



School of Medicine

**Bachelor of Vision Science/
Master of Optometry**

**Student Information Guide
2026**

Acknowledgement of Country

Deakin University respectfully acknowledges the custodians of the unceded lands on which our multiple campuses and clinical sites are located and pay our respect to Elders: past, present and future. In particular we acknowledge the Gulidjan, Djargurd Wurrung, Gunditjmara, Djab Wurrung, Jadawadjali, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jupagulk, Wergaia, Dja Dja Wurrung and Wada Wurrung traditional owners, on whose lands much of our teaching and learning occurs. We wish to acknowledge the longstanding commitment of the traditional owners to upholding the health and wellbeing of the lands, communities and individuals, and we endeavour to continue that commitment.

Welcome from the Dean of Medicine Professor Gary Rogers

Nyurra wurriyn*,

Welcome to the School of Medicine at Deakin University and warmest congratulations on gaining a place in Year 1 of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. I am confident that the School community of staff and existing students will do all they can to help you settle in and make your time with us happy and productive.

The School of Medicine at Deakin University was established in 2006 and admitted the first medical students in 2008 to serve communities in Victoria, wider Australia and elsewhere in the world. 2025 saw us graduate our 2000th medical doctor. We are proud that many of our graduates are establishing strong links with regional and rural health services.

The purpose, aspirations and values of the School of Medicine are clearly articulated. We expect the attitudes and behaviours of both staff and students to align with these guiding statements.



In addition to the MD, the School offers other postgraduate and undergraduate programs:

- Doctor of Medicine
- Bachelor of Medical Imaging
- Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Health and Medicine
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science, jointly run with School of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Master of Business Administration (Healthcare Management), jointly run with the Deakin Business School
- Bachelor of Health and Medical Science (Honours)

- Graduate Certificate of Health and Medical Research
- Master of Philosophy (Medicine)
- Master of Surgical Research
- Doctor of Philosophy

The School is also a significant research leader with world-leading work at the interface between physical and mental health through the Institute for Physical and Mental Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT), as well as highly influential rural health research through Deakin Rural Health, based in Warrnambool. We have a large number of academic and student researchers in medical sciences, clinical research, bioethics, and health professional education at the Waurin Ponds, Warrnambool and Burwood campuses, as well as those working in primary, secondary, and tertiary care settings across south and western Victoria.

Our other major organisational centres and partners include:

- The Centre for Rural Emergency Medicine, based in Warrnambool
- The National Centre for Farmer Health, based in Hamilton
- Barwon Health
- South West Healthcare, Warrnambool
- Grampians Health Service, Ballarat, Horsham, Stawell and Edenhope
- East Grampians Health Service, Ararat
- Western Districts Health Service, Hamilton
- Kardinia Health, Geelong
- Active Health Portland
- CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory
- The Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre

As a school we are committed to providing excellent education and research facilities and services for students and staff for the ultimate benefit of the communities we serve. We welcome you to the School of Medicine and wish you every success on your journey to becoming a doctor.

Kun gadji*,



Professor Gary Rogers
Dean, School of Medicine

*In the Deakin School of Medicine, we pay respect to the Wadawurrung people, on whose land we work, by using language with permission of local elders. Nyurra Wurriyn: "How do you do", Kun Gadji: "Goodbye" in the Wadawurrung language local to the Deakin Waurin Ponds Campus.

Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry Course Overview

The Deakin Optometry program constitutes a three-and-a-half-year, ten trimester course, leading to the qualification Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry (24 credit points / 16 credit points respectively). Students who satisfactorily complete the Course will be able to register and practise optometry in Australia and New Zealand.

The course consists of a sequence of compulsory, core units, with no option for electives. In most cases, successful completion of a given trimester's units is a requirement to progress to study in the next trimester. Apart from some units during first year, a given unit is delivered in just one trimester of the year; therefore students should be aware that failure of an individual unit in any of the years of the course may significantly delay a student's progression.

