



FACULTY OF
SCIENCE

Department of
Optometry and
Vision Sciences



**CONTINUING
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au

Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Clinical Optometry

The Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences at the University of Melbourne is pleased to introduce a major upgrade of its Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Clinical Optometry (PGDACO).

This course allows optometrists to re-examine the science of optometry with the benefit of the latest information, and, a major emphasis on understanding and managing clinical conditions in a practice setting. Subject modules are in depth, challenging and designed to significantly advance optometrists' clinical skills in the selected fields.

Australian Optometrists can qualify for CPD Activity (a minimum of 80 CPD points per subject). Successful completion will enable optometrists to fulfil their biannual Optometrists Association CPD requirements.

Course Description

The range of subjects on offer have been expanded and enhanced to include an exciting list of topical subject areas. Specifically designed for off-campus study, the course allows you the opportunity to complete and apply learning tasks in your own practice. Subjects are delivered using the latest online learning technologies and approaches, giving you the opportunity to interact with colleagues and educators, whilst enjoying the convenience and flexibility of off-campus study.

The University's Learning Management System provides an easy to use environment for online access to study notes, reading material, communication and online learning tools.

The study notes will guide reading, ask questions and suggest exercises designed to promote your understanding. Communication is an important aspect of each subject, allowing optometrists to interact and engage in discussion and

sharing of ideas with the lecturer and other enrolled optometrists.

All assessments are designed to reinforce subject learning in a clinical practice context. Hence there are no examinations and all assignments are submitted online. Ongoing contribution to the subject's online community, along with critical assessment of research articles in an interactive, online format is an important aspect of each subject and also contributes to the assessment.

Entry Requirements

The diploma is available to both local and international candidates.

Eligible candidates must normally have completed a minimum of a three-year tertiary degree level qualification (or equivalent) in Optometry.

