our PhD in Vision Sciences programme offers opportunities to graduates from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds to learn the fundamentals of research in the basic and clinical sciences.

The majority of our research in the School is aimed at better understanding the mechanisms underpinning normal vision and diseases of the visual pathway, from cornea to cortex. We place particular emphasis on translation; the application of findings to enhance health and wellbeing, specifically in individuals with, or at risk of, visual impairment. We also undertake research into visual rehabilitation, public health, and health service delivery.

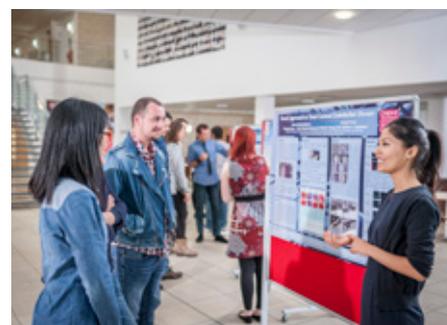
Although our undergraduate Optometry programme is aimed at training outstanding optometrists, our PhD in Vision Sciences is not limited to individuals with a clinical qualification. Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including optometry, biomedical science, psychology, biochemistry, medicine, cellular & molecular biology, and pharmacology. Our students have found the PhD in

Vision Sciences to offer a valuable opportunity to train in a range of wet and dry lab techniques, with a clear clinical application.

We place high priority on career development. Aside from working in their chosen research field, we encourage students to avail of opportunities to equip themselves with the necessary transferable skills to kick-start their academic career. This includes presentation of research findings, networking with peers and research-leaders (in-house and at national and international research conferences), and forming fruitful collaboration with other researchers within and outside their own field.

At the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences, we are very excited about research and discovery, and hope that you will decide to join us in the creation of new knowledge!

Our PhD in Vision Sciences comprises student-led, frontier translational research spanning a diverse range of basic science and clinical disciplines.



PhD: 3-4 years FT

Intake: January, April, July, October

Research areas:

Visual neuroscience, retinal degeneration and ageing, structural biophysics, human vision & clinical translation.

Entry requirements: A 1st or 2:1 UK honours degree, Master's degree, or equivalent, is required.

Suitable for graduates in optometry, medicine, psychology, biomedical science, physics, biology, biochemistry, mathematics, neuroscience or any relevant scientific discipline.

English language: IELTS 6.5.

Contact:

Email: visionpgr@cardiff.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 6163

Structural Biophysics

We are increasing our understanding of eye structure-function relationships using state-of-the-art techniques including: synchrotron X-ray diffraction, laser scanning multiphoton microscopy, 3-D electron tomography and volume scanning electron microscopy. Research areas include:

- ▶ corneal transparency and development
- ▶ corneal diseases such as keratoconus
- ▶ cataract formation
- ▶ sclera and optic nerve head changes in glaucoma and myopia
- ▶ development of new treatments including corneal crosslinking, stem cell therapy and tissue engineering



Visual Neuroscience

Our multidisciplinary investigations into eye disease from the molecular to brain systems level are leading to new scientific discoveries in areas including:

- ▶ inherited optic neuropathies
- ▶ oxidative damage and retinal function
- ▶ myopia
- ▶ neurobiological disorders
- ▶ eye movement disorders
- ▶ diabetic retinopathy
- ▶ age-related macular degeneration
- ▶ glaucoma
- ▶ magnetoperception



Retinal Degeneration and Ageing

We are seeking to reduce vision loss through the development of new treatment and biomarker technologies for retina-associated conditions such as:

- ▶ age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- ▶ diabetic eye disease
- ▶ glaucoma

Current research areas include:

