University of Melbourne Doctor of Optometry

Admissions Guide 2013

**Application Dates:**

*Early applications*

Applicants with a completed degree and GAMSAT/MCAT are eligible to apply in the Early round.

Applications open - 30 April 2012

Applications close - 31 July 2012

*Timely applications*

This is the primary application round and is open to all applicants who have GAMSAT/MCAT and who have completed or are completing an undergraduate degree during 2012.

Applications open - 30 April 2012

Applications close - 30 September 2012
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## Timeline

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<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24 March</strong> – Sit GAMSAT</td>
<td><strong>30 April</strong> – All Applications open</td>
<td><strong>Order academic transcripts.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>31 July</strong> – Early Applications close.</td>
<td><strong>6 August</strong> – Original, hard copy transcripts in support of Early Round applications are due at GEMSAS PO Box.</td>
<td><strong>31 September</strong> – Timely Applications close</td>
<td><strong>31 October</strong> – Round 1 Offers of places are released</td>
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<td>Graduate Access Applications close for Early Applications</td>
<td><strong>29 August</strong> – Early Offers are released</td>
<td>Graduate Access Applications close for Timely Applicants</td>
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<th>JANUARY 2013</th>
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<td><strong>5 November</strong> – Original, hard copy transcripts in support of Timely Round applications are due at GEMSAS PO Box.</td>
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<td><strong>4 January</strong> – Original, hard copy transcripts with 2012 results and evidence of completion are due at GEMSAS PO Box</td>
<td><strong>22 February</strong> – Final Round offers of places are released</td>
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<td><strong>31 January</strong> – Second Round offers of places are released</td>
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**Version 1.0  16 July 2012**
Please read this entire guide carefully
The following information is provided as general guidance to applicants to Optometry at the University of Melbourne and is correct as at 24 April 2012. However, all applicants should routinely check the University of Melbourne Optometry website (http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/programs/optometry.php) for admission updates.

How GEMSAS will contact you
Email will be the primary source of contact between GEMSAS and applicants.

It is essential that you provide a current email address which will be valid from April 2012 to February 2013 and that you regularly check your emails.

Some email messages may not be accepted or may be flagged as spam by some email providers (e.g. Hotmail or Yahoo).

Applicants are advised to provide an email address other than Hotmail or Yahoo for the purposes of admission and are responsible for any delays caused by the above problem.

Neither GEMSAS nor the University of Melbourne will be held responsible for undeliverable or unread email communication.

Should you need to change your email or postal address, please email the change to info@gemsas.edu.au.

Contact details for further enquiries
If you have further queries regarding the general application process, please contact GEMSAS: info@gemsas.edu.au. Please check the GEMSAS website for details and FAQs before submitting your query.

For detailed information on the Doctor of Optometry, as well as university-specific entry requirements, you should first check the University of Melbourne School of Optometry and Vision Sciences website

http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/programs/optometry.php All GPA queries should be addressed to GEMSAS. Please check the GEMSAS website GPA FAQs before submitting your query.
Admission policies

Offers
Successful applicants will be given a firm date by which to accept an offer of a place and offers not accepted according to the school’s instructions by that date will lapse.

Deferral
Deferral of a place is not permitted.

Exclusion
An applicant who has been excluded from any university must indicate this when they apply. The school may contact applicants for further detail, on receipt of the application data.

Admission irregularities
Applicants should be aware that the presentation of forged documents is a criminal offence in Australia and that the university may take appropriate action against such cases. For the purpose of university admission, the withholding of information and the submission of incorrect or misleading information are deemed fraudulent. Action taken in such cases may include cancellation of an application for admission, of an offer of admission, or of an enrolment.
Application Process

GEMSAS and the University of Melbourne make every effort to ensure the accuracy of information provided in this Admission Guide at the time of publication. However, applicants must consult the university website for more detailed and specific information and for updates.

There are three components of the application process:

1. **GAMSAT** ([www.gamsat.acer.edu.au](http://www.gamsat.acer.edu.au))

All applicants for Commonwealth Supported Places and other domestic places at graduate-entry schools (i.e. citizens/permanent residents of Australia and citizens of New Zealand) must have a current score on the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT).

GAMSAT results are valid for two years: i.e. if you sat the Australian test in 2012 you may use the results obtained to apply for a graduate entry course commencing in 2013 and/or 2014. As such, GAMSAT 2011 results are also valid for use in applications to courses commencing in 2013. Your GAMSAT results show a score for each of the three test Sections and an Overall Score.

The UK and Ireland GAMSAT scores are valid for application in the year following the test. There is a very helpful table on the GAMSAT website that shows the validity of all the GAMSAT tests.


