

# Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing

## What will I learn on this course?

There are six, 20 credit, modules in each of the two years. They are all compulsory.

In the first year the modules are:

- Foundations for Learning
- Introduction to Optics
- Introduction to Ophthalmic Lenses
- Theory of General Optics
- Theory of Ophthalmic Optics
- Communication in Ophthalmic Practice

In the second year the modules are:

- Evidence Based Ophthalmic Practice
- Standards of Practice
- Advanced Theory of Ophthalmic Lenses
- Ocular Anatomy & Physiology
- Theory of Ophthalmic Dispensing
- Paediatric Dispensing

The Foundation Degree course is based around the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) syllabus and the General Optical Council (GOC) Core Curriculum for Dispensing Opticians – further details can be found at [www.abdo.org.uk](http://www.abdo.org.uk) and [www.optical.org](http://www.optical.org).

## Who is running the course?

ABDO College and Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) are running this course together as partners. ABDO College will teach all of the profession specific material. You would be a student with both.

## Who is it aimed at?

The Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing is for trainee dispensing opticians working in practice who are interested in advancing their optical knowledge and gaining an internationally recognised qualification.

## Do I have to be working in practice?

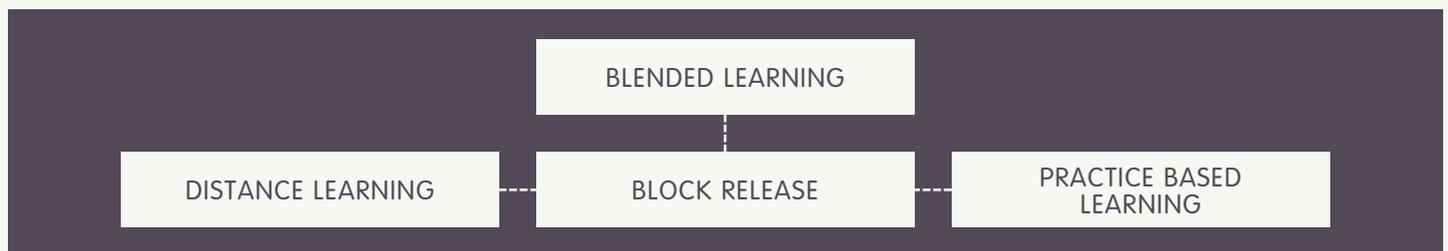
Yes. It is essential that you are working in practice and involved in a comprehensive variety of tasks in order to gain the necessary practical experience. You need a supervisor and the support of your employer.

## How long is the Foundation Degree course?

Two years.

## How do I study for the Foundation Degree?

This course is delivered by a method called 'blended learning' that consists of practice based learning, block release and distance learning coursework.



## How does distance learning study work?

Coursework material, assignment and essay questions will be available online for you to download for each module. We will allocate you a personal tutor and send you their contact details and a timetable to work to. You will need to be completing and submitting work to your tutor, the College or University each week. There will also be end of module assessments. You can expect this coursework to take you approximately 15 hours per week and you will need to be disciplined to make sure you keep up.

### Are there any special requirements?

Yes. You must have regular access to a computer and a good quality internet connection. Your study material will be provided on a “virtual learning environment” called Blackboard.

### What is block release?

Block release is a two week period of intensive study that will support you with your theory and practical studies and give you the chance to meet some of your fellow students. There will be two of these block release periods in each year. Block release is held at ABDO College in Godmersham, Kent and it is a compulsory part of the course.

### Where will I stay?

ABDO College have some of their own accommodation that will be available on a first come, first served basis. Once the accommodation block is full you will be able to find a suitable place to stay in one of the local B&Bs or hotels.

Contact Rachel Blazyca-White, for more details. Rachel’s telephone number is 01227 733 921 and her email address is [rblazyca@abdocollege.org.uk](mailto:rblazyca@abdocollege.org.uk). An application form for on-site accommodation is enclosed within this pack.

