Linnæus University

Dnr: LNU-2025/1167

Programme syllabus

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Klinisk optometri, magisterprogram, 60 högskolepoäng
Clinical optometry, master programme, 60 credits

Level
Second cycle

Date of Ratification
Approved 2025-06-05.

The programme syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites
Basic eligibility for second-level studies and special eligibility:
- Degree in optometry comprising 180 credits, or a bachelor's degree in optometry. Alternatively, a nursing license and a nursing degree comprising 180 credits, along with an additional 60 credits of specialized studies in ophthalmic care
- Swedish 3
- English 6 or equivalent

Description of Programme

The master's programme in *Clinical Optometry* is designed to meet the need for advanced academic training among professionals and future practitioners in vision and eye care. The aim of the programme is to prepare optometrists to meet current and future demands in eye care at both national and international levels. The education meets the requirements of the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) for optometrists to obtain prescribing rights.

The programme provides in-depth knowledge of the etiology, mechanisms, and treatment options for complex eye and vision-related conditions, including congenital and acquired ocular diseases and anomalies. It offers training in the use and interpretation of clinical tests obtained through advanced imaging technologies commonly used in eye care and ophthalmic clinics. Additionally, it provides advanced theoretical education in pharmacology, drug classes, drug delivery systems, and the use of diagnostic pharmaceuticals in eye care.

The programme also includes training in various research methods and offers knowledge on how to critically assess and interpret relevant scientific literature within the field.

Upon completing the master's Programme in *Clinical Optometry,* students will have acquired expert knowledge in the programme's core subjects. They are expected to be able to analyse and interpret clinical information to determine the most appropriate treatment or referral options. Furthermore, students will have developed the ability to formulate new research questions and hypotheses suitable for small-scale research projects. They are expected to evolve into highly educated professionals who can practise safely, competently, and with a strong sense of self-awareness and understanding of their professional boundaries.

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Objectives

Central Degree Objectives According to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and understanding
To be awarded a Degree of Master (60 credits), the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and deeper knowledge in specific areas, as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate advanced methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Skills and abilities
To be awarded a Degree of Master (60 credits), the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess, and handle complex phenomena, issues, and situations, even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify and formulate issues, as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out qualified tasks within specified time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions, and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, both orally and in writing, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other qualified professional activities.

Judgement and approach
To be awarded a Degree of Master (60 credits), the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study with regard to relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects, and show awareness of ethical aspects of research and development,

- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society, and people’s responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Programme-Specific Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
The student shall demonstrate understanding and in-depth knowledge in the areas of:

- neuro-optometry
- ocular pharmacology
- diagnostic optometric examination techniques
- paediatric optometry
- ocular diseases
- diagnosis and treatment of binocular vision disorders

Skills and abilities
The student shall demonstrate the ability to:

- use diagnostic optometric examination methods,
- apply optometric methods in paediatric settings,
- diagnose ocular diseases,
- manage optometric treatment of visual dysfunctions,
- assess when a patient should be referred and to whom the referral should be made.

Judgement and approach
The student shall demonstrate the ability to:

- apply a scientific approach within the discipline and practise evidence-based optometric care.

Content

Programme Overview
The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences hosts the programme. The Programme Director is responsible for the development and quality assurance of the programme, supported by the faculty's quality development bodies.

The Master's Programme in *Clinical Optometry* consists of seven courses totalling 60 ECTS credits, all within the main subject area of optometry.

The primary field of study is clinical optometry, with specialised knowledge of the human eye and the visual system. This area of study leads to expert-level understanding of vision, including visual processes and perception. Course materials and instruction are provided in Swedish and/or English, delivered both on campus and via distance learning.

Programme Courses
The programme is divided into courses of 7.5 credits each, except for the degree project which comprises 15 credits. Some courses are delivered in parallel to promote integration, avoid unnecessary repetition, and bridge the gap between preclinical and clinical components, all to support and strengthen student learning.

During the programme, students may have the opportunity to participate in off-campus activities, such as specialised training, fieldwork, or clinical placements outside of Linnaeus University's Kalmar campus.

Courses are sequenced so that knowledge acquired in earlier courses serves as a foundation for subsequent studies. The clinical training prepares students for extended roles in healthcare, applicable to both optometrists and other related professions, such as specialist ophthalmic nurses.

The programme includes a clearly defined scientific component that runs throughout the curriculum, aiming to gradually develop the student's scientific understanding, methodological competence, and critical thinking. This includes the introduction to research methodology, application of evidence-based practice in clinical settings, critical appraisal of scientific literature, and the use of statistical and analytical methods. Progression is achieved through theoretical modules, analytical tasks and practical applications, culminating in an independent degree project where the student formulates a research question, conducts a study, and presents findings according to academic standards.
The thesis work is intended to provide substantial subject-specific depth.

