Low Vision Honours Course January 2019
Information Sheet

Please read the following carefully. By signing the course application form, you are agreeing to the following terms and conditions.

Eligibility to join the course
The candidate will be expected to hold the Association's Dispensing Diploma or a qualification of a recognised and approved Examining Body in ophthalmic optics.

A qualified Orthoptist interested in learning more about low vision may undertake the theory part of this course. However, they would not be permitted to complete the practical sections or to dispense spectacle mounted low vision aids. They would therefore not gain any qualification from this further study.

ABDO membership
You must retain full membership with the ABDO.

GOC student registration
All UK and Republic of Ireland students must hold full registration with the General Optical Council or IADO. Forms are available from www.optical.org.uk.

Overseas students
Please ensure that you check with your own regulatory body before starting this course.

Submission of assignments
Assignments must be submitted to an allocated tutor each week according to the course timetable. Late assignments will be allocated reduced or no marks and students who are unable to keep up with the schedule will be withdrawn. Students who fail to submit 80% of their coursework on time will not be permitted to sit the examinations. As this is an Honours Course, the candidate will be expected to carry out in-depth research in order to satisfactorily complete the weekly assignments. They will be asked to re-submit any assignments that fail to cover a broad enough spectrum, or do not satisfy the tutor's expectation.

Practical experience
Undertaking the Low Vision Honours course will instruct you in the theory which underpins low vision assessment and also help to prepare you for the low vision practical examinations.

It is excellent experience if you are able to sit in on a hospital low vision clinic. However, it is unlikely that you will be able to build up your own case records this way unless you are a hospital employee since records of patients assessed by a different practitioner are not acceptable for the examinations even if you observed the assessment.

If you do not have the opportunity to undertake sufficient low vision work at your own practice you may be able to do so at a local Association for the Blind centre or other support group for low vision patients. As a registered dispensing optician you are entitled to supply spectacles and low vision aids without supervision and you can gain valuable experience in this way. Alternatively, a local optometrist or dispensing optician who runs their own low vision clinic may be prepared to offer you experience and, ultimately, allow you to see your own patients, so you may be able to build up your case records for the examinations through this route.

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For the practical examinations you will be required to produce fifteen case records showing a mix of ages and low vision conditions and be able to discuss and justify all decisions made for these records.

The records submitted must be original records or photocopies of the original records, the records must be anonymised and consent from the patients must be recorded.

You will be undertaking course work that will help you, along with the feedback from your tutor, devise a suitable record that you may wish to use for your submissions. If you are unable to gather enough case records in the year you take the course and sit the theory papers, it is acceptable for you to take the practical examinations the following year.

Block release course studies
All ABDO College students, in the UK and overseas, are required to attend ABDO College for four days in spring. Failure to attend for your block will result in removal from the course.

Application deadline

Course start date:	14th January 2019
First assignment due:	25th January 2019

The application form with all necessary enclosures should be received by ABDO College no later than 7th December 2018. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a delay in the processing of your application and the despatch of your course material. Applications received after this deadline will incur a late entry fee of £100.00.

Applicants should be aware that places on this highly popular course are strictly limited. There is a high demand for these places and applicants are advised to submit their forms quickly. A place on the course cannot be secured until full payment has been received. Once full, a waiting list system operates to allocate any further places that come available.

Course fees

Fees for UK students	£1750.00
Fees for Overseas students (incl. ROI)	£1900.00

Course material will not be despatched until fees are paid in full. It is the student's responsibility to arrange the payment of course fees. All fees are subject to change. In the event that you are not accepted onto the course, a full refund will be issued.

Resignation/withdrawal from course studies
Once your place on the course is confirmed by ABDO College you will be liable to pay the fees, even if you subsequently withdraw from the course.

ABDO College will only accept withdrawals directly from the student and will not action requests from Practice Managers or Supervisors. All withdrawals must be made using the form provided.

Return address
Please send your completed application pack to:
The Courses Team, ABDO College, Godmersham Park, Godmersham, Kent CT4 7DT

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