



University of Melbourne Doctor of Optometry

Admissions Guide 2014

Application Dates:

Both application rounds are open to all applicants who have GAMSAT/OAT and who have completed or are completing an undergraduate degree during 2013.

Early applications

Applications open – Tuesday 30 April 2013

Applications close - Wednesday 31 July 2013

Timely applications

Applications open – Tuesday 30 April 2013

Applications close – Sunday 29 September 2013





Contents

Timeline.....	3
Important Information.....	4
How GEMSAS will contact you.....	4
Contact details for further enquiries	4
Admission policies.....	5
Application Process.....	6
There are three components of the application process:	6
Bachelor degree	8
Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	8
Interviews.....	8
Offers	8
Graduate Access Melbourne.....	9
FAQs about the course entry requirements	10
How to Apply.....	11
❶ Complete the online application form	11
❷ Post your supporting documentation	11
How to calculate your WAM	13
International Applications.....	13
Contact Details.....	16



Timeline

<p>MARCH</p> <p>23 March – Sit GAMSAT</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>30 April –All Applications open</p> <p>Order academic transcripts.</p>	<p>MAY</p>	<p>JUNE</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>31 July –Early Applications close.</p> <p>Graduate Access Applications close for Early Applications</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>5 August – Original, hard copy transcripts in support of Early Round applications are due at GEMSAS PO Box.</p> <p>28 August – Early Offers are released</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>29 September – Timely Applications close</p> <p>Graduate Access Applications close for Timely Applicants</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>7 October – Original, hard copy transcripts in support of Timely Round applications are due at GEMSAS PO Box</p> <p>31 October – Round 1 Offers of places are released</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p>	<p>JANUARY 2014</p> <p>3 January – Original, hard copy transcripts with 2013 results and evidence of completion are due at GEMSAS PO Box</p> <p>10 January – Second Round offers of places are released</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2014</p> <p>22 February – Final Round offers of places are released</p>



Important Information

The following information is provided as general guidance to applicants to Optometry at the University of Melbourne and is correct as at 2 April 2013. However, all applicants should routinely check the University of Melbourne Optometry website (<http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/doctor-of-optometry>) 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 2013 to February 2014 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/doctor-of-optometry>)

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)

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 2013 you may use the results obtained to apply for a graduate entry course commencing in 2014 and/or 2015. As such, GAMSAT 2012 results are also valid for use in applications to courses commencing in 2014. 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.

<http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/results/validity-of-results/>

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. Please note that these ranges vary according to the pool of applicants and their competitiveness for that selection period.

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

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 apply through GEMSAS.

Please note direct domestic applications made through the University of Melbourne's online system will not be accepted and these applications will be withdrawn. Please ensure you apply through GEMSAS and follow the application process on page 11.



Doctor of Optometry 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);
- Successful completion of approved pre-requisite subjects;
- Personal statement responses:
 - Demonstrating an understanding of optometry as a discipline and/or profession
 - Has prior work experience and/or interaction with optometry
 - Displaying significant and clear aspirations to work in profession

③ 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 5th August for Early Round Applications.**
- **No later than 5.00pm your time on 7th October for Timely Round Applications.**

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

Post documents to:

*GEMSAS Processing
PO Box 1190
Spring Hill
QLD 4004*



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 2013 will be a condition of entry as too may be the maintenance of a specific WAM. Note that if you cannot complete and provide evidence of completion of your degree in the 2013 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.

Weighted Average Mark (WAM)

GEMSAS will calculate a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) from your hard-copy transcripts.

You may wish to calculate your WAM 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 WAM for themselves. Please note that any WAM calculated by an applicant will be an estimated WAM 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.

The WAM indicates the level of performance in the qualifying degree. 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 responses
- 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

In order to be considered for Graduate Access Melbourne in one or more of the above categories, applicants must clearly state how the disadvantage has affected their studies in their degree. Please include statements describing your circumstance and attach supporting documentations where appropriate.

For detailed information about Graduate Access Melbourne Applications see

http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/pathways/graduate-access-melbourne/ami_eligible



FAQs about the course entry requirements

How do I choose between two valid GAMSAT results?

You will have two valid GAMSAT results if you sat the Australian GAMSAT¹ 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 WAM on that or on my Bachelor?

The WAM 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 WAM.

¹ See page 6 for more information about GAMSAT test validity.



How to Apply

❶ Complete the online application form

To apply for admission to the Doctor of Optometry commencing in 2014, you must complete the online Application Form – on the GEMSAS website – by no later than:

- 5.00pm AEST Wednesday 31 July 2013 for Early Applications
- 5.00pm AEST Sunday 29 September 2013 for Timely Applications

Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.

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

In 2013, for 2014 entry, the application fee is:

Optometry - AUD\$150

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.

