



## UNSW Course Outline

# VISN4016 Vision Science Honours (For students commencing in T1 2024) - 2024

Published on the 12 Feb 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** VISN4016

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Term 1

**Teaching Period :** T1

**Is a multi-term course? :** Yes

**Additional Term(s) :** 2024, Term 2 2024, Term 3

**Faculty :** Faculty of Medicine and Health

**Academic Unit :** School of Optometry and Vision Science

**Delivery Mode :** Multimodal

**Delivery Format :** Standard

**Delivery Location :** Kensington

**Campus :** Sydney

**Study Level :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 16

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

# Course Details & Outcomes

## Course Description

Students in this course will undertake research under the supervision of an academic in the School of Optometry and Vision Science. Advanced training will be given in selected areas of vision science, including a supervised program that emphasises the use of specialised techniques relevant to the research area (for example laboratory-based, clinical or public health techniques/applications). A written literature review and research proposal, ethics application and final research thesis are required. In addition, this course includes regular attendance at seminars. During the Honours year, students will be required to present two research seminars in the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

This course is only available to students undertaking Vision Science Honours within the School of Optometry and Vision Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health. The course runs for the whole year and requires enrolment each term, for 3 terms (16UOC each term). All enrolment in VISN4016 should be with School's consent to ensure that students are only able to enrol if they have an appropriate project and supervisor.

## Course Aims

The aim of this course is provide students with the opportunity to engage in research in vision science. The research project will allow development of the essential skills for life-long learning, critical thinking and enquiry. Students will undertake supervised research that seeks to develop advanced disciplinary knowledge in Vision Science, the use and application of specialised techniques relevant to their chosen research area, critical thinking, evaluation and synthesis of information for scientific research communication in both oral and written forms.

## Relationship to Other Courses

Assistance with progression checking:

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the [Nucleus Student Hub](#).

Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the [UNSW Medicine & Health website](#).

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Undertake independent research in Vision Science
CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
CLO3 : Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
CLO5 : Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding.
CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Undertake independent research in Vision Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Written Research Report</li><li>• Honours Final Seminar</li></ul>
CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours Introduction Seminar</li><li>• Literature Review and Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Written Research Report</li><li>• Honours Final Seminar</li></ul>
CLO3 : Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours Introduction Seminar</li><li>• Literature Review and Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Written Research Report</li></ul>
CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours Final Seminar</li><li>• Honours Introduction Seminar</li><li>• Literature Review and Research Proposal</li><li>• Final Written Research Report</li></ul>
CLO5 : Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours Final Seminar</li><li>• Final Written Research Report</li></ul>
CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours Introduction Seminar</li><li>• Literature Review and Research Proposal</li><li>• Honours Final Seminar</li><li>• Final Written Research Report</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

# **Learning and Teaching in this course**

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle (or Open Access).

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the '[Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources](#)' policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

## **Additional Course Information**

### **SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE, UNSW SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION INFORMATION, 2024**

#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

On some occasions, sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may prevent you from completing a course requirement, such as attending a formal end of semester examination. In these cases you may apply for Special Consideration. **UNSW operates under a Fit to Sit/ Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/ submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so.** The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services > Online Services > Special Consideration. Submit the application (including supporting documentation) to UNSW Student Central.

#### **CHRONIC ISSUES AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS**

If you have chronic issues and pre-existing conditions, we recommend you apply for Educational adjustments for disability support through Disability Services.

Register for Disability Services at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-registration>

Absence from a final examination is a serious matter, normally resulting in a Fail (FL) grade. **If you are medically unfit to attend an examination, YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION TO ADVISE OF THIS** (telephone 02 9385 4639,

email: [optometry@unsw.edu.au](mailto:optometry@unsw.edu.au)). You must also submit a Request for Special Consideration

application as detailed on the UNSW website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

It is the responsibility of the student to consult the web site or noticeboard to ascertain whether they have supplementary examinations. This information WILL NOT be conveyed in ANY other manner. Interstate, overseas or any other absence cannot be used as an excuse.

This information will be available on the School web site at <http://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au> (do not confuse the School website with the myUNSW website) and posted on the notice board on Level 3. This information will be available as soon as possible after the School Examination Committee meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR 2024 WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS: FOR TERM 1:**

- STAGE 1-4\* COURSES: WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024 – FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024
- THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 1 2024

**FOR TERM 2:**

- STAGE 1-4 COURSES: WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024 - FRIDAY, 30 AUGUST 2024
- THERE WILL BE NO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR STAGE 5 STUDENTS IN TERM 2 2024

**FOR TERM 3:**

- STAGE 5 COURSES ONLY: DURING THE WEEK OF MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2024 – FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2024
- STAGE 1-4\* COURSES: WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2024

Supplementary examinations will be held at the scheduled time only. If students who are granted supplementary examinations do not attend, a failure will be recorded for that course. Students should not make travel arrangements, or any other commitments, before establishing whether or not they have supplementary examinations. Ignorance of these procedures, interstate, overseas or any other absence will not be accepted as an excuse. But usual Special Consideration still applies.

If additional assessment is not scheduled, this does NOT indicate whether or not a student has passed or failed the course. Results will be received in the usual way. Please do not contact the School in this regard.