The Doctor of Optometry uses the GAMSAT Overall Score. When deciding whether or not to submit an application, you are advised to make sure that your GAMSAT scores fall within the acceptable ranges for the University of Melbourne’s Doctor of Optometry. You can evaluate your standing in relation to other candidates who sat GAMSAT in the same year as you did, by consulting the chart included with your Statement of Results. Please note that neither GEMSAS nor ACER staff have the authority to review individual transcripts or GAMSAT results or to offer advice on the likelihood of selection.

Registration for the GAMSAT and application for admission to the Doctor of Optometry are separate processes.

2. **Application**

GAMSAT candidates are responsible for determining their eligibility to apply. Applicants are selected for offer of a place based on the following criteria:

- performance in GAMSAT;
- performance in a qualifying degree (as indicated by GPA);
Supporting documentation

When you complete your Application Form, you will be presented with a checklist which you must print and attach as directed to the documents you are submitting. Failure to include all requested documents may disadvantage you.

Submit your original transcript(s) postmarked as below:

- no later than 5.00pm your time on 6th August for Early Round Applications.
- no later than 5.00pm your time on 5th November for Timely Round Applications.

Note that transcripts will be required for bachelor and/or Honours study and you must also include exchange study and study for which you may have received credit towards another degree.

Post documents to:

GEMSAS Operations
PO Box 120
Kelvin Grove DC QLD 4059
Bachelor degree
All applicants must have completed, or be in the final year of, a Bachelor degree. Australian degrees must be from a Commonwealth accredited institution (see http://www.teqsa.gov.au/national-register). Overseas degrees must be recognised by the National office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR) as equivalent to an Australian Bachelors degree. Please see https://www.aei.gov.au for more information. For those in the final year of study, satisfactory completion of the degree in 2012 will be a condition of entry as too may be the maintenance of a specific GPA. Note that if you cannot complete and provide evidence of completion of your degree in the 2012 calendar year, any offer you have received (that is conditional upon completion of your current degree) may be withdrawn.

Applicants enrolled in a two-year degree or one-year conversion degree may only apply after completion of the degree. Those who have completed a higher degree without a prior Bachelor degree should consult the Melbourne Graduate School of Science to ascertain eligibility.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
GEMSAS will calculate a Grade Point Average (GPA) from your hard-copy transcripts.

You may wish to calculate your GPA using the GPA calculator and/or according to the instructions on the GEMSAS website (www.gemsas.edu.au/gpa-calculations). Applicants whose degrees were completed outside Australia and New Zealand will not be able to calculate a GPA for themselves. Please note that any GPA calculated by an applicant will be an estimated GPA and used only for the information of the applicant.

Applicants to the Doctor of Optometry at the University of Melbourne must have completed approved prerequisite studies:

- three subjects at second or third year level (or equivalent) from one or more relevant biological science disciplines.¹

The GPA indicates the level of performance in the qualifying degree. There is no differentiation of GPA between institutions or courses. It should be emphasised that a science major is not a prerequisite, and that academic excellence in other areas, such as the humanities and social sciences, is encouraged and recognised.

Interviews
There are no interviews for the Doctor of Optometry

Offers
Selection into the Doctor of Optometry is based on the following criteria:

- performance in GAMSAT;
- performance in a Bachelor degree;
- successful completion of approved pre-requisite subjects
- personal statement

¹ The simplifying of the pre-requisites is subject to approval.
• demonstration of meeting the University’s English language requirements

Graduate Access Melbourne
To be eligible for Graduate Access Melbourne you must:

• be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident or holder of a permanent Humanitarian Visa and
• have demonstrated the capacity to successfully undertake the Doctor of Optometry and
• apply for a Commonwealth Supported Place in the Doctor of Optometry.

You may be considered under one or more of the following categories:

• Recognition as an Indigenous Australian
• Previous status as a refugee or current holder of a Humanitarian Visa
• Rural or isolated background
• Disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances
• Disability or chronic medical condition
• Personal difficulties

For detailed information about Graduate Access Melbourne Applications see http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/entry-requirements/other-entry-options/graduate-access-melbourne/am_i_eligible
FAQs about the application process

How do I choose between two valid GAMSAT results?
You will have two valid GAMSAT results if you sat the Australian GAMSAT\(^2\) in 2011 and 2012. You are advised to compare both results against the acceptable scores for each university and then select the result you wish the universities to consider.
Simply record in the Application Form the appropriate candidate identification number, country and year of sitting for the test you wish to use for selection.
This will be the only GAMSAT result that will be provided to GEMSAS.
It is not possible to mix individual Section scores from different years.

