

THE OPTICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL
(No. I of 2026)

Explanatory Memorandum

The object of this Bill is to amend the Optical Council Act 2021 so as to –

- (a) empower the Optical Council of Mauritius to regulate, in addition to the profession of opticians, the profession of orthoptists;
- (b) review the composition of the Optical Council of Mauritius with a view to addressing the anomaly with regard to public sector representation; and
- (c) abolish the pre-registration examination for opticians and, therefore, no pre-registration examination will be required for opticians, as well as orthoptists.

2. As a consequence of the amendments being brought to the Optical Council Act 2021, the Bill makes further provisions for matters connected and related thereto.

A. K. BACHOO, G.O.S.K.
Minister of Health and Wellness

06 March 2026.

THE OPTICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL
(No. I of 2026)

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

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| 2. Interpretation | 19. Section 28 of principal Act amended |
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| 9. Section 9 of principal Act amended | 26. First Schedule to principal Act
repealed and replaced |
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A BILL

To amend the Optical Council Act 2021

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Optical Council (Amendment) Act 2026.

2. Interpretation

In this Act –

“principal Act” means the Optical Council Act 2021.

3. Section 2 of principal Act amended

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in the definition of “annual list”, by inserting, after the words “of opticians”, the words “and orthoptists”;

(b) in the definition of “delegated power”, by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;

(c) by deleting the definition of “dispensing optician” and replacing it by the following definition –

“dispensing optician” means a person who advises on, fits and supplies optical appliances in accordance with a prescription from an optometrist, *opticien-lunetier* or ophthalmologist;

(d) by deleting the definition of “ophthalmic optician or optometrist”;

(e) by deleting the definition of “optician” and replacing it by the following definition –

“optician” means a dispensing optician, an optometrist or an *opticien-lunetier*;

(f) by deleting the definition of “practice of optometry”;

(g) by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical order, the following new definitions –

“foreign orthoptist” means a person registered as such under section 19;

“optometrist” –

(a) means a person who –

(i) evaluates visual acuity and prescribes, fits and supplies optical appliances for remedial purposes; and

(ii) uses such equipment and such medication as miotics, cycloplegics, mydriatics, surface anaesthetics as listed in the First Schedule and colouring agents as may be necessary for remedial purposes; and

(b) includes an ophthalmic optician who provides the services specified in paragraph (a);

“orthoptist” means a person who –

(a) evaluates binocular vision, amblyopia and oculomotor problems, and gives appropriate therapy thereto; and

- (b) prescribes and fits prisms or patches for remedial purposes;
- (h) by adding the following new definition, the full stop at the end of the definition of “visiting optician” being deleted and replaced by a semicolon –

“visiting orthoptist” means a person registered as such under section 20.

4. Section 4 of principal Act amended

Section 4 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “of opticians” and replacing them by the words “of opticians and orthoptists”;
- (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “of opticians” and replacing them by the words “of opticians and orthoptists”.

5. Section 5 of principal Act amended

Section 5 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting the word “opticians” and replacing it by the words “opticians and orthoptists”;
- (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “or visiting opticians” and replacing them by the words “, foreign orthoptists, visiting opticians or visiting orthoptists”;
- (c) in paragraph (c), by deleting the words “of opticians” and replacing them by the words “of opticians and orthoptists”;
- (d) by repealing paragraph (h);
- (e) in paragraph (i), by deleting the words “of opticians” and replacing them by the words “of opticians and orthoptists”.

6. Section 6 of principal Act amended

Section 6 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in paragraph (d), by deleting the words “a foreign optician, a visiting optician” and replacing them by the words “an orthoptist, a foreign optician, a foreign orthoptist, a visiting optician, a visiting orthoptist”;

- (b) in paragraph (e), by deleting the words “a foreign optician, a visiting optician” and replacing them by the words “an orthoptist, a foreign optician, a foreign orthoptist, a visiting optician, a visiting orthoptist”.

7. Section 7 of principal Act amended

Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by repealing subsections (1) and (2) and replacing them by the following subsections –

- (1) The Council shall consist of –
 - (a) a Chairperson, to be elected from among the members referred to in paragraph (b);
 - (b) 6 opticians, each having not less than 5 years’ experience as an optician in Mauritius, to be elected in the manner specified in the Second Schedule;
 - (c) a representative of the Ministry;
 - (d) a representative of the Prime Minister’s Office;
 - (e) a representative of the Attorney-General’s Office;
 - (f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of finance;
 - (g) the Consultant-in-Charge (Ophthalmology), Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital; and
 - (h) 2 other persons, to be appointed by the Minister.

