



# Career of the Week



# What job is being described here?

- using a range of precision instruments
- using vision measuring and testing tools
- diagnosing and giving advice
- prescribing, fitting and supplying glasses or contact lenses
- discuss the suitability and shape of glasses frames
- referring clients to specialists or ophthalmologists (eye surgeons)



# Optometrist



**You may be more familiar with the job title  
'optician' or 'dispensing optician'**

They are similar but there are some differences  
between the work, qualifications required and  
salary of opticians and optometrists



## **What level of qualification do you need to become an optometrist?**

- A levels in maths and/or science with excellent grades
- A degree in optometry (at least 3 years)
- 1 year's paid, supervised work experience with a registered optometrist



## **What level of qualification do you need to become a dispensing optician?**

- A 2 year full time diploma

Or

- A 3 year day release or distance learning course if you are working in a related role
- You'll need to pass professional qualifying exams



# What will you earn?

- Optometrist - £26,000 – £82,000 depending on experience
- Dispensing optician - £18,000 - £40,000 depending on experience

# How will you work?

- 35 to 40 hours per week
- Your working day will usually be office hours, 9am to 5pm
- But may include some evenings
- You'll usually work in a treatment room or hospital laboratory, local health centres or community clinics.
- Dispensing opticians work 5 days a week including Saturdays
- And are based in a retail chain or independent private practice





## What other jobs are similar?

- Orthoptist
- Dental technician
- Pharmacy