Students should also be aware of the following:

- from Year 2 of the course onwards they will be required to travel to Melbourne for 1-3 weeks of clinical placement within each trimester;
- some of the teaching and learning opportunities, including clinical placements, may and will be carried out outside of the published Deakin University trimester dates;
- students will be required to purchase certain clinical instruments and equipment during Year 2 of the course; and
- will be required to spend the final 6 months of the course, away from the Deakin University Waurn Ponds Campus, on a residential placement, or placements, within an optometric practice. At least 3 months of the placement will be undertaken in an area identified as rural.

Course Structure

Year 1

During Year 1 of the Deakin Optometry program, students will study 12, single credit point units across the 3 trimesters, facilitating student learning across the biological sciences, the physical sciences, accounting and optometric business management, health, and the vision and optical sciences. The structure of the year is shown on page 5 of this document, with the only variation possible if students have not studied chemistry at year 12, in which case a prescribed course variation is available through contacting a Course Advisor in StudentCentral on +61 3 9251 7777 (Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm) or via email on health@deakin.edu.au.

Year 2

Students will complete the Bachelor of Vision Science component of the Course through study of six, 2 credit point units across the three trimesters of the academic year. Each trimester constitutes 2 units, one of which covers the health and vision sciences, and one of which provides training in the clinical skills necessary to practice as an optometrist. In reality, however, the course is entirely integrated, with student learning being facilitated through problem-based learning. This means the curriculum is driven by a weekly case, which mimics a patient presentation that may be seen in standard optometric practice and that is designed to reveal predetermined learning goals to teams of students. These learning goals build on a weekly basis to ensure that by the time they have completed the entire course (BVisSci/MOptom); students have all of the entry-level skills required of optometrists.

The weekly cases will be supported by a variety of lectures, tutorials, workshops, clinical skills sessions, laboratories and online material, in order to help students attain the weekly learning goals. Student learning will be punctuated by periodic transition to clinical practice days in which aspects of optometric practice that are particularly valued by Deakin, such as regional and rural health, public health, contact lenses, and optometric business and practice management, are emphasised to students. During Year 2 of the Course

students will develop a solid understanding of the vision sciences and a basic competency in the clinical skills necessary to practice optometry. Students will start to develop their understanding of what it means to be a health professional and what constitutes professional behaviour. They will also develop skills in working productively in teams. Students will develop their understanding of how an eye care practice functions through simulated learning opportunities in Deakin's Collaborative Eye Care optometry practice, observational visits to ophthalmology and optometry practices and also see their first clinical patients during this year, in the form of actors with whom they simulate full eye examinations and care delivery.

Year 3

Students will commence the Master of Optometry component of the Course at the start of this year, studying one, 4 credit point unit in each of the three trimesters of this year. The first two trimesters of Year 3 adhere to a similar structure to that of Year 2 of the course, with learning being driven by a weekly case and again supported through a variety of lectures, tutorials, workshops, clinical skills sessions, laboratories and online material. Student learning will be punctuated by transition to clinical practice days, covering aspects of optometric practice that are particularly valued by Deakin. In contrast to Year 2 of the course, the emphasis will shift from teaching the basic clinical and vision sciences, to developing student learning in advanced clinical assessment, diagnosis and management. It follows that the weekly cases will contain more complex clinical subject matter and necessitates a more sophisticated approach by student groups to considering patient diagnosis and management. Students will see their first non-simulation patients, under the supervision of clinically-registered optometric educators, as they continue to undertake periodic weekly placements at a major public health optometry clinic. They will also experience periodic placements in a hospital ophthalmology setting. By the end of Trimester 2 of Year 3 students will have covered most of the required scientific and clinical theory and have demonstrated a level of competence in clinical optometric assessment, diagnosis and management necessary to be placed in the optometric workforce under close supervision.

During Trimester 3 of Year 3 students will begin their residential clinical placements working, ideally, at an optometric practice that is close to their place of origin and/or in a regional or rural area of Australia, however this cannot be guaranteed. Although Deakin has developed a network of clinical residential placements for its students, students are also encouraged to identify optometric practices in their area of origin and that may consider taking a student. In such an instance, Deakin would initiate the process of assessing the practice for its suitability to provide the training environment necessary for a student.