❷ Post your supporting documentation

After completing the online Application Form and making your payment, you need to submit your original transcripts. 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 5th August, 2013

Timely Applications Due Date: Postmarked no later than 5.00pm your time on Monday 7th October, 2013

ORIGINAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

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

*GEMSAS Processing
PO Box 1190
Spring Hill
QLD 4004*

Transcripts will not be returned unless you include a suitable stamped, self-addressed envelope and a written request to have the transcripts returned.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (if required)

If you are applying through the Graduate Access Melbourne scheme, please supply supporting documentation as required to the Graduate School of Science at:

*Doctor of Optometry Graduate Access Melbourne
Melbourne Graduate School of Science
David Caro Building Level 2
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010*
FAQs about completing your application
Version 1.0 1 April 2013



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

After completing the Application Form you will need to SUBMIT your application. You will then be taken to the ANU OneStop payment system to make your payment. Once your payment has been made successfully you will be shown a receipt screen. Please note your receipt number or print this screen for your records. If you are not able to complete these steps, 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 2013 transcript?

Applicants completing their degree in 2013 will be assessed on the basis of the information available at the time of application. Semester 1 (or Trimester 1), 2013 results should be submitted to be included in the 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, 2013 and Semester 2, 2013 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.

If you would like to ensure that your Graduate Access Melbourne supporting documentation arrives at the Melbourne Graduate School of Science, you are welcome to hand this in person at the following address:

*Melbourne Graduate School of Science
David Caro Building, Level 2 (Physics South – Building 192 UoM Map Ref. E20)
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010*



How to calculate your WAM

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

Before you calculate your WAM, 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.



Additional Information

The University of Melbourne Doctor of Optometry	
Contact details:	
Telephone	(03) 8344 6128
Fax	(03) 8344 3351
Email	gradscience-apps@unimelb.edu.au
Web	http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/doctor-of-optometry-how-apply
Bachelor Degree/ WAM/ GAMSAT	<p>A minimum WAM or GAMSAT has not been set for the Doctor of Optometry (OD).</p> <p>Applicants are ranked based on the weighted WAM and the GAMSAT score where the WAM 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 WAM or GAMSAT.</p> <p>The Weighted Average Mark (WAM) 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.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>100 points (second year): 1/3 100 points (third year): 2/3</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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.</p>
Currency of qualification	<p>Degree: undergraduate degree to have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of Optometry, or for applicants whose most recently completed undergraduate degree was completed 10 or more years before 1 January 2013, a Graduate Diploma, Master or PhD degree or equivalent completed within 10 years before 1 January 2013.</p> <p>Pre-requisites: subjects to have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of Optometry</p>
OAT	<p>No minimum OAT cut-off has been set.</p> <p>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</p>

Special entry schemes	<p>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://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/pathways/graduate-access-melbourne for further information.</p> <p>Guaranteed entry: Applicants eligible for entry under the Guaranteed entry scheme should refer to http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/pathways/guaranteed-entry 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.</p>
Offers	<p>Offers will be made on the basis of the ranked list - WAM and the GAMSAT score where the WAM is weighted 2/3 and the GAMSAT 1/3. The personal statement scoring will add to the overall ranking score of an applicant.</p>
Pre-requisite subjects and equivalents	<p>Three subjects at second or third year level (or equivalent) from one or more relevant biological science disciplines.</p> <p>The prerequisite subjects need not have been completed as part of the qualification(s) that is used as the basis for selection. These prerequisite subjects will only be counted towards the final GPA if they fall within the final two years of study at the required second/third-year levels.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Applicants enrolling in pre-requisite subjects in 2013 must have results available by Friday 3 January 2014. 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 2015 intake.</p> <p>Subjects must have been completed within 10 years of commencing the Doctor of Optometry.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>For detailed selection criteria, refer to the University of Melbourne website http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/doctor-of-optometry</p>
International students	<p>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 www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/int/entry-req/grad/english-req for information about minimum English language requirements.</p> <p>For further updates and information about information sessions refer to http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au</p>
Open Days and Information Sessions	<p>University Open Day: http://openday.unimelb.edu.au/ For further updates and details of Information Sessions refer to http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au</p>



Contact Details

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

GEMSAS (for all general application and processing enquiries)

E: info@gemsas.edu.au

W: www.gemsas.edu.au

ACER (for GAMSAT enquiries only)

E: gamsat@acer.edu.au

W: www.gamsat.acer.edu.au

The University of Melbourne

Melbourne Graduate School of Science

T: (03) 8344 6128

F: (03) 8344 3351

E: gradscience-apps@unimelb.edu.au

W: <http://graduate.science.unimelb.edu.au/doctor-of-optometry>