### What is practice based learning?

While you are studying for your Foundation Degree you will be training full-time. This training consists not just of your block release and distance learning coursework but also of your learning in practice with your supervisor. You and your supervisor will be issued with a Practical Training Timetable to guide you both through this part of your training. You will learn practical skills from your supervisor and work with patients in practice (under supervision) to perfect these skills.

You will also need to complete a Pre-Qualification Portfolio (PQP). This portfolio is made up of a set number of case records that you build up over a three year period. This will all be explained when you attend for your first block release and we will issue the PQP to all students.

### What qualifications do I need to start the Foundation Degree?

You will need to have 5 GCSEs of grade c or above in English, mathematics, science and two other subjects. You need to have evidence of recent study (within the last five years) and/or experience in practice of five years or more, plus proof of mathematics and English.

### What should I do if I don't have these qualifications?

Call us and we can talk through your options with you.

### What are the costs?

You will need to pay the annual course fee. You will also need to pay for ABDO membership, GOC registration, textbooks, accommodation and travel and subsistence for your block release. Your first attempt at the ABDO PQE (theory and practical examinations) is included in your tuition fee. Student finance is available for this University course. See enclosed form for further information.

### When do I have to pay?

Your first year tuition fee, membership fee and registration fee must be paid by 4 August 2017 for you to receive your coursework.

### How do I get my books?

ABDO College have their own bookshop and sell all of the books that you will need for your course. Contact Justin Hall by telephone on 01227 733 904 or by email [jhall@abdocollege.org.uk](mailto:jhall@abdocollege.org.uk) for assistance with purchasing your textbooks. You can also visit the secure online ordering system at [www.abdocollege.org.uk](http://www.abdocollege.org.uk).

## Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing

### Do I have to be a member of ABDO?

Yes. New student membership will cost £50.00 from 1 April 2017 until December 2017. Student membership renewal, due each January will cost £100.00 from January 2017. An ABDO membership application form is enclosed for you to use.

### Do I have to register with the General Optical Council?

Yes. Student registration will cost £25 per year. A GOC student registration form can be downloaded from the GOC website; you must complete this form and return it to the General Optical Council. Please note an additional administration penalty charge is payable if you fail to register within the deadlines set by the GOC.

### How does this course compare with others?

This is the only two year Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing available by blended learning.

### Are there any other courses in dispensing?

Yes. ABDO College also run a Fellowship Dispensing Diploma course by blended learning. This course takes three years and also prepares students for ABDO examinations to become a dispensing optician. The difference is that the diploma course is not accredited by a University and will not give you a recognised academic qualification.

### Will I be a Dispensing Optician at the end of this Foundation Degree?

No. If you want to become a dispensing optician, and we hope that you do, you will have to study a third year and take external (ABDO) examinations. We will discuss the options open to you and help you to choose a suitable course when the time comes.

### What should I do if I am not sure whether this is the right course for me?

Call us. We are happy to answer questions about the available courses from ABDO College and to provide you with all the information you need to make an informed decision.

### Who should I call if I have questions or need help filling in the forms?

Call the Courses Team at ABDO College on 01227 733 920/921. Any member of the team will be happy to help you.

### What should I do if I am interested in applying for the Foundation Degree?

Talk to your employer straight away. There are a limited number of spaces on the Foundation Degree and when it is full, it is full! You will need a dedicated supervisor to work with you and help you with your training in practice. If your employer or Supervisor has any questions they should call us.

### How do I apply?

Complete the course application, ABDO membership application, GOC student registration and associated payments and send them all to us at ABDO College. It would also be a good idea to submit your accommodation form now to secure your place on site. Don't forget to enclose **copies** of all your qualification certificates.