(2) A member, other than a member referred to in subsection (1)(c) to (g), shall hold office for a period of 3 years.

8. Section 8 of principal Act amended

Section 8 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “section 7(1)(e) to (g)” and replacing them by the words “section 7(1)(c) to (g)”;
- (b) in subsection (2), by deleting the words “section 7(1)(b) or (c) resign” and replacing them by the words “section 7(1)(b), (c) or (d) resigns”;
- (c) in subsection (3) –

- (i) by deleting the words "section 7(1)(e) to (g)" and replacing them by the words "section 7(1)(c) to (g)";
 - (ii) in paragraph (d), by inserting, after the words "an optician", the words "or orthoptist, as the case may be,";
- (d) in subsection (5)(b), by inserting, after the words "the optician" and "the elected optician", the words "or orthoptist, as the case may be," and "or orthoptist", respectively.

9. Section 9 of principal Act amended

Section 9 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words "every 2 months" and replacing them by the words "every month";
- (b) in subsection (2), by deleting the words "8 members" and replacing them by the words "7 members".

10. Section 12 of principal Act amended

Section 12 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by inserting, after the words "an optician", the words "or orthoptist";
- (b) in subsection (2), by deleting the words "an optician" and replacing them by the words "an optician or orthoptist";
- (c) in subsection (8), by inserting, after the words "another optician" and "an optician", the words "or orthoptist" and "or orthoptist, as the case may be,".

11. Part IV of principal Act amended

Part IV of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) by deleting the heading and replacing it by the following heading –

PART IV – REGISTRATION OF OPTICIANS AND ORTHOPTISTS

- (b) by repealing Sub-parts A, B and C and replacing them by the following Sub-parts –

Sub-Part A – Optician and Orthoptist

17. Registration as optician or orthoptist

- (1) No person shall practise as –
 - (a) a dispensing optician, an optometrist or an *optician-lunetier* unless he is registered as an optician; or
 - (b) an orthoptist unless he is registered as an orthoptist.
- (2) No person shall be registered as an optician or orthoptist unless –
 - (a) he satisfies the Council that he –
 - (i) is a citizen of Mauritius or, in the case of a non-citizen, he is a resident;
 - (ii) has not been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty in Mauritius or in any other country;
 - (iii) has not been disqualified or deregistered as an optician or orthoptist on account of professional misconduct or negligence in Mauritius or in any other country;
 - (iv) does not suffer from any mental impairment which is likely to hamper the discharge of his duties as optician or orthoptist;
 - (b) holds the appropriate qualification;
 - (c) satisfies the Council that his qualification is recognised in the country where he has studied and would have entitled him to practise as an optician or orthoptist in that country; and
 - (d) pays such registration fee as may be prescribed.
- (3) The qualification referred to in subsection (1)(b) shall be the qualifications specified in the Third Schedule.

(4) A person who wishes to be registered as an optician or orthoptist shall make an application, in writing, to the Registrar in such form and manner as the Council may determine.

(5) An application made under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by –

- (a) the applicant's birth certificate, National Identity Card or any other acceptable evidence of his identity, and in the case of a non-citizen, his passport;
- (b) the original or a certified copy of the applicant's degree, diploma or equivalent qualification in optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be;
- (c) where the qualification is written in a language other than English or French, a certified translation, in English or French, of his degree, diploma or equivalent qualification in optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be;
- (d) such processing fee as may be prescribed; and
- (e) such additional document or information as the Registrar may require.

(6) On receipt of an application made under subsection (4), the Registrar shall refer the application to the Council for its determination.

(7) (a) The Council may grant or reject an application and shall forthwith notify the applicant of its decision.

(b) Where the Council rejects an application, it shall give its reasons for its decision.

(8) Where the Council grants an application under subsection (7)(a), it shall, on payment of such registration and annual fees as may be prescribed, register the applicant as an optician or orthoptist and issue to him a certificate of registration, subject to such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.

(9) Where the Council registers an optician or orthoptist under subsection (8), the Registrar shall forthwith enter in the Register the name, address, qualification and such other particulars of that optician or orthoptist, as the case may be, as may be relevant.

