



Graduate School of Health

What is an Orthoptist?

ORTHOPTIST

a clinician who specialises in the assessment, diagnosis and non-surgical treatment, management and rehabilitation of patients with eye disorders



OPTOMETRIST

a primary health practitioner in eye health who provides advice on visual problems, referrals for secondary investigations and prescribes glasses



OPHTHALMOLOGIST

an eye specialist and medical doctor with specialist training in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases

For more information, visit

University of Technology Sydney:
Graduate School of Health
uts.edu.au/orthoptics



UTSGSH



UTS_GSH



uts-graduate-school-of-health

Orthoptics Australia
orthoptics.org.au



What's more precious than the gift of sight?

What is orthoptics?

Orth = straight + optics = eyes

Orthoptics is an allied healthcare discipline that specialises in the assessment, diagnosis and non-surgical management of eye disorders.

What does an orthoptist do?

An orthoptist is an eye therapist. They assess how the eyes work together as a pair and measure visual function – our ability to see in everyday life.

Orthoptists specialise in a variety of areas including:

- Treating children with lazy eye (amblyopia) and turned eye (strabismus)
- Diagnosing and treating eye movement disorders following stroke and brain injury
- Low vision care/rehabilitation
- General eye disease
- Care and patient education in cataract, diabetes and macular disease
- Neurological vision disorders
- Refractive eye surgery consultants and assistants in minor surgery
- Driver vision/Sports vision
- Clinical research

You can find orthoptists in hospitals, private practice, low vision and rehabilitation settings, community health, clinical research centres and universities.

Orthoptists work in a wide-variety of areas, including neonatal care, paediatrics, rehabilitation, geriatrics and neurological impairment, with careers in community, management, ophthalmic technology and industry.

“Vision is a sense we all rely on. To be an active member of a health care team restoring vision is extremely rewarding. I love orthoptics because it allows me to aid the vision of patients of all ages, inspiring the next generation of future orthoptists.”

David Kalatzis

Graduate Orthoptist and recent alumnus of the Master of Orthoptics at UTS

Why become an orthoptist?

1. Rewarding, people-centred profession

Orthoptists play a critical role in improving quality of life for people with vision problems. Imagine transforming the life of someone that has difficulty completing simple tasks, such as pouring a cup of tea because they have double vision!

2. Strong job prospects

Demand for orthoptists in Australia is growing due to the ageing population. According to the Department of Employment*, the profession is projected to grow by 3.26% over the next three years.

3. Work locally or globally

Opportunities throughout urban and rural Australia are plentiful. Or, if you have globe-trotting ambitions, orthoptists with an Australian qualification are often eligible to practice internationally.

4. Variety of workplace options

Opportunities are endless – join an orthoptic team in a hospital, or an ophthalmic private practice. Become a practice manager, or have your own private practice. Specialise in low vision rehabilitation, or volunteer overseas. Work in community health, become a researcher, or work in the biomedical equipment and pharmaceutical industry.

*Department of Employment, '2019 Employment Projections - for the five years to May 2024', lmip.gov.au

How to become an orthoptist

The Master of Orthoptics is a professional health qualification that leads to registration as an Orthoptist. This course is offered on a two-year full-time basis and is the only course of its kind in NSW. To be eligible for application, you'll need to have completed a UTS recognised bachelor's degree, or an equivalent or higher qualification – no other prerequisites needed.

Learn about the application process at uts.edu.au/orthoptics-apply

Why UTS?

1. Links with clinics and hospitals

You'll gain hands-on, high quality experience in clinics both nationally and internationally.

2. World-class study environment

Our state-of-the-art facilities create the optimal learning and study environments.

3. Small cohort

The small Orthoptics cohort fosters a sense of community between staff and students – you won't feel lost in the crowd.

4. Rigorous training

We prepare students for success through practice-based learning that includes in-class simulation, clinical placements, interdisciplinary workshops and authentic assessments.

“Orthoptics has allowed me to help children to achieve their best possible vision. Being an orthoptist is rewarding, especially when we work together with families to provide the best patient care.”

Lina Li

Graduate Orthoptist and recent alumna of the Master of Orthoptics at UTS