### Where should I send the forms?

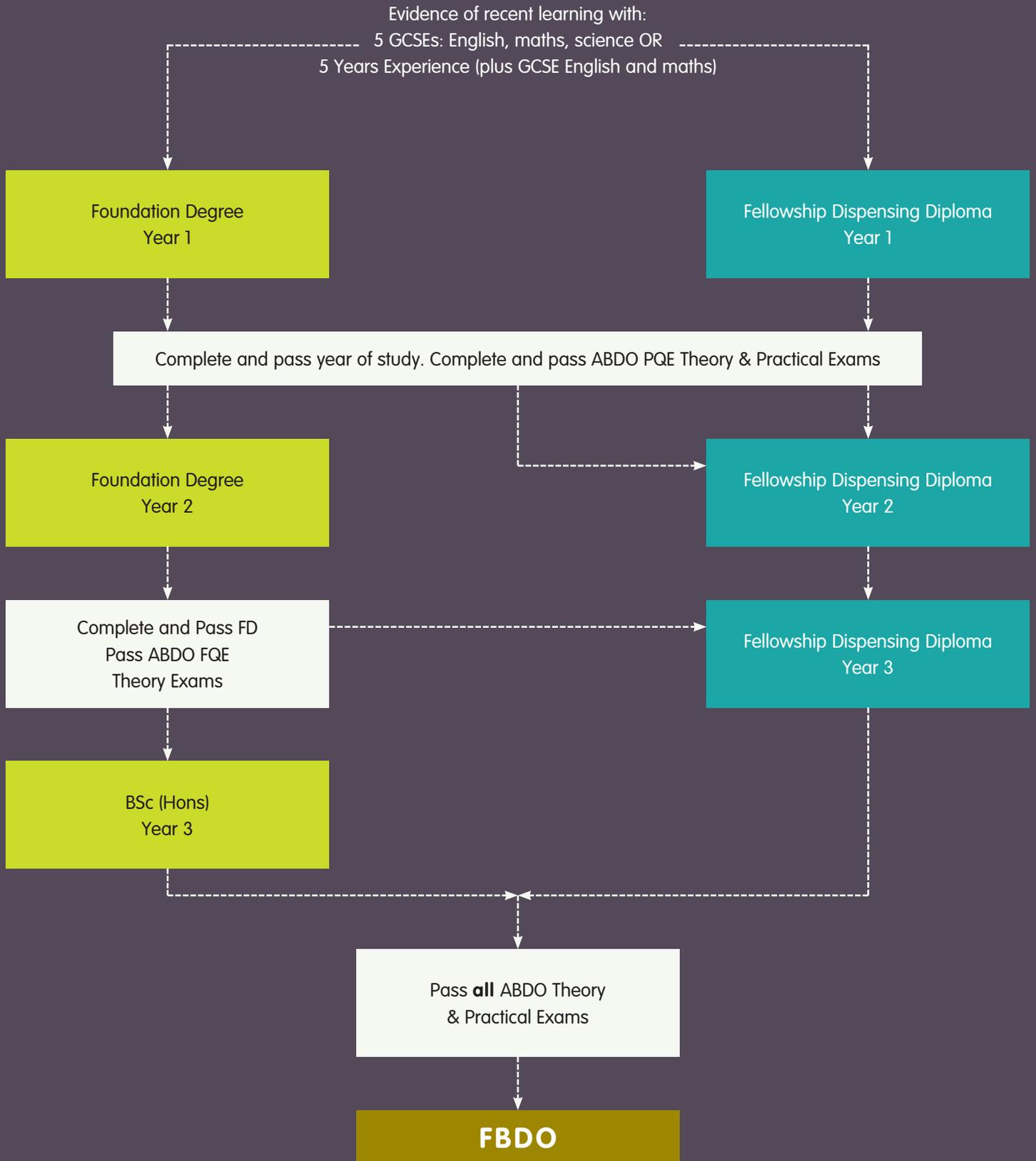
ABDO College Operational Services, Godmersham Park, Godmersham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7DT

