



# Careers

## What is it?

### Optometrist – at a glance

An Optometrist tests vision, identifies eye health problems, prescribes glasses, and fits contact lenses.

### Day to day tasks

- Prescribe, fit, and supply glasses or contact lenses.
- Refer clients to specialists or ophthalmologists (eye surgeons)
- Use a range of precision instruments.
- Diagnose and give advice.
- Discuss the suitability and shape of glasses frames.
- Use vision measuring and testing tools.
- You may work in a high street Opticians and hospitals

### Qualifications

You will need five GCSEs, including English and Maths and Science at Grade 9 to 5.

### Salary

Ranging from £31,365 for starters, rising to £62,000 for an experienced Optometrist. The average UK salary is £57,272

### Jobs and labour market

In 2022 the average salary was £31,461, **up 3.6%** on 2019.

The Labour Market Index (LMI) predicts a **5.3% rise in vacancies** for this profession by 2027. This means that there will be a lot of vacancies/jobs in the future.

### Routes into the industry

To get this job through:

- **A Levels** – 2 must be in Chemistry, Physics, Biology or Maths.
- **University** – you will need to get a degree in optometry, approved by the General Optical Council (GOC)
- You will also complete a one-year pre-registration paid and supervised work placement, with a registered optometrist, and pass the GIC final assessment to qualify.