

Further Information

Department of Clinical Vision Science
 Division of Allied Health
 La Trobe University, Victoria 3086
 Phone: (03) 9479 5815
 Fax: (03) 9479 5784
 Email: studyorthoptics@latrobe.edu.au
www.latrobe.edu.au/orthoptics

Disclaimer

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Course information will be kept up to date in CourseFinder, the University's searchable database of courses, located at www.latrobe.edu.au

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How Do I Apply?

ALL applicants (except current La Trobe University students and international applicants) must apply through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Enquiries can be made by calling 1300 364 133 or via the internet at www.vtac.edu.au. Applicants must meet the VCE prerequisite requirements or equivalent. The prerequisite are: VCE Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in English plus a study score of at least 25 in two of the following subjects: Chemistry, a Mathematics (any), Biology, Physics or Physical Education.

Current La Trobe University students wanting to transfer course need to lodge an 'Application for Course Transfer' form. The form must be filed with the Student Selection Officer by Friday 14 December 2007. Copies of these forms are available from the Student Administration Office or the Division of Allied Health reception.

International students should refer to following section on International applicants.

Non-Year 12 Applicants are considered primarily on the basis of their grade point average. The relevance of previous studies to Orthoptics and relevant work experience will also be considered. This information may be recorded on the PI (Personal Information) form available on the VTAC website.

For more information about the course please refer to:
www.latrobe.edu.au/orthoptics/Undergraduate/faq.htm

International Applicants

The information in this brochure is intended for applicants who are Australian citizens or permanent residents only. International applicants must obtain a copy of the International Prospectus and information about enrolling.

International Programs Office
 La Trobe University
 Victoria AUSTRALIA 3086
 Phone: +61 3 9479 1199
 Fax: +61 3 9479 3660
 Email: International@latrobe.edu.au
www.latrobe.edu.au/international

What is an Orthoptist?

Come and visit our Virtual Clinic: www.latrobe.edu.au/virtualclinic

Orthoptists are university-trained clinicians who are concerned with disorders of vision and eye movements.

An orthoptist is able to diagnose and provide non-surgical management of disorders of eye movements and associated vision defects. The primary goal of orthoptic treatment is to relieve symptoms and enhance vision performance.

Orthoptists assist in the diagnosis and management of eye disease, such as glaucoma, and eye disease that is associated with general diseases such as diabetes. Orthoptic assessment can also assist in the diagnosis of neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

By providing rehabilitation programs for people with vision impairments, orthoptists are allowing these people to make the best use of the remaining vision they have, in order to maintain independence.

Orthoptists are also able to assess the vision loss that is associated with stroke or head injury and, again, provide appropriate rehabilitation strategies. They also assess the functional vision of children with multiple handicaps to assist with education programming

Orthoptists may work in their own practices, however they frequently work along side ophthalmologists or neurologists in clinics, public and private hospitals. Some orthoptists pursue a career in research.

Career Opportunities

Orthoptists work in a variety of settings. They can work in their own private practice, or with an ophthalmologist or a neurologist in a clinic or a private hospital. Opportunities exist in public hospitals through work in outpatient eye clinics and community health opportunities are available in community health centres and day care centres. Orthoptists assist with vision screening programs in schools, pre-schools, and childcare centres and in the workplace. Practitioners who are interested in rehabilitation can work in specialist centres for people with visual impairment and multi-handicapped.

Generally, employment opportunities are good for graduates. There is a shortage of orthoptists in regional areas and states other than in the metropolitan areas of Victoria and New South Wales. There is no orthoptic training program in New Zealand. Japan has the only training program in Asia.

Bachelor of Orthoptic and Ophthalmic Sciences

This course is one of only two Orthoptic training programs in Australia. The course aims to equip graduates to provide specialist clinical investigation of eye disease, including diagnosis of eye movement disorders, non-surgical management of specific eye problems and rehabilitation techniques for people with low vision. Studies include anatomy, physiology, ocular pathology, professional and clinical studies.

Students are required to attend the Bundoora campus and external clinical placements. Clinical placements are undertaken at selected city, country, interstate and overseas hospitals and clinics. Some clinical placements are undertaken during semester breaks and students are expected to undertake an interstate or overseas placement at least once during the course. Students must meet the travel and accommodation costs associated with clinical practice. Prescribed uniforms are compulsory at all clinical placements and dress regulations are displayed on Department noticeboards. It is expected students will purchase some clinical equipment for use in clinical examinations.

Students are assessed through a variety of methods, such as examinations, assignments and practical work. Details of assessment in each unit are available from the Department at the beginning of the academic year. Students are expected to purchase lecture and laboratory manuals.

Advanced standing towards the degree is available to qualified orthoptists wishing to upgrade their qualification.

Professional Recognition

Graduates are eligible for registration with the Australian Orthoptic Board. Graduates are eligible for membership of the Orthoptic Association of Australia, which entitles graduates to membership of the International Orthoptic Association. Graduates are also eligible to be associated membership with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.

The Australian orthoptic training programs are recognised throughout the world. However, some countries require additional registration requirements to enable an orthoptist to practice.

Information Sessions

To find out more about the Bachelor of Orthoptic and Ophthalmic Sciences course, it is recommended that you attend the following course information session:

Open Day Sunday 26th August, 2007
12 noon – Western Lecture Theatre 3

Course Structure (3.5 years full time)

The course is taught as a modular program based on regions of the eye including:

- Protective structures and clear media
- Anterior and Posterior segments
- Ocular muscles
- Vision processes

Each region is studied in terms of anatomy and physiology, clinical assessment of the region and pathology. Clinical practice is integrated throughout the course in addition to a 12 week block placement in the third year that can be undertaken within Australia and at overseas clinics.

Honours study is available to students in the final year of the course on a competitive basis.

Please note from 2009 there will be innovative changes to courses offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences as part of our ongoing commitment to being a leading provider of health education. Courses will still lead to recognised qualifications in the same discipline groups as the current undergraduate programs and most courses will essentially be of the same duration as they are at present. If you are successful in obtaining entry into this course in 2008 and wish to defer, please be aware that it may not be possible to defer from the course given 2008 will be the last year it is offered. However, if you are willing to take up an offer in the new (and similar) course in 2009, then you will still have the opportunity to defer.

More details about deferral options will be available at www.latrobe.edu.au/health/coursechanges