My degree is more than 10 years old, am I still eligible to apply?
You can apply but you will need to provide evidence of relevant professional experience or additional study within the 10 year period.

I’ve done a postgraduate degree, do I calculate my GPA on that or on my Bachelor?
The GPA is the most recent 200 points (or equivalent) of study whether it be undergraduate or postgraduate. If the basis of application is a PG qualification, then the final two years (equivalent to 200 points) of relevant coursework study will be considered and the same weighting system will apply. Research components are not factored into the GPA.

\(^2\) See page 6 for more information about GAMSAT test validity.

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How to Apply

1. Complete the online application form
To apply for admission to the Doctor of Optometry commencing in 2013, you must complete the online Application Form – on the GEMSAS website – by no later than:

- 5.00pm AEST Tuesday 31 July 2012 for Early Applications
- 5.00pm AEST Wednesday 30 September 2012 for Timely Applications

Late applications will NOT be accepted.

The application fee is paid by credit card, when completing the online application form.

In 2012, for 2013 entry, the application fee is:

Optometry - AUD$120

Don’t forget to include info@gemsas.edu.au in your email address book, to ensure messages from the GEMSAS are not treated as spam and sent to your Junk folder.

2. Post your supporting documentation
After completing the online Application Form and making your payment, you need to submit your original transcripts and personal statement. All documentation must be postmarked according to the dates listed below. Wherever possible they should be dispatched earlier.

**Early Applications Due Date:** Postmarked no later than 5.00pm your time on Monday 6th August, 2012

**Timely Applications Due Date:** Postmarked no later than 5.00pm your time on Monday 5th November, 2012

**ORIGINAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS**
You MUST send an original transcript for all tertiary studies along with a copy of your printed checklist to:

GEMSAS Operations
PO Box 120
Kelvin Grove DC
QLD 4059

Transcripts will not be returned.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Please provide a personal statement of no more than 500 words explaining your interest in Optometry and should address the following:

- an understanding of optometry as a discipline and/or profession
- any prior work experience and/or interaction with optometry
demonstrate significant aspirations to work in the profession

Post this to:

GEMSAS Operations
PO Box 120
Kelvin Grove DC
QLD 4059

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (if required)
If you are applying through the Graduate Access Melbourne scheme, please supply supporting documentation as required.
FAQs about completing your application

I didn’t receive confirmation of my submitted information or my checklist for submitting supporting documentation.

After completing the Application Form you will reach a “Success” screen just prior to submitting your application and making payment. This will enable you to save and/or print all the responses you have made, and will allow you to save and print your checklist for submission of supporting documentation.

If you do not reach the “Success” screen or cannot save or print either of the documents mentioned above, please email info@gemsas.edu.au.

I don’t have an original transcript, can I submit a copy?

No, only original transcripts may be supplied. Scanned or photocopied transcripts, including certified copies, are not acceptable.

A statement of results is not acceptable and is not considered in place of a full transcript, nor is a printout of an academic record.

I’m still studying this year; do I need to submit a 2012 transcript?

Applicants completing their degree in 2012 will be assessed on the basis of the information available at the time of application. Semester 1 (or Trimester 1), 2012 results will be included in the assessment if they are available at the time of assessment. However, any offers made prior to the receipt of final results and confirmation of completion will be conditional. Please supply an original transcript as soon as possible after the release of results for Semester 1, 2012 and Semester 2, 2012 to the GEMSAS PO Box.

How do I know if my supporting documents have arrived?

It is strongly recommended that you use a postal service which provides a tracking mechanism (Registered Post, Express Post, courier, etc), so that you can be certain your supporting documents have arrived at GEMSAS.

You may wish to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your supporting documents. This will be returned to you when your documents are processed as confirmation that they have been received.

You cannot phone GEMSAS to confirm whether your envelope has arrived.

If you have no other way of tracking your supporting documents, and did not include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, you may email GEMSAS with your full name, application number and the date you posted your documents. As soon as it is possible to confirm the arrival of your documents, we will do so.
How to calculate your GPA

A GPA calculator will be available on the GEMSAS website, www.gemsas.edu.au. This will provide an estimated GPA for your use and information only.

For information on Grade point averages and how to calculate your GPA please view the documents on our website, http://www.gemsas.edu.au/gpa-calculations/.

Before you calculate your GPA, you should read the sections ‘Before You Apply’ and ‘How To Apply’

International Applications

International applicants are those intending to study under a student visa. These applicants should apply directly via the University’s online system.
# Bachelor Degree/ GPA/ GAMSAT

A minimum GPA or GAMSAT has not been set for the Doctor of Optometry (OD).