(10) Where the Council is satisfied that an optician or orthoptist has damaged or lost his certificate of registration, it may, on payment of such appropriate fee as may be prescribed, issue a duplicate certificate of registration to him.

Sub-Part B – Foreign Optician or Foreign Orthoptist

18. Temporary registration of foreign optician or foreign orthoptist

(1) A non-citizen may be temporarily registered as a foreign optician or foreign orthoptist where he –

- (a) undertakes to work in a company or other body where the relevant expertise required in optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be, is not available in Mauritius;
- (b) holds a work permit, is exempted from holding a permit under the Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Act or holds an occupation permit under the Immigration Act 2022;
- (c) satisfies the requirements referred to in section 17(2)(a)(ii) to (iv), (b) and (c);
- (d) pays such registration fee as may be prescribed; and
- (e) undertakes not to open a company or body operating in the field of optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be.

(2) A person who wishes to be registered as a foreign optician or foreign orthoptist shall make an application, in writing, to the Registrar in such form and manner as the Council may determine.

(3) An application made under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by –

- (a) the applicant's birth certificate and where necessary, his passport;
- (b) the original or a certified copy of the applicant's degree, diploma or equivalent qualification in the field of optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be;

- (c) where the qualification is written in a language other than English or French, a certified translation, in English or French, of his degree, diploma or equivalent qualification in optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be;
- (d) documentary evidence that the applicant's expertise in optometry or orthoptics is not available in Mauritius;
- (e) the applicant's work permit or, where applicable, his occupation permit;
- (f) such processing fee as may be prescribed; and
- (g) such additional document or information as the Registrar may require.

(4) On receipt of an application made under subsection (2), the Registrar shall refer the application to the Council for its determination.

(5) (a) The Council may grant or reject an application and shall forthwith notify the applicant of its decision.

(b) Where the Council rejects an application, it shall give its reasons for its decision.

(6) Where the Council grants an application, it shall, on payment of such registration fee as may be prescribed, temporarily register the applicant as a foreign optician or foreign orthoptist, subject to such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.

(7) Subject to this Act, a practising licence issued under this section shall be valid for a period of one year and may, subject to the payment of such annual fee as may be prescribed, be renewed for further periods of one year.

(8) Where the Council is satisfied that a foreign optician or foreign orthoptist has damaged or lost his practising licence, it may, on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, issue a duplicate practising licence to him.

(9) Where the name of a foreign optician or foreign orthoptist is removed from the Register, his practising licence shall cease to be in force.

Sub-Part C – Visiting optician or Visiting Orthoptist

19. Temporary registration of visiting optician or visiting orthoptist

(1) A non-citizen may be temporarily registered as a visiting optician or visiting orthoptist where –

- (a) he is engaged in Mauritius in the implementation of a Government scheme agreed upon by the Government of Mauritius and the World Health Organisation or another similar international agency;
- (b) he has been invited to offer his services under a scheme approved by the Ministry; or
- (c) he visits Mauritius for the purpose of teaching, research or study in the field of optometry or orthoptics, as the case may be, under such scheme as the Government may approve.

(2) The Ministry shall, on behalf of the non-citizen, make all necessary arrangements for him to be temporarily registered with the Council.

(3) A visiting optician or visiting orthoptist shall –

- (a) be exempted from the payment of any fee prescribed under this Act; and
- (b) not be involved in the running of any optometry or orthoptics shop.

12. Section 21 of principal Act amended

Section 21 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “or foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist”;
- (b) in subsection (2), by deleting the words “or a foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist”;

- (c) in subsection (3), by deleting the words “or a foreign optician” and “the optician” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist” and “the optician, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist”, respectively;
- (d) in subsection (4), by deleting the words “an optician” and “or a foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “an optician, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist” and “, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist”, respectively;
- (e) in subsection (5), by deleting the words “or a foreign optician is” and “or a foreign optician on” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist is” and “, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist on”, respectively.

13. Section 22 of principal Act amended

Section 22 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “all opticians” and “and visiting opticians” and replacing them by the words “all opticians and orthoptists” and “, foreign orthoptists, visiting opticians and visiting orthoptists”, respectively;
- (b) in subsection (2), by inserting, after the words “all opticians”, the words “and orthoptists”.

