

## Your path to becoming an Optometrist

(July 2020)

[Courses in Ireland](#)

[Study Abroad](#)

[What's the difference between Optometrist, Optician and Ophthalmologist?](#)

[Useful links](#)

### Courses in Ireland

In Ireland, there is only 1 institution where you can study Optometry.

[Technological University Dublin](#) BSc (Hons) Optometry (level 8) & BSc (Ord) Ophthalmic Dispensing (level 7). Approved by Opticians Board.

Irish optometrists practise at category 3 on the [World Council of Optometry](#) Global Competency-based Model of Scope of Practice and may register with the General Optical Council in the UK (as well as registering in Ireland).

Irish Dispensing Opticians practise at category 1 on the [World Council of Optometry](#) Global Competency-based Model of Scope of Practice and may register with the General Optical Council in the UK (as well as registering in Ireland).

Application through [CAO](#). Email: [optometry@tudublin.ie](mailto:optometry@tudublin.ie) for more information.

### Study Abroad

It is possible to train abroad and then work in Ireland. However, you must first register with the [Opticians Board](#) in order to practice in Ireland.

**UK;** Application are through [UCAS](#). Please note that you are permitted a maximum of five choices on the UCAS form. The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Students should contact the university departments for more information. UK courses are generally 3 years long followed by a clinical training year after which (and on successful completion of clinical exams) they can register with the General Optical Council (GOC). [See courses that are accredited by the GOC](#).

### [What's the difference between Optometrist, Optician and Ophthalmologist?](#)

**Optometrists:** (Ophthalmic Opticians); Optometrists examine the eye for optical defects and correct these using prescription glasses and contact lenses. Also assess disorders of the eye.

**Ophthalmologists:** Fully qualified medical doctors who have specialised in the correction of vision and the treatment of all conditions and diseases of the eye.

The Career Development Centre offers advice and information in good faith on the basis of the best information available to it. The Centre does not accept any responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice or information. Please check with individual universities before applying for courses.

**Dispensing Opticians:** Advise on, fit and supply of prescription glasses, they may also fit contact lenses. See [Association of British Dispensing Opticians](#) for routes into the profession.

**Orthoptists:** Allied health professionals who work mainly in hospitals alongside ophthalmologists in the assessment and treatment of squints, double vision etc.

See; <http://www.hpc-uk.org/> for details of accredited courses in the UK.

## Useful Links

Careers Information.

### [Opticians Board](#)

Includes register of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians and details of how to register as an [optician](#) in Ireland.

### [College of Optometrists.](#)

Information on careers in Optometry in the UK including links to university courses.

### [Association of British Dispensing Opticians.](#)

ABDO is the qualifying body for Dispensing Opticians in the UK. This links to their '[Careers in Dispensing Optics](#)' page.

## Further Study.

### [General Optical Council](#)

Information on approved courses in the UK for Optometry and Dispensing Optician.

### [Irish Association of Dispensing Opticians.](#)

### [Association of Optometrists Ireland.](#)

### [Qualifax](#)

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