Get ready for MSci Optometry

Congratulations on accepting your place to study Optometry at UWE! A timetable of your first couple weeks will be sent to you close to your start date but we look forward to welcoming you to our Glenside Campus for your first day on Monday 14th September 2026.

We are very proud of our Optometry degree. Our new MSci Programme is interesting, engaging and will provide you with the in-depth academic and practical grounding in your career. This will set you up to register as a strong, confident optometrist after you graduate.

Placements, extensive practical sessions, and scientific/clinical theory are combined throughout your education with us. This variety of experience begins in your first year and carries on throughout your studies, supporting your progress and helping you shape your professional identity.

The clinical and academic staff on UWE's Optometry Programme are passionate, knowledgeable, and have a wide range of experience and skills. We thoroughly look forward to meeting you and having you as part of our Optometry Programme as we guide you on your exciting journey to becoming an Optometrist! If you'd like to keep in touch in the meantime you can find us on Instagram: @uwebristoloptometry

Mr Krishna Ravikumar
Programme Lead

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing Monday 14th September 2026 for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme. Please note that Starting Block activities are confined to the first week on the Optometry Programme and after this, your taught modules will commence. These are **compulsory** weeks where we will give you lots of important information relating to your studies and future career, attendance is recorded.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block webpage for more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' webpage to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. You will receive an email from the University inviting you to enrol online. You can find guidance and support information on our Enrolment webpage.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Specific to your course

The Optometry course has additional requirements which must be completed before you commence your studies at UWE. These include:

- Registration with the General Optical Council
- Registration with the College of Optometrists
- Occupational Health Clearance

Additionally, you must ensure that you bring appropriate attire for you to participate in clinical skills sessions and when on placement.

- In on-campus clinical practical sessions the recommended attire for participation in is a black scrub top and suitable plain black bottoms (such as black scrub bottoms, plain black skirt, plain black loose trousers, plain black jogger bottoms), these can be worn with clean black or white trainers.
- You will also require smart professional business attire for your placement sessions.

More information on this subject will be included via email if/when your place at UWE Optometry is confirmed at the end of August.
Further instructions and details of these have been sent to you separately. If you have not received this information please contact your year one lead Zoe Smith to request another copy (contact details at the end of this document).

Read around your subject
A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you may wish to start reading and researching around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Each module on the Optometry course will have a reading list with essential and further reading indicated on this. All these resources are available via the library, so you will not have to spend lots of money on books.

Be prepared

Access support
Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped
The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

Connect with others
There is a great undergraduate society run by students on our Optometry course, the 'UWEye Optometry Society'. All students at any level of their study can join and are encouraged to participate in the society's academic and social events including the annual black tie 'Eye Ball'. The society liaises closely with the programme team and several optometric businesses and organisations ensuring a range of voices are heard and helping you have the best student experiences.

You can find the UWEye Optometry Society on Instagram: @uweyeoptomsociety.

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact:

Mrs Zoe Smith (Admissions and Year One Lead) zoe5.smith@uwe.ac.uk
Mr Krishna Ravikumar (Optometry Programme Lead) krishna.ravikumar@uwe.ac.uk
Mrs Rebecca Allen (Optometry Co-programme Lead) rebecca10.allen@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026