14. Section 23 of principal Act amended

Section 23 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “foreign opticians and visiting opticians” and replacing them by the words “orthoptists, foreign opticians, foreign orthoptists, visiting opticians and visiting orthoptists”;
- (b) in subsection (2) –
 - (i) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “every optician” and replacing them by the words “every optician, orthoptist, foreign optician, foreign orthoptist, visiting optician and visiting orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (c), by deleting the words “a foreign optician or a visiting optician” and replacing them by the words “an orthoptist, a foreign optician, a foreign orthoptist, a visiting optician or a visiting orthoptist”;

- (c) by repealing subsection (3) and replacing it by the following subsection –

(3) Where, after registration –

- (a) an optician or a foreign optician obtains an additional qualification in the field of optometry; or
- (b) an orthoptist or a foreign orthoptist obtains an additional qualification in the field of orthoptics,

the Council may, on application, add the additional qualification to the optician's, orthoptist's, foreign optician's or foreign orthoptist's qualifications.

- (d) by adding the following new subsection –

(4) An application made under subsection (3) shall be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.

15. Section 24 of principal Act amended

Section 24 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (1), by inserting, after the words "visiting optician", the words "or visiting orthoptist".

16. Section 25 of principal Act amended

Section 25 of principal Act is amended by adding the following new definition, the full stop at the end of the definition of "optician" being deleted and replaced by a semicolon –

"orthoptist" includes –

- (a) an orthoptist in respect of whom the Council holds a delegated power;
- (b) a foreign orthoptist; and
- (c) a visiting orthoptist.

17. Section 26 of principal Act amended

Section 26 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “an optician” and replacing them by the words “an optician or orthoptist”;
- (b) in subsection (2) –
 - (i) in paragraph (a), by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (c), by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
- (c) in subsection (7), in paragraph (a), by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”.

18. Section 27 of principal Act amended

Section 27 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), in paragraph (a), by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
- (b) in subsection (2) –
 - (i) by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (a), by inserting, after the words “an optician” wherever they appear, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (iii) in paragraph (b), by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
- (c) in subsection (3), by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”.

19. Section 28 of principal Act amended

Section 28 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (1), by deleting the words “one of whom shall be, from the public sector and one from the private sector, who shall be opticians with not less than 10 years ‘experience” and replacing them by the words “who shall both be either an optician or orthoptist with not less than 10 years ‘experience”.

20. Section 29 of principal Act amended

Section 29 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1), by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
- (b) by repealing subsection (5) and replacing it by the following subsection –

(5) Where the report is in relation to an optician or orthoptist, other than an optician or orthoptist in respect of whom the Council holds a delegated power, and states that the charge has been proved, the Council may, not later than 14 days after receipt of the report –

- (a) administer him a reprimand or a severe reprimand;
 - (b) suspend him as an optician, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding 2 years; or
 - (c) deregister him as an optician, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist, as the case may be.
- (c) by inserting, after subsection (5), the following new subsection –

(5A) Where the report under subsection (5) is in relation to an optician or orthoptist in respect of whom the Council holds a delegated power, the Council shall submit its own report to the Public Service Commission, in accordance with regulation 46E of the Public Service Commission Regulations.

- (d) in subsection (6), by deleting the words “on an optician” and “as an optician” and replacing them by the words “on an optician or orthoptist” and “as an optician or orthoptist, as the case may be”, respectively;
- (e) in subsection (7) –
 - (i) by inserting, after the words “against the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (a), by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (iii) in paragraph (b), by inserting, after the words “the optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;

21. Section 30 of principal Act amended

Section 30 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
- (b) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “or a foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist”;
- (c) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “or a foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist”.

22. Section 31 of principal Act amended

Section 31 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the words “an optician” wherever they appear, the words “or orthoptist”.

23. Section 32 of principal Act amended repealed and replaced

Section 32 of the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the following section –

32. Name and other particulars to be removed from Register

(1) Where an optician, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist is deregistered as such, the Council shall cause the Registrar to remove from the Register the name and other particulars of the optician, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist, as the case may be, under this Act.

(2) Where name and other particulars of an optician, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist have been removed from the Register pursuant to subsection (1), the name and other particulars of that person shall not be restored to the Register except by order of the Council or of the Supreme Court, as the case may be.

