



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

OPTOMETRIST



“ I find my job very interesting as I see a wide range of different patients with different eye conditions from young babies to elderly patients. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

OPTOMETRIST

Optometrists are health specialists trained to examine the eyes to detect signs of injury, disease, abnormality and defects in vision. They also fit spectacles or contact lenses, give advice on visual problems and have the responsibility for the detection of any ocular disease or abnormality. A career as an optometrist will put you at the front line of vision care and every day will bring fresh challenges and new opportunities to care for your patients' eyesight. Your patients will range from young children to elderly pensioners and each will have his or her own individual needs.

Skills Required:

Excellent social and interpersonal skills are vital to enable you to deal with people from every walk of life. Business and management skills are also needed to run a busy practice in the community or in a hospital department.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Optometry

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time three year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 340 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades AAB (to include grades AA in two GCE science subjects – Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics). Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Career Pathway:

Graduates may choose from a wide variety of interesting, challenging and rewarding careers.

Professional Recognition:

The course is approved by the General Optical Council. Graduates of courses recognised by the General Optical Council are eligible to undertake a pre-registration year during which they work in a registered optometry practice or hospital. Following this year, graduates take the professional examination for membership of the College of Optometrists. If successful, they will be registered to practice.

How to Apply:

For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Web Links:

The University of Ulster – www.ulster.ac.uk

General Optical Council – www.optical.org

The College of Optometrists – www.college-optometrists.org

Contact address for further copies

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