- ▶ outer retinal functional imaging
- ▶ clinical trials for early stage AMD

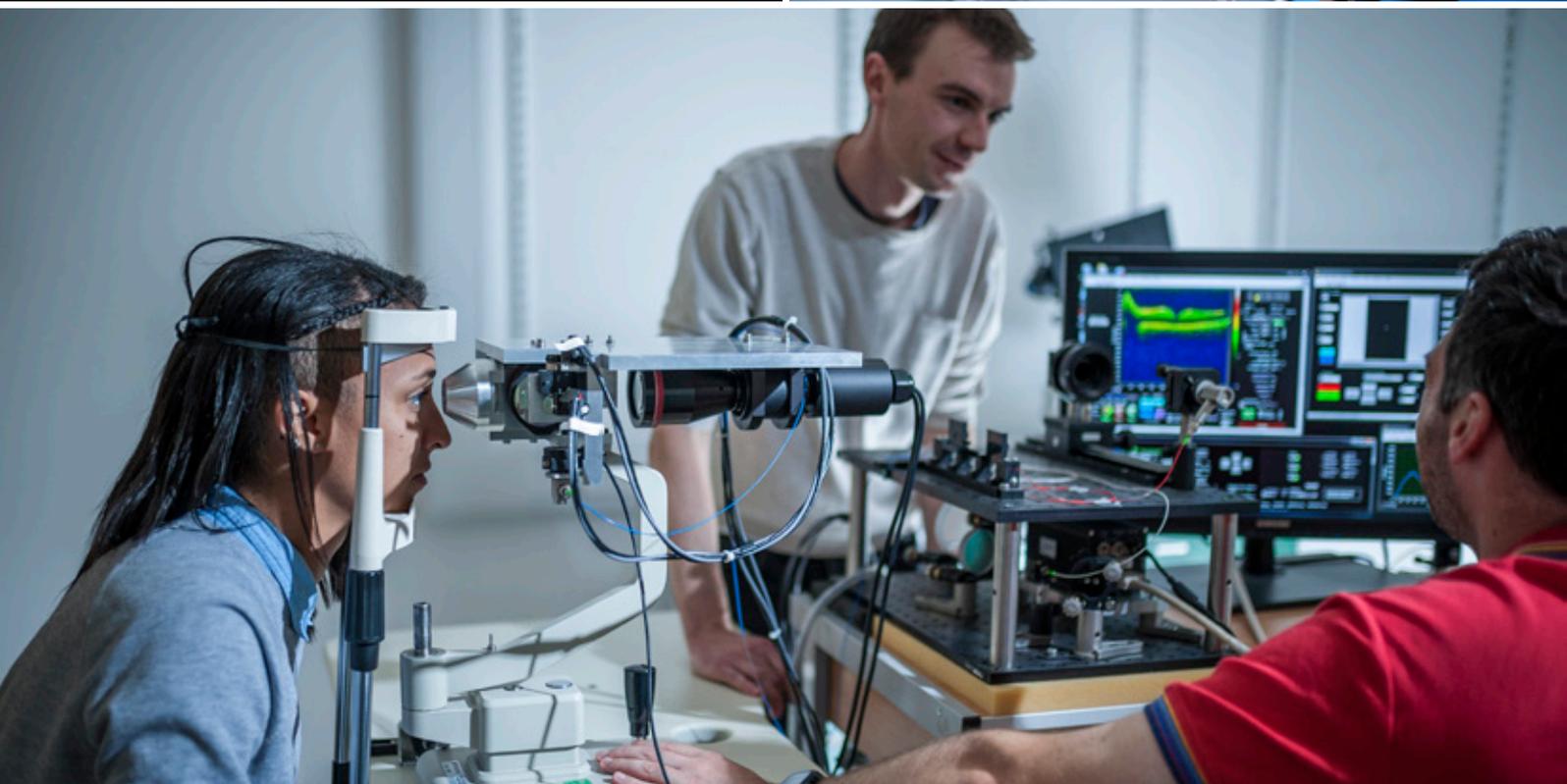
- ▶ establishment of normative databases
- ▶ development of novel visual field tests
- ▶ optical coherence tomography



Human Vision and Clinical Translation

We engage in multidisciplinary investigations of sight loss and its management using a patient-centered approach. Current research areas include:

- ▶ development of novel techniques and new instruments for measuring visual function in children and adults with, and without, special needs
- ▶ detection of ocular defects
- ▶ ways to promote psychological well-being in people with low vision
- ▶ evaluation of interventions and service delivery, particularly focussing on development of patient-reported outcome measures, for example, assessment of self-reported visual function, quality of life and well-being
- ▶ investigation of how vision is lost in the early stages of conditions such as glaucoma, diabetes and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and how such changes progress over time. This knowledge is essential for the development of effective diagnostic tests and evaluation of the efficacy of novel therapies in individuals with eye disease



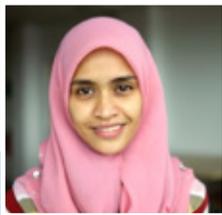
What our postgraduate students say



Greg Hammond

"I have been very fortunate to have gained my undergraduate degree and to be studying for my PhD at the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Cardiff University. After working in clinical practice for several years, coming back to the School felt like coming home. There is so much support from all the staff and other postgraduate students and the facilities are excellent for both biological and clinical research. Studying for my PhD here has given me many opportunities, including travelling the world, showcasing my research at national and international conferences, and working with international collaborators. It has been a very fulfilling and rewarding experience."

Greg is a UK-registered optometrist undertaking a PhD in the field of corneal structural biophysics, funded by a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) scholarship.