(3) The Council may, on its own motion or on application of the optician, orthoptist, foreign optician or foreign orthoptist and after holding such inquiry as it may determine, cause his name and other particulars to be restored to the Register.

24. Section 41 of principal Act amended

Section 41 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (1)(a), by deleting

the words “or a foreign optician” and replacing them by the words “, an orthoptist, a foreign optician or a foreign orthoptist”.

25. Section 42 of principal Act amended

Section 42 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) in subsection (1) –
 - (i) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “a foreign optician or a visiting optician” and replacing them by the words “an orthoptist, a foreign optician, a foreign orthoptist, a visiting optician or a visiting orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “practise optometry” and replacing them by the words “practise optometry or orthoptics”;
- (b) in subsection (5), by inserting, after the words “of optometry”, the words “or orthoptics”.

26. First Schedule to principal Act repealed and replaced

The First Schedule to the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the First Schedule set out in the First Schedule to this Act.

27. Second Schedule to principal Act amended

The Second Schedule to the principal Act is amended –

- (a) by repealing paragraph 1 and replacing it by the following paragraph –

1. Calling for nominations and appointment of nomination day

The Registrar shall, not later than 30 days after the commencement of the Optical Council (Amendment) Act 2026 and, thereafter, not less than 30 days before the expiry of the term of office of the members referred to in section 7(1)(b), publish, in the Gazette and such newspaper as he may determine, a notice –

- (a) inviting the submission of nominations; and
- (b) appointing a day, time and place for the nominations to be submitted.

- (b) by repealing paragraph 3 and replacing it by the following paragraph –

3. Withdrawal of candidature

Any candidate may, not more than 3 days after nomination day, withdraw his candidature by notice in writing to the Electoral Commissioner unless he has, before the expiry of the period of 3 days, been declared elected pursuant to paragraph 3A.

- (c) by inserting, after paragraph 3, the following new paragraphs –

3A. Contested elections and unopposed candidates

Where, on nomination day or, as the case may be, at the end of the period of 3 days referred to in paragraph 3 –

- (a) the number of persons nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, a poll shall be taken in accordance with this Schedule;
- (b) the number of persons nominated is, or is reduced to, a number equal to the number of vacancies, the Electoral Commissioner shall declare those persons elected;
- (c) the number of persons nominated is less, or is reduced to less, than the number of vacancies, the Electoral Commissioner shall declare those persons elected and the Minister shall appoint an optician or orthoptist, as the case may be, to supply any vacancy which remains unfilled; or
- (d) no person is nominated, the Minister shall appoint an optician or orthoptist, as the case may be, to supply the vacancies which remain unfilled.

3B. Procedure after nomination

Where the number of persons nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, the Registrar shall publish, in the Gazette and such newspaper as he may determine, a notice –

- (a) specifying the names of the persons duly nominated;
- (b) appointing a day, time and place, being not less than 15 days after the publication of the notice, for the holding of an election.

- (d) in paragraph 4 –
 - (i) in subparagraph (1), by inserting, after the words “an optician”, the words “or orthoptist”;
 - (ii) in subparagraph (2), by inserting, after the words “Every optician”, the words “or orthoptist”.

28. Third Schedule to principal Act repealed and replaced

The Third Schedule to the principal Act is repealed and replaced by the Third Schedule set out in the Second Schedule to this Act.

29. Commencement

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

FIRST SCHEDULE

[Section 26]

FIRST SCHEDULE

[Section 2]

**LIST OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS OPTOMETRISTS ARE ENTITLED
TO USE IN THE COURSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL DUTIES**

1. Fluorescein
2. Oxybuprocain 0.1 %
3. Tropicamide 1.0%
4. Cyclopentolate hydrochloride
5. Oxybuprocain hydrochloride 0.4
6. Tetracain hydrochloride 0.5

SECOND SCHEDULE

[Section 28]

THIRD SCHEDULE

[Section 17(3)]

QUALIFICATIONS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Optometrist/Ophthalmic Optician | BSc (Hons) Optometry |
| 2. Dispensing Optician | Bachelor (Hons) Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing |
| 3. <i>Opticien Lunetier</i> | (BTS) <i>Opticien-Lunetier</i> |
| 4. Orthoptist | Bachelor (Hons) Degree in Orthoptics |