### When is the deadline for applications?

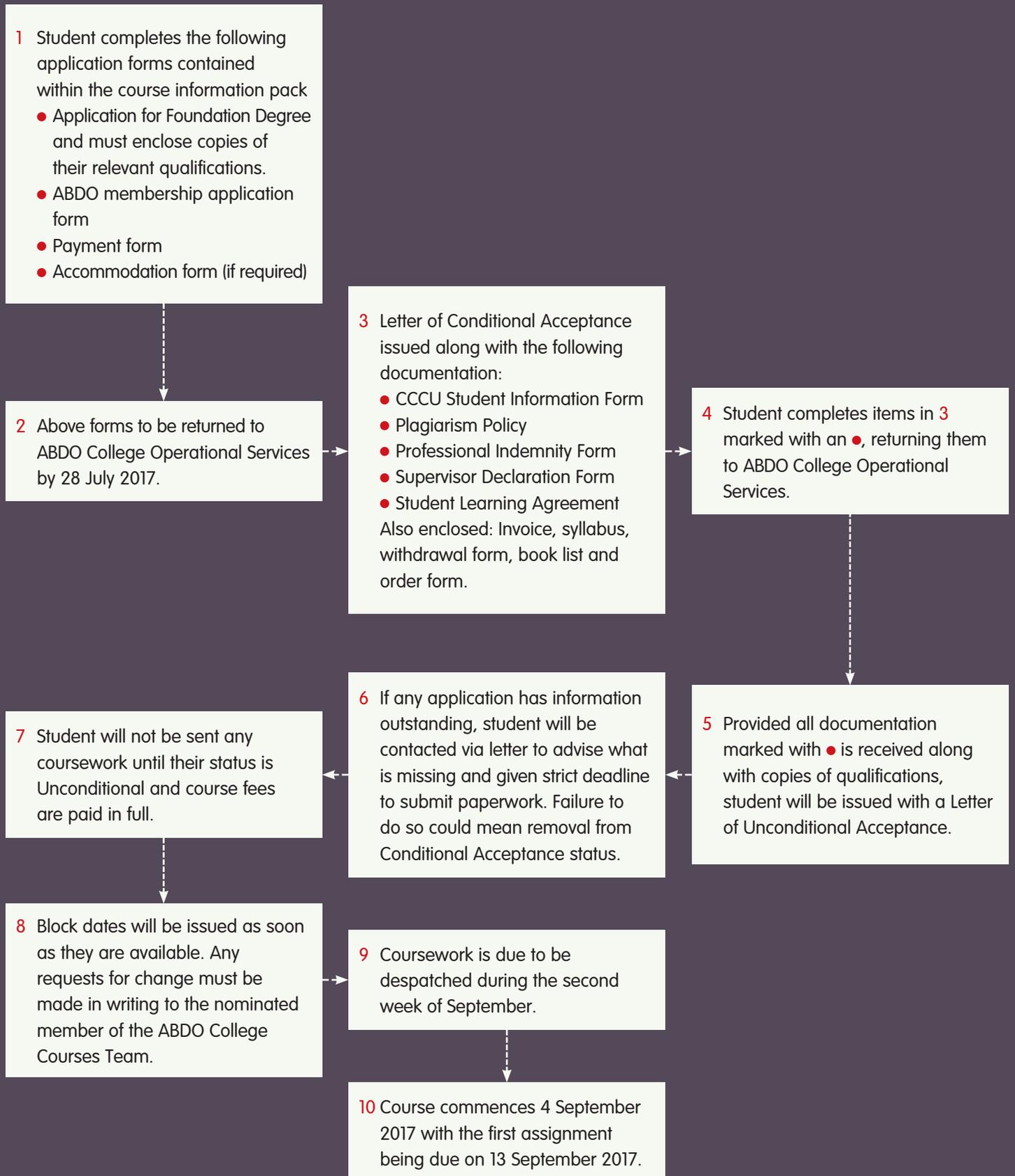
28 July 2017.

Please note all prices are correct at the time of going to press.

# Training Progression: Degree, Foundation Degree and Dispensing Diploma



## Flow chart to show the application procedure



If you require any further assistance please  
call ABDO College Operational Services on **01227 733 920/921**

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