Asma Binti Ahmad Zahidi

"The research facilities at the School are highly advanced and the staff are of a rich diverse culture who are highly renowned in their respective fields. The historic architecture of Cardiff University buildings and the beautiful campus fill me with comfort, and most importantly ensures that I have a safe after-hours environment in somewhere that I consider a 'home away from home'. The postgraduate research program has not only helped me learn how to conduct clinical research independently, but it has also provided me with platforms to network with peers and research leaders both locally and internationally through collaboration and presentation of research at high-profile conferences. I have thoroughly enjoyed my PhD at Cardiff University!"

Asma is an optometrist from Malaysia, undertaking a PhD in paediatric optometry, specifically examining eye movements of children with Down's Syndrome. Funded by Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), Malaysia.



Melissa Emily Wright

"After completing my MSc in Neuroimaging: Methods and Applications at Cardiff University, I was accepted on to the PhD in Vision Sciences programme at the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences. I have found the School to be the perfect place to start my research career, with a friendly and interdisciplinary environment that has supported my training and development as a scientist. Links to the Doctoral Academy have been really helpful in identifying and finding training opportunities that have prepared me for my current and future research. I have really enjoyed my experience here and would recommend it to anyone embarking on a research career in vision science; it's challenging but worth it!"

Melissa is studying for a PhD in neuroimaging in glaucoma. She has a background in psychology and her PhD is funded by a Fight for Sight (UK) PhD studentship.



Mukhit Kulmaganbetov

"Undertaking a PhD at the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences is my first experience of studying abroad and in the English language. I feel privileged to be studying at one of the leading Optometry and Vision Science centres in the UK. My PhD in Vision Sciences is a great challenge, but with the support and encouragement of the outstanding research supervisors and team of fellow researchers, I find it both enjoyable and rewarding.

Research and clinical facilities of the School are at the highest level. In addition to project-specific skills, there are many opportunities to learn transferable skills that are essential for a successful academic career, including preparation for publication, presentation of research findings, leadership skills, and teaching skills."

Mukhit is an ophthalmologist from Kazakhstan. In his PhD, funded by a Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence, Mukhit is investigating the utility of Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) in early identification of neural damage in eye disease.



**Dr Tomas White
(Recent PGR graduate)**

"Having already obtained my BSc and MSc from Cardiff University, I was aware of the outstanding facilities and supervision on offer, making it an easy decision to study for my PhD in the Structural Biophysics lab at the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences. With the use of advanced imaging techniques to study healthy and diseased corneas, I was able to build considerable expertise in corneal ultrastructure, with my research resulting in several publications in high-profile scientific journals. Furthermore, during my PhD I was fortunate enough to present my work at national and international conferences to world leaders in the field, subsequently leading to international collaborations. Collectively, these transferable skills prepared me for a career in academia and ultimately enabled me to obtain a post-doctoral position at Harvard University."

Tomas is a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA. Dr White graduated with a PhD from the School in 2017. His research was aimed at understanding the structure of the corneal stroma in health and disease, with a particular emphasis on elastic fibres.

Find out more about our postgraduate research students here:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences/people/research-students

International students

Cardiff University has a long tradition of welcoming international students. Over 4,000 students from 100 countries enjoy the many benefits of a diverse student population.

Supporting International Students

Once you have been made an offer, you will receive advice on matters such as immigration, visas, healthcare, climate and living and studying in Cardiff.

Before you arrive at the University you may be worried about settling in, making friends and life in the UK. The International Office aims to make your transition as smooth as possible with an induction programme in September and January.

The September induction programme includes:

1. A free collection service from Cardiff and Heathrow airports. International Office staff will provide a warm welcome at the airport and take you and your luggage to your accommodation.
2. Practical information and fairs to help you settle quickly into living and studying in Cardiff.
3. Tours of the University and the city of Cardiff to help you find your way around.
4. Social events and parties including traditional Welsh dancing. These are a great way to make friends.
5. A bank letter service to help you open a bank account when you arrive in the UK.
6. A coach tour of South Wales. Visit some of Wales' historic monuments with the International Office.

International Office

Throughout your studies, support and advice is available from a number of sources both within your School and the University as a whole. These include your academic tutors and supervisor, the Student Advisory Service and the Careers Service.

English Language Support

Our English Language Programmes Section provides English language courses to full-time international students studying, or intending to study, at Cardiff University. Language and study skills courses are offered throughout the year for periods from a few weeks to a full year to improve your level of general and academic English.

