

Master of Philosophy in Visual Science

The Master degree in Visual Science is a postgraduate programme of 120 ECTS. It is a research degree including a one-year research project under supervision. This involves sustained, in-depth study of a specific area, which is then written up as a thesis for examination.

Academic content and organization

The programme consists of 3 modules. Module 1 and Module 2 are courses that can be taken on a part-time basis. The first 30 ECTS (module 1) are credits that can be chosen from a range of postgraduate courses. Module 2 consists of courses in scientific theory and research methods; the first half of this module (15 ECTS) is compulsory, the second half (15 ECTS) is credits that can be chosen from a range of courses in specialised research methods. Depending on the student's background and on her/his research topic in module 3, a package of relevant courses will be discussed with and compiled for the individual student.

Module 3 will be offered primarily as a full-time study. However, if circumstances require, part-time arrangements will be possible. The maximum time for completion of the program is ten semesters (5 years) part-time. Extensions may be granted in special cases.

The courses listed below are courses currently run on a regular basis, but some courses may only be available every other year.

Module 1 (30 ECTS)

The module contains optional postgraduate courses in optometry (min 30 ECTS).

- 30 ECTS Contact lens management
- 30 ECTS Paediatric optometry
- 30 ECTS Optometric rehabilitation of patients with low vision
- 15 ECTS Occupational optometry

Applicants for courses Contact lens management and Occupational optometry must hold a certificate in optometry or medicine; the course Contact lens management carries additional professional qualification. Courses Paediatric optometry and Optometric rehabilitation of patients with low vision are designed to give the necessary foundation in specific areas depending on the background of the student and the students' choice of specialisation in Module 3.

Module 2 (30 ECTS)

The module contains two compulsory courses in scientific theory and statistics I & II (15 ECTS), and optional courses in specific methodology. The student needs to choose optional courses of minimum 15 ECTS; the courses must be relevant for the students' choice of specialisation in Module 3.

Compulsory courses (15 ECTS):

- 10 ECTS Introduction to scientific theory and research methods & Statistics
- 5 ECTS Statistics II

Other optional courses (15 ECTS):

- 5 ECTS Microscopy and preparation of tissue
- 5 ECTS Psychophysics
- 5 ECTS Qualitative research and practice methodology
- 5 ECTS Independent Study
- 5 ECTS Image Processing I
- 5 ECTS Supervision of students in clinical practice

Module 3 (60 ECTS)

This module is compulsory. The student must have obtained an average grade of C (65% points) or higher to enter this module. The student is expected to complete a research project of 60 ECTS, under supervision. The student can choose a project within the following disciplines:

- Ophthalmic biomedicine
- Clinical and Occupational optometry
- Visual physiology and Colour vision

Admissions

Foreign students may be admitted to the programme. The language of instruction is mainly in Norwegian, but some courses are partly taught in English.

Applicants should have achieved exceptional marks from their BSc degree in optometry and visual science (80% or above) and have to pass the TOEFL (iBT) test with total score 80 or higher (<http://www.uio.no/iss/test/toefl.html>).

For more information, please contact the master programme coordinator Dr Rigmor Baraas (rigmor.baraas@hibu.no).

Cost of living

The costs of living are high in Norway; so many foreign students have to apply for funding via the quota scheme. Please read more about admission at Buskerud University College and the quota scheme: <http://www.hibu.no/english/admission/>