Applicants are ranked based on the weighted GPA and the GAMSAT score where the GPA is weighted 2/3 and the GAMSAT 1/3 to provide a rank list of applicants for selection.

As a result of using this method there are no discrete cut-off marks for either GPA or GAMSAT.

The Grade Point Average (GPA) will be measured by considering the final two years (or full-time study equivalent to 200 points) of the UG degree. In most instances, these 200 points will be assumed to be comprised of coursework subjects. Students who have been on study abroad or exchange as part of their UG degree at second or third year will need to also provide a transcript for the subjects undertaken whilst overseas.

It is assumed that these 200 points will be comprised of subjects undertaken at second and third year levels. For students who can clearly demonstrate this proportion of subjects, the following weighting will apply:

- 100 points (second year): 1/3
- 100 points (third year): 2/3

For students who do not have enough subjects at second/third year levels to make up the requisite 200 points (or equivalent full-time study), the Selection Committee will use the marks from their best-performing relevant subjects undertaken at first-year level to make up the balance*. For students in this situation, the weighting will be amended to be:

- 100 points: 1/3
- (majority second year; if required, using first year subjects to top up)

- 100 points: 2/3
- (majority third year; if required, using second year subjects to top up)

* This is the only instance where subjects will not be selected chronologically.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCAT</th>
<th>No minimum MCAT cut-off has been set.</th>
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<tr>
<td>OAT</td>
<td>No minimum OAT cut-off has been set.</td>
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<td>The OAT score sheet must be sent directly to International Admissions at the University of Melbourne Office of Admissions Information Centre Richard Berry Building The University of Melbourne Victoria, Australia, 3010</td>
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</table>

**Special entry schemes**

**Graduate Access Melbourne (GAM):** Applicants approved for the Graduate Access scheme may be re-ranked based on their level of disadvantage. GAM applications must be submitted direct to the University of Melbourne by the closing date for applications. Please refer to [http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study-here/md](http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study-here/md) for further information.

**Guaranteed entry:** Applicants eligible for entry under the Guaranteed entry scheme should refer to [http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study-here/md](http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study-here/md) for further information to confirm eligibility and for detail about the application process. An applicant eligible for a Full Fee guarantee may submit an application under the scheme direct to the University of Melbourne AND apply for a Commonwealth Supported Place via GEMSAS subject to meeting the selection criteria.

**Offers**

Offers will be made on the basis of the ranked list - weighted GPA and the GAMSAT score where the GPA is weighted 2/3 and the GAMSAT 1/3.

The personal statement will be used as a tie-breaker once overall ranking calculations are completed, or assist in dealing with unusual circumstances.

**Pre-requisite subjects and equivalents**

- three subjects at second or third year level (or equivalent) from one or more relevant biological science disciplines.  

All prerequisite subjects need not have been completed as part of the qualification(s) that is used as the basis for selection. If they were completed as part of the qualification(s), they will not necessarily be counted towards the final GPA unless they fall within the final two years of study at the required second/third-year levels.


If the subjects you have studied are not included in the published lists, please send the subject descriptions to gradscience-apps@unimelb.edu.au for review. The deadline for submitting subjects for assessment are the application cut-off dates.

Applicants enrolling in pre-requisite subjects in 2012 must have results available by Wednesday 2 January 2013. Applicants should confirm with their enrolling institution that results will be available by this date. If results will not be available, applicants should apply for the 2014 intake.

Subjects must have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of

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3 The simplifying of the pre-requisites is subject to approval.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria</th>
<th>For detailed selection criteria, refer to the University of Melbourne website <a href="http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/programs/optometry.php">http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/programs/optometry.php</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International students</td>
<td>International students may apply with either a score from GAMSAT or MCAT or OAT. Applicants who have undertaken their undergraduate studies in a language other than English should consult the website <a href="http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/entry-req/grad/english-req">www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/entry-req/grad/english-req</a> for information about minimum English language requirements. For further updates and information about information sessions refer to <a href="http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/index.php">http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/index.php</a></td>
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## Appendix A: Undergraduate Grading System Conversion Table

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* Conceded pass, faculty pass, etc. – GPA grade of 3.5

# If you have a percentage mark where the minimum for an unrestricted pass grade is 50 per cent, use column A to read off the corresponding GPA grade.
# Honours degree

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# Conversion Table Code

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Contact Details

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

GEMSAS (for all general application and processing enquiries)
E: info@gemsas.edu.au
W: www.gemsas.edu.au

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Melbourne Graduate School of Science
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