Our Pre-sessional Programme in English for Academic Purposes is particularly popular. These are full-time, intensive summer courses of between 8 and 11 weeks in length and are designed specifically to prepare students starting degrees at Cardiff University for academic study. Places on the courses are limited so students holding conditional offers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Once you are enrolled as a full fee-paying international student, you can select from a range of free and optional English language support classes. The courses run part-time so you can fit language development around your studies. We are an IELTS Test Centre.



Further Information:

International Office

Email: international@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4432
Fax: +44 (0)29 2087 4622
www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international

English Language Programmes Section

Email: elt@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 6587
Fax: +44 (0)29 2087 6141
www.cardiff.ac.uk/elt



Funding your postgraduate study



Securing funding is an important consideration for many postgraduates. Most funding sources are highly competitive, so it is essential to start researching your funding options as early as possible.

In most cases, you will need to have been offered a place to study in order to obtain financial support; therefore it's important that you apply for your chosen programme of study well in advance of the deadlines for any funding applications you intend to make.

You should research your funding options early to ensure that you can meet application deadlines. Even if you can't find full funding for your programme, you may be able to find funding from a number of different sources.

In fact, many of our students have funded their programmes through a combination of the sources listed below.

- ▶ We run a highly prestigious international scholarship scheme to support exceptional international students
 - ▶ International students are also advised to investigate funding opportunities offered within their own country, the British Council and other external funding providers
 - ▶ Our Unistaff Jobshop can help you secure part-time, casual and regular employment
 - ▶ Charities, trusts and foundations offer a wealth of funding for postgraduate study.
 - ▶ Many course websites offer scholarship competitions to prospective students.
- ▶ Both the English and Welsh governments offer postgraduate doctoral loans which provide a contribution loan of up to £25,000 per student for postgraduate doctoral degree courses. Check doctoral loan government website for eligibility – www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan

Further Information:

Cardiff University websites:

(UK/EU students):

www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgradfunding

(International Students):

www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international

External websites:

Graduate Prospects:

www.prospects.ac.uk

British Council:

www.britishcouncil.org/learning

Professional and Career

Development Loans:

www.direct.gov.uk/cdl

Students' Union Jobshop:

www.cardiffstudents.com

Making your application

When should I apply?

Applications will be considered throughout the year. However, we recommend applying earlier especially if you are seeking funding. Many funding opportunities have early deadlines and will require you to have an offer from your chosen institution.

Submitting your application

The majority of postgraduate programmes start in September each year but applications are considered as they arrive throughout the year.

You can find our online application tool, postal forms, and full guidance documents at www.cardiff.ac.uk/postgradapply. If you apply online you can upload all your supporting documents, track your application at every stage, and contact our Admissions Team directly through our online applicant portal.

International Students (non-EU countries)

Cardiff University recognises qualifications from all over the world. To find out if you would be considered for entry you can:

- Look on the website. We have a dedicated section for many countries. This will give you an overview of qualifications we consider: www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international
- Contact the International Office
- Contact an educational adviser. The University has an international network of educational advisers (agents) who give free advice (see the website above for their contact details).

In addition to making your application as detailed below, you must ensure that you have a valid visa to enter the UK prior to the start of your course. The International Office can provide further guidance and support on this process.

Your Offer

Most applicants will receive a decision within four weeks of applying.

There are two types of offer:

Conditional: you have been offered a place but something is missing from your application, e.g. you may need to provide evidence that you have completed a qualification. Once you have submitted evidence that you have met the conditions, your offer will become unconditional.



Unconditional: If you have received an unconditional offer, in most cases all you need to do is accept the offer to secure your place.

It is important that you keep us informed of any changes to your email or home address otherwise important correspondence may not reach you.

Equality and Diversity

Whether you're thinking about coming to Cardiff University or you're already a student here, we want to ensure that we provide the best support to all our students. We are committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of our practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission.

We aim to establish an inclusive culture which ensures equality of opportunity on the grounds of age, disability, gender, pregnancy and maternity, race (including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), and sexual orientation.

Disabilities/Special Needs

We are committed to providing an accessible environment for all students. You are encouraged to make contact prior to submitting an application to discuss individual requirements or to arrange a visit to assess the suitability of facilities. Please note disclosing a disability will not affect your chances of receiving an offer to study except where courses are subject to fitness to practice criteria.

For further advice please contact
Email: disability@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 0004

Further Information:

**School of Optometry
and Vision Sciences**
Postgraduate Admissions Office
Email:
OPTOMAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4374

How to find us



How to find us

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 in February 2019. 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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School of Optometry and Vision Sciences

For further information contact:

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

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4374

Email: OPTOMAdmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

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