

CLINICAL VISION SCIENCE

Dalhousie University offers the program Master of Science Clinical Vision Science in cooperation with the IWK Health Centre and the IWK School of Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology. This is a three-year degree program with thesis, requiring two years (six terms) full time fees.

Orthoptists/ophthalmic medical technologists are professionals integral to eye care. They perform a wide range of diagnostic and highly technical procedures, and, in consultation with an ophthalmologist, plan, implement and monitor treatment of a wide variety of ocular disorders, including disorders of binocular vision and ocular motility. They are engaged in a wide range of activities including research into ocular motility, education of other eye care professionals, patient education and vision screening.

The academic objective of the Clinical Vision Science program is to provide students interested in the profession of orthoptics/ophthalmic medical technology with a strong foundation in the vision sciences and in research techniques. The program is directed at optimising professional clinical practice by encouraging an integrated approach to the field of the vision sciences and expanding knowledge of the research that underpins much clinical practice. With its research component, the proposed program will ensure that graduates, as evidence-based practitioners, are prepared for both clinical and research-based practices and that they have the ability to analyze and relate research finding to clinical experience, skills vital for ensuring superior diagnostic and therapeutic services. The program will equip students with outstanding skills in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of ocular disorders to ensure strong clinical competence and to enable them to be full participants in the interdisciplinary model of eye-care. The student will be exposed to

a variety of clinical experiences that will prepare them for the independent nature of professional practice.

Students have the option of exiting from the program after the second program year with a Concurrent Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology, or complete a thesis for an MSc in Clinical Vision Science.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Admission requirements for the proposed MSc in clinical vision science will be the same as the requirement for Dalhousie University MSc: A four-year bachelor's degree from a recognized institution of higher education with a minimum of a B average (GPA 3.0).

Students whose native language is not English, must also, as required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, demonstrate the ability to participate in a graduate program conducted in English prior to their acceptance to the program. The standard test of English competency is the TOEFL. The minimum acceptable score, as set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and therefore required for acceptance to the MSc in clinical vision science, is 580 for the written test and 237 for the computer test.

In addition, entrants should have a minimum of one class in human anatomy and/or physiology and one class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students without these prerequisites may be admitted on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program.

It is also recommended that students should have the following or equivalent undergraduate classes: research methods, e.g. statistics or research design; biochemistry, e.g. BIOC 3200.03 Biological Chemistry; perception and psy-

chophysics, e.g. PSYO/NESC 3051.03 Sensory Neuroscience I. Vision; and one class in neuroanatomy or neurophysiology.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

McMain, K., BA, OC(C), COMT

COORDINATOR

Chauhan, B., BSc MBCO, PhD (Wales)

CROSS APPOINTED PROFESSORS

LaRoche, G.R., MD, FRCSC

Tremblay, F., Bsc, PhD (U of Montreal)

Westwood, D. A., MA, PhD (Waterloo)

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Hahn, E., BPE, MSc, (Dal), OC(C), COMT

McMain, K., BA, OC(C), COMT

Parkinson, J., BA, OC(C), COMT

Walsh, L., BSc, MSc (Dal) OC(C), COMT

Fennell, H., BSc, MSc (Dal) OC(C), COMT

Harris, T., BSc, MSc (Dal) OC(C), COMT

Smith, S., MSc (Dal) OC(C), COMT

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Varhelyi, G., BSc, MSc, PhD (Eotvos Lorand)

INQUIRIES

Clinical Vision Science Program

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