

Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry

Offered at: Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus

Duration: 3.5 years full time

Deakin Code: D302

Deakin Optometry students have one considerable advantage over those from other universities - time.

Deakin Optometry's unique course structure takes advantage of Deakin's trimester system, so the Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry can be completed in just three-and-a-half years of full-time study.

This means our graduates enter the workforce sooner, which translates to significant earnings and ample time to consider further options, including recognised areas of interest, research and further studies.

Salaries for optometry graduates are among the highest in the country and typically range between \$75,000 and \$100,000 - with the highest salaries paid to optometrists willing to work in regions of workforce shortage.



OPTOMETRY REGIONAL AND REMOTE ENTRY SCHEME



Further Information

deakin.edu.au/medicine/optometry

Enquiries

Deakin REACH building DD
75 Pigdons Road, Waurin Ponds
Victoria 3216

Phone 03 9251 7777

Email health-enquire@deakin.edu.au

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

Optometry Regional and Remote Entry Scheme

Deakin University's Faculty of Health not only offers Australia's first accelerated optometry course combining the Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry but has now introduced an Optometry Regional and Remote Entry Scheme.

With workforce shortages in optometry in regional and remote areas of Australia, the School of Medicine at Deakin University has decided to address these shortages by introducing this Regional and Remote Entry Scheme.

This scheme aims to attract more regional and rural students into the Optometry course in order to achieve the mission of addressing these workforce shortages.



Global policy recommendations of the World Health Organisation (2010) suggest regional shortages are best addressed through the recruitment and training of students from under-represented regions. Deakin is seeking to address this imbalance.

The imbalance of offers to students from major cities compared with regional and rural areas has been exacerbated by a steady rise in the clearly-in ATAR score for the Optometry course: from 91 in 2012 to 95 in 2015.

Who is eligible?

Current Year 12 students who are undertaking their final year of schooling at a regional or remote secondary school (as defined by the new ABS categories), that is not a school in a major city of Australia, other than the City of Greater Geelong.

Students from Geelong schools will be eligible to apply through the new code as the School of Medicine wishes to make a strategic statement about its engagement with the entire City of Greater Geelong, not just those suburbs of Geelong classified by the ABS as inner regional.



How to apply

Deakin Optometry will have an additional VTAC code with selection criteria for the Regional and Remote Entry Scheme. It will create a second stream that will join those selected into Optometry via the existing VTAC code.

As workforce issues are more acute in remote areas we have adopted the following sliding scale of bonus points for school location:

- 0 for City of Greater Geelong
- 4 for inner regional
- 7 for outer regional
- 10 for remote.

The above proposal, in combination with current Deakin policy, would allow for up to 35 bonus points to be claimed on the basis of:

- Performance in nominated VCE subjects - up to 10
- Location of secondary school (new bonus) – up to 10
- Disadvantage other than school location – up to 15



Career Opportunities

Demand for optometrists is high, job opportunities are strong and career outcomes are excellent. Deakin optometry graduates are well prepared for employment in a diverse range of work settings including but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, health services, state and local governments, non-governmental organisations, research institutes, tertiary education institutions, private practice and corporate and community settings.

Career and employment opportunities for qualified optometrists include private and public eye care, practice ownership, research and teaching, associates in eye surgery practice and recognised areas of interest within optometry such as low vision, paediatric vision and behavioural optometry.