Please note the above applies to OPTM and VISN courses only. Any information on supplementary examinations for servicing courses (e.g. CHEM\*\*\*\*) is the responsibility of the School conducting the course.

\* Stage 4 includes courses in the first year of the MClinOptom program.

School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, 3 August 2023

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Final Written Research Report Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: 15/11/2024 05:00 PM
Honours Final Seminar Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Due Date: December 2024
Honours Introduction Seminar Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Due Date: 15/05/2024 09:00 AM
Literature Review and Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Due Date: 26/04/2024 05:00 PM

## Assessment Details

### Final Written Research Report

#### Assessment Overview

The final written research report is a major assessment component of the honours year that reports the outcomes of the student's independent research. The report should be no longer than 20,000 words, and prepared in a thesis style. This generally involves an abstract, introduction, methods, results and critical discussion, with limitations and future directions for the work. Variations of this format may be allowed with consultation and approval from the Honours convenor with consultation given disciplinary variations regarding how research is to be reported.

The Honours thesis is submitted at the end of the second semester of enrolment.

The thesis will be marked by two independent assessors for the SOVS or externally for sufficient expertise in the field of research as needed. A thesis marking rubric will be provided, based on this assessment is based on:

- Depth and breadth of discussion
- Content of report, coverage of key issues
- Appropriate use of figures and tables
- Correctness and appropriate use of reference
- Organisation, clarity and format in appropriate scientific style.

Honours convenor will return the report with marks and assessor's comments to the student and supervisor.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Undertake independent research in Vision Science
- CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
- CLO3 : Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
- CLO5 : Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding.
- CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## **Honours Final Seminar**

### **Assessment Overview**

Final seminar in the School of Optometry and Vision Science with academics and postgraduate students.

The seminar includes introduction, methods, results and comprehensive and critical discussion of research findings in relation to current knowledge in the area. This will be followed by questions from seminar attendees. Marks based on scores from academics at the seminar. Summary of marks and comments will be provided as feedback by the Honours convenor following the seminar.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Undertake independent research in Vision Science
- CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
- CLO5 : Construct a research project report that demonstrates critical thinking and judgement

in developing new understanding.

- CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

## Honours Introduction Seminar

#### Assessment Overview

Seminar in the School of Optometry and Vision Science with academics and postgraduate students.

The seminar includes a comprehensive introduction, methods and critical discussion of the proposed experimental design and research aims and hypotheses. There will also be time for questions from attendees. Marks based on scores from academics at the seminar. Summary of marks and comments will be provided as feedback by the Honours convenor following the seminar.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
- CLO3 : Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
- CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

## Literature Review and Research Proposal

#### Assessment Overview

The literature review provides a concise (no more than 5000 words) and detailed account of published work that is most relevant to the chosen research topic. This literature review should provide an indication of the problem(s) being addressed and how previous research have approached its investigation. Students are required to provide critical analysis and synthesis of the research with the view of presenting and proposing their own research question.

The literature review and research proposal will be marked by the supervisor based on:

- Demonstrated knowledge of topic area
- Content and organisation, coverage of key issues
- Depth and breadth of analysis and discussion

Honours Coordinator returns reports with marks and comments.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Communicate disciplinary knowledge and research findings in both written and oral form
- CLO3 : Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an ability to undertake scientific research and understanding of the research process as applied to Vision Science
- CLO6 : Demonstrative cognitive skills that review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge.

#### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## **General Assessment Information**

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

#### Grading Basis

Standard

#### Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Attendance Requirements**

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

# General Schedule Information

The times and locations of classes can be found on [myUNSW](#) under Class Timetable.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term.

# Course Resources

## Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

## Additional Costs

Some SOVS courses have additional costs. Please check the course Moodle page for information about additional costs for this course.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

# Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Daisy Shu		Room 3.059 Rupert Myers Building North Wing	+61 (2) 9348 1982	By appointment	Yes	Yes
Facilitator	Lisa Nivison-Smith		Centre for Eye Health		By appointment	No	No

# Other Useful Information

## Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the

contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The [UNSW Student Code of Conduct](#) website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#).

The [Student Conduct and Integrity Office](#) provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

## **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

### **Academic integrity**

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit](#).

In addition to the information you are required to review in your [ELISE training](#), UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task.

### **Referencing**

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student [Referencing page](#).

## Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#). Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the [UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure](#). Plagiarism is defined in the [UNSW Plagiarism Policy](#) and is not tolerated at UNSW.

## Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the [use of Generative AI in assessments](#). This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Short extensions and special consideration

#### *Short extension*

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible

assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

### *Special consideration*

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for [Special Consideration](#) through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available [here](#), including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

### **Examinations**

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

### **Timed online assessment tasks**

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

## **Other assessment tasks**

### ***Late submission of assessment tasks***

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the [UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure](#), with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

### ***Failure to complete an assessment task***

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

### **Feedback on assessments**

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

**Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.**

### **Faculty-specific Information**

#### **Additional support for students**

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway:<https://student.unsw.edu.au>
- Academic Skills and Support:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student support:<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart>
- Equitable Learning Services:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Guide to studying online: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study>

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support>

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre:<https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students>

## Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the [myExperience survey](#), which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from

students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

## School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

### Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

### Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at [UNSW Ask Us](#).

### Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints>

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact the School Grievance Officer, A/Prof Sean Kennedy ([sean.kennedy@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sean.kennedy@unsw.edu.au)).