Year 4

Students undertake their final trimester of study in Year 4, usually within an optometric practice. By this stage they will be confident in providing eye care across a range of patient ages and demographics, and will concentrate on honing their clinical skills in assessment, diagnosis and management, in preparation for returning to Deakin at the end of trimester to complete their final clinical training and assessments.

Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry Course Map

** Students who do not have VCE chemistry will be enrolled in the appropriate Chemistry Unit. Please contact the Student Central on (03) 9251 7777 for details.*

Year 1

T1	T2	T3
SLE010 (0 cp) <i>Laboratory and Fieldwork Safety Induction Program</i>		
HBS107 (1 cp) <i>Understanding Health</i>	*SLE155 (1 cp) <i>Chemistry for the Professional Sciences</i>	HMO105 (1 cp) <i>The Business of Optometry</i>
HMO101 (1 cp) <i>Principles of Optics</i>	HMO103 (1 cp) <i>Clinical Optics</i>	MAA103 (1 cp) <i>Accounting for Decision Making</i>
SLE111 (1 cp) <i>Cells and Genes</i>	HMO104 (1 cp) <i>Ocular Structure</i>	HMO202 (1 cp) <i>Ocular Function</i>
HBS108 (1 cp) online <i>Health Information & Data</i>	HMO102 (1 cp) <i>Science of Vision 1</i>	HMO201 (1 cp) <i>Science of Vision 2</i>

Year 2

T1	T2	T3
HMO203 (2 cp) <i>Health and Vision Sciences 1</i>	HMO303 (2 cp) <i>Health and Vision Sciences 2</i>	HMO305 (2 cp) <i>Health and Vision Sciences 3</i>
HMO204 (2 cp) <i>Principles and Practice of Optometry 1</i>	HMO304 (2 cp) <i>Principles and Practice of Optometry 2</i>	HMO306 (2 cp) <i>Principles and Practice of Optometry 3</i>

Year 3

T1	T2	T3
HMO701 (4 cp) <i>Advanced Optometric Studies 1</i>	HMO702 (4 cp) <i>Advanced Optometric Studies 2</i>	HMO703 (4 cp) <i>Community Optometry 1</i>

Year 4

T1
HMO704 (4 cp) <i>Community Optometry 2</i>

Getting Started at Deakin

Health and Wellbeing

The most important aspect of preparation for studying at university is to ensure that you are feeling healthy, supported and connected prior to beginning your studies. The School encourages all students to identify a local GP to support you during your studies and beyond.

Deakin offers a range of services to help students stay healthy and safe – physically, mentally and spiritually. Extensive information is provided on the [Health and Wellbeing](#) website.

The School of Medicine has a dedicated Counsellor available to all its students. An appointment with the Medical School Counsellor can be secured by contacting the Division of Student Life on (03) 5227 1221 (please identify yourself as a School of Medicine student).

First Nations Students

For students who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, there are further supports that are available to access both within the school and through the broader university community. These services can include free tutoring sessions and specific Social and Emotional Wellbeing counsellors sessions, study support, community and cultural support. To receive further information regarding the supports that are available within the School of Medicine please contact Kelsey Love in the Indigenous Health Team, and for broader university supports please contact the NIKERI team via the NIKERI webpage.

International Students

Deakin offers a range of support services for international students. You will find information about these supports at <https://www.deakin.edu.au/international-students/why-study-in-australia/living-in-australia/support>.

Accommodation

Deakin offers a range of [on-campus accommodation](#) options at the [Geelong Waurin Ponds](#) or [Geelong Waterfront campuses](#). Please refer to the links for further information and application details.

Financial Support and Scholarships

Deakin provides resources regarding [financial support](#) for students, including [Deakin University Scholarships](#), financial counselling and student loans.

Parking

Parking is available at the Geelong Waurin Ponds campus and a permit is required. Please visit the [Parking](#) website for more information and a campus map.