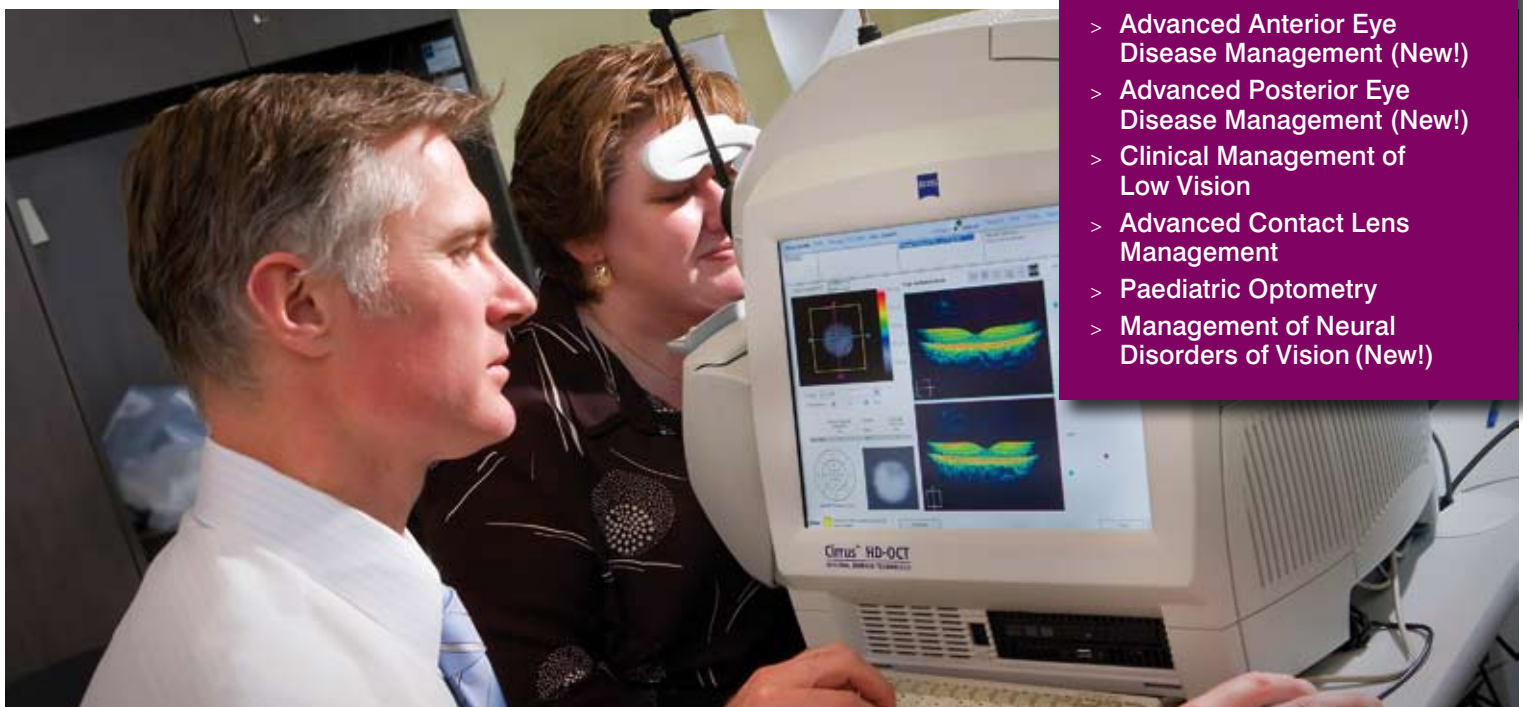
AT A GLANCE

Delivery: One year (full-time) or two years (part-time) via distance education mode.

Requirement: Four x 25 point semester-long subjects.

The current subject offerings are:

- > Advanced Anterior Eye Disease Management (New!)
- > Advanced Posterior Eye Disease Management (New!)
- > Clinical Management of Low Vision
- > Advanced Contact Lens Management
- > Paediatric Optometry
- > Management of Neural Disorders of Vision (New!)



Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

The Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (GCOT) is designed to enable currently registered optometrists in Australia to upgrade their qualifications to meet the necessary level of expertise for endorsement to therapeutically treat ocular disease. This is in response to the legislation introduced by the Victorian State Government in 1996 allowing appropriately trained optometrists to administer approved S4 therapeutics agents.

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences at the University of Melbourne was the first optometry school to offer a postgraduate certificate enabling current optometrists to obtain therapeutic endorsement.

Australian Optometrists can qualify for CPD Activity (a minimum of 80 CPD points per subject). Successful completion will enable optometrists to fulfil their biannual Optometrists Association CPD requirements.

Course Description

The postgraduate certificate draws on the department's access to a unique combination of expertise in the fields of optometry, ophthalmology and medical sciences.

As well as its own clinical expertise, the department draws on a range of international and local expertise. An international specialist in the field of ocular therapeutics and anterior eye disease management, and a range of leading ophthalmologists and clinical educators from the University of Melbourne and Melbourne's teaching hospital network also contribute in the delivery of the didactic component of the course.

Components of the clinical placements are also based in hospital settings, where students have the opportunity to participate in specialist clinics.

Bachelor degree in Optometry (or its equivalent) and it is recommended that they have a minimum of one year's clinical practice experience.

As a requirement for the course, all candidates are required to undertake clinical placements at an approved tertiary eye care facility and are also required to complete an additional 35 hours of placements with approved experienced therapeutic prescribers in private practices. Candidates are responsible for scheduling their own private practice placements (a list of approved sites is provided subsequent to enrolment). Due to differences in the approved lists of S4 therapeutic agents in various states, normally the placements must be located in either Victoria, South Australia or Western Australia.

Entry Requirements

The course is available to Australian citizens/permanent residents or New Zealand citizens. This course is not available to international students. Eligible candidates must have completed a four-year Australian

AT A GLANCE

Delivery: One year (part-time) via face-to-face mode.

Requirement: Two x 25 point subjects.

- > **Ocular Therapeutics A**
Delivered in an intensive block format in February/March (Four weekends & Friday evenings).
- > **Ocular Therapeutics B**
Individually scheduled, normally June-December.



Applications and fees

Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

Local Applicants: Information on the application processes, including a downloadable form, is available on the web at www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/grad/apply/aust

The closing date for applications for commencement in the new year is **30 November**. Late applications may be accepted until **18 December**.

Please visit the course information website for the most up-to-date fee information:

www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au/courses/PgCert_OcularTh.html

Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Clinical Optometry

Local Applicants: Information on the application processes, including a downloadable form, is available on the web at www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/grad/apply/aust

The closing date for applications for commencement in Semester 1 is **30 November** and **31 May** for commencement in Semester 2. Late applications may be accepted until **19 December** for Semester 1 and **30 June** for commencement in Semester 2.

International Applicants: Information on the application processes, including either a downloadable or an online application form, is available on the web at www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/apply/grad/gradcoursework.htm

The closing date for applications for commencement in Semester 1 is **30 October** and **30 April** for commencement in Semester 2. Late applications may be accepted until **18 December** for Semester 1 and **30 June** for commencement in Semester 2.

Please visit the course information website for the most up-to-date fee information:

www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au/courses/PgDip_AdvClinical.html

More Information

For more information about both courses, including detailed descriptions of subjects on offer go to the University website www.optometry.unimelb.edu.au/courses/index.htm

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