*Ocular Pharmacology and Diagnostics, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
Students develop theoretical knowledge of ophthalmic drugs used in optometry and ophthalmology, including their absorption, action, and excretion from the eye and the body, as well as possible side effects. Legal aspects are also addressed. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Neurooptometry, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
Students gain theoretical knowledge of headache disorders related to vision, as well as fundus and visual field defects caused by neuro-ophthalmological conditions. The course covers examination and classification of perceptual, pupillary, oculomotor, and transient vision disturbances associated with conditions such as multiple sclerosis and stroke. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Ocular Diseases and Diagnostics, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
This course provides theoretical and practical knowledge of ocular and systemic diseases affecting the eye and visual system. Students learn to examine and make clinical decisions regarding visual and ocular health based on complex and often incomplete information. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Binocular Vision and Treatment, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
Students gain theoretical knowledge for understanding, assessing, and managing binocular vision disorders. The course also covers the identification of normal and abnormal binocular function and ocular motility, including aetiology, prevalence, and management strategies. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Paediatric Optometry, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
Students develop theoretical knowledge in paediatric optometry. The course covers structural and functional visual development in children. Students learn to examine and

classify eye diseases, perform vision screenings, and prescribe glasses or other aids for children. Special focus is placed on conditions such as strabismus and amblyopia. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Diagnostic Clinic, 7.5 ECTS, A1N (Compulsory)**
This course develops practical skills in advanced eye examination techniques, including the use of diagnostic pharmaceuticals. Students are trained to assess and make clinical decisions regarding visual and ocular issues based on complex or incomplete data. Emphasis is placed on referral decision-making. The course includes training in research methods to support evidence-based clinical practice and preparation for the degree project in Optometry.

*Degree Project in Optometry, 15 ECTS, A1E (Compulsory)**
Students significantly deepen their subject knowledge through independent research, enhancing their analytical, investigative, and academic writing skills. Students are expected to complete and defend a thesis project in optometry.

* Indicates that the course is part of the main field of study: optometry.

Societal Relevance
The program strengthens the concepts of shared care by fostering collaboration between optometrists and other healthcare professionals in the clinical management of patients. It also prepares for the expanded role of optometrists in society. Clinical placements and on-site training at eye clinics and related organizations, particularly during the degree project, are expected to be included in the program. These placements require students to engage with real-world professional challenges and propose viable solutions. The supervision model involves local mentors, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, and other eye care professionals, in collaboration with university faculty. Student placements are intended to serve as potential pathways to future employment, thereby preparing students for their professional careers.

Internationalization
The program offers opportunities for internationalization both at home and abroad. It is designed to attract students from Sweden and other Nordic countries, while also offering the possibility of completing parts of the studies at partner universities overseas. Linnaeus University and the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences maintain a wide range of agreements with international partner institutions. The degree project may be conducted partially or entirely abroad. International studies should be planned in consultation with the Program Director and the faculty’s international coordinator.

Sustainable Societal Development
Sustainable development, equal opportunities and rights, gender and global resource management perspectives are included in the program. The program prepares specialists with aptitude to work in today's and tomorrow's eye care in a community characterized for ecological, economic and social sustainability. For example, during training students are expected to provide screening services to local communities and local hospitals. The program will prepare candidates to work in national and international multi-faceted environment with both cooperation with the people and the care of patients irrespective of aspects such as nationality, gender or religion. Diversity is essential throughout the training and the institution will strive to ensure that the teaching team and student groups are mixed in terms of gender, age and professional experience to ensure dynamic discussions during the training. Through internationalization teachers and

students are given the opportunity to make contacts with foreign educational and research environments.

Quality Development

A continuous quality evaluation of the programme will review how the learning environment supports the learning and development of the students. Quality control work is undertaken according to the guidelines drawn up by Linnaeus University, The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and the Department of Medicine and Optometry. The students are invited to participate in course evaluation after completion of each course. Course evaluation results are compiled in a course report and archived. The results of the evaluations and any changes made in the implementation of a course or its syllabus are communicated to the students according to Linnaeus University regulations. Results and suggestions for improvements are discussed in a programme board (consisting of an external representative, teachers and students) and programme committee (consisting of examiners, course coordinators and programme coordinator) which provide support for the programme's development and quality assurance.

Degree

After having completed their studies in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local qualification ordinance, the student may apply for the award of a qualification. Students who have completed *the Master programme in Clinical optometry* may obtain the following qualification:

Filosofie magisterexamen med inriktning mot klinisk optometri
Huvudområde: Optometri

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with Specialisation in Clinical Optometry
Main Field of Study: Optometry

The degree certificate is issued in two languages (Swedish and English) and is accompanied by a diploma supplement in English.

Other Information

In the event of any discrepancies between the Swedish and the English version of this programme syllabus, the Swedish version shall prevail.

When request, students need to wear attire that complies with current hygiene procedures, which may incur an additional cost for the student.

Students are expected to have access to their own computer with an internet connection as well as a functioning webcam and microphone, since large parts of the teaching and examinations will be conducted digitally.

Within the framework of the program there are activities such as educational visits, excursions, internships, and other similar optional and mandatory elements that may represent additional costs for the student.