Requirements of enrolment

The School has a number of compliance documentation that you are required to complete on commencement of the Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry:

1. Victorian Working with Children Check
2. Pre-Placement occupational risk form
3. Evidence of COVID-19 vaccinations – the School of Medicine requires evidence of a primary and booster dose.
4. [Hand Hygiene Certificate](#)

You will also need to sign a number of consent forms:

1. Student Information Consent Form
2. Collection, Use and Disclosure of Working with Children Check Consent Form
3. Student Statement of Compliance with Infectious Disease Policy
4. Code of Conduct Student Declaration Form
5. Anatomy & Pathology Code of Conduct Form
6. Peer Examination and Consent Form
7. Disclosure of Personal Information to Support Assessment Consent Form
8. 3rd Party Consent form
9. Student Undertaking Form

Evidence of COVID-19 vaccinations

The School of Medicine requires evidence of a primary and booster dose.

You will be required to purchase the following items:

1. Name Badge
Please note: For privacy, only include your first or preferred name to be displayed on your name badge. The account must be set up using your Deakin email address. Account requests using a personal email address will be rejected.

You will find the forms and checklist [here](#).

Computing Requirements

To fully engage with Deakin learning experiences, students need to have access to and be able to use internet-connected devices. As such, the required standards to be met for effective study at Deakin University are: access to a device such as a desktop computer or laptop, connectivity to the internet, capability to use our online learning environments. Please note that many of our teaching sessions and some assessments are run online, and so you will need to have a stable internet connection which allows video streaming. We strongly recommend the use of a device with a camera and microphone. For more information, view the [University's computing requirements site](#).

School of Medicine Infectious Diseases and Immunisation Guidelines

Introduction

All enrolled students are required to read, understand and comply with the Infectious Diseases and Immunisation Guidelines. These guidelines are in addition to the University's requirements regarding COVID-19 Vaccination (see below).

The guidelines have been developed by the Deakin School of Medicine to minimise the risk of infection that may occur between students, patients and other health care workers. While these risks cannot be totally eliminated, it is essential that the necessary steps are taken at all times to minimise such risks. It should be noted that students have an ethical duty to be aware of their immunity or infectious status to ensure that they protect themselves as individuals and to prevent placing others at risk of infection.

Various infection control strategies, known as 'standard precautions' and 'additional precautions' are utilised to minimise infectious disease risks. These precautions include assessing the risk posed by persons with particular infections and clinical syndromes, hand-washing, aseptic technique, disposal of sharps and clinical waste, use of single-use only equipment, sterilisation and disinfection of re-usable equipment, use of personal protective equipment and managing patients in various forms of isolation or working with biological agents in a laboratory

setting. All procedures and work instructions are based on the assumption that blood and body fluids should always be handled as if they are infected.

[Immunisation](#) is also used to provide additional protection against many of the infectious organisms present in health care settings or laboratories where human samples may be used in research projects or working with live animals, tissue and excreta. Students must be vaccinated according to this immunisation policy provided by the School. Immunisation and assessment are offered through the [Deakin Health Service](#) or students may prefer to see their local general practitioner (GP).

Students may opt out of the immunisation program on medical or conscientious grounds but only with the written approval of the Dean of Medicine. In such instances, students will be referred to an infectious disease and/or occupational health specialist for further advice on protecting themselves in the case of working in a health care setting with patients, to protect themselves and their patients from infectious diseases.

Blood-borne virus infections

Students who are infected with a blood-borne virus must consult a specialist medical practitioner experienced in the particular blood-borne virus infection to assess their medical condition and advise which clinical activities they can perform. Assistance will be provided to arrange appropriate follow-up. The Dean of Medicine should be informed on a confidential basis so that learning activities can be modified to allow students to complete their studies. Academic, personal and career counselling will be made available.

Students who engage in at-risk behaviour and/or suspect that they may have been infected with a blood-borne virus during the course of study have an ethical duty to seek testing and counselling. The Deakin University Health Service will provide pre- and post- testing counselling for students and this will be carried out in accordance with the right of the individual to confidentiality and privacy.

Students with infectious diseases are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law.

Deakin is required as far as is reasonably practicable to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risk to health. Employees, students and others are required to take care of their own health and safety and follow the procedures of the organisation (including university and/or health service where students are placed).

Students are expected to follow safe practice to prevent the transmission of an infectious disease; students who have been diagnosed with an infectious disease are expected to exercise their duty of care to prevent the transmission to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Health Act. The student and/or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the MDANZ Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs and AHPRA, who may impose restrictions on course-related activities or clinical practice after graduation.

Exclusion from exposure-prone procedures

Students infected with blood-borne viruses must exclude themselves from 'exposure-prone procedures'. These procedures are characterised by the potential for contact between the skin (usually finger or thumb) and sharp surgical instruments, needles or sharp tissues (splinters/pieces of bone or teeth) in body cavities or in poorly visualised or confined body sites (including the mouth). Advice will be provided by a specialist medical practitioner in consultation with the Dean of Medicine. Doctors treating students with a blood-borne viral infection who fail to self-exclude or modify their practice may have a legal duty to inform their State Medical Board.

Exposure to body fluids

If during the course of their training, a student sustains an injury involving exposure to blood or other body fluids, the student should immediately seek appropriate management through their supervisor in accordance with protocols in place at the site or University campus or health service where the injury occurred. All students have access to occupational health surveillance and management in relation to blood borne and other infectious diseases (at no cost to the student) at all clinical placement sites.

The student will be clinically and serologically evaluated for HIV antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis C antibody and appropriate counselling will be offered. For suspected HIV exposure, immediate commencement of prophylactic treatment will be considered by the treating medical officer. Further testing and counselling may be necessary depending on the initial results. For suspected hepatitis virus exposure, the immunisation status of the person will be assessed and appropriate action taken.

Process for Demonstrating Vaccination Status

Immunisation and assessment are offered by the Deakin Medical Centre and this is preferred as they are familiar with our requirements. However, students are able to see their local GP if preferred.

International Students: Please begin your immunisation requirements upon arrival in Australia. While we appreciate that many students prefer to be organised and proactive, some tests conducted overseas cannot be accepted unless they are performed in Australia.

The Deakin Health Service can provide a confidential personal report of immunisations and tests to the student (a copy of which should be filed for further reference). It is highly recommended that if students do require immunisations and assessments (as per the School guidelines above) that this takes place as early as possible prior to the commencement of the course.

An appointment needs to be made with the Campus Doctor, who will initially assess your needs according to the [Pre-Placement Occupational Risk Form](#). **You must have this document available for sign off.**

If there is no documented history of previous infection or immunisation, serology tests will need to be performed to establish the status of immunity to these infectious diseases (except influenza). A Vaccination Schedule can then be put in place for any of these diseases for which immunity is lacking. Where clinically indicated, tests will be performed after immunisation to confirm immunity. Follow-up of students who fail to respond to vaccinations, will be required in consultation with the School and arrangements made for follow-up infectious diseases and/or occupational health specialist for further advice.

Appointments can be made via this link: <https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/health-and-wellbeing/medical-centres/online-booking>.

The Waurin Ponds Medical Centre is located at:

Campus Nurse
Student Life, Building JB Level 2, Health & Wellbeing Centre
Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus
Phone: 03 5227 1221/ Email: askanurse@deakin.edu.au

Further resources

Please also refer to the [Current Student website](#) – to assist with any enquiries you may have or contact the School of Medicine Selection and Placements Team on (03) 5227 3001 or email som-clinical@deakin.edu.au.

References/Links

[Australian Immunisations Handbook](#)

[National Health and Medical Research Council: Infection Control in the Health Care Setting Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases](#)

[University Immunisation \(Vaccination\) Guidelines](#)

[Staff and Students with Infectious Diseases Deakin](#)

We are excited to welcome you to the School of Medicine at Deakin. Geelong has much offer and we encourage you to explore this wonderful region <https://www.visitvictoria.com/regions/geelong-and-the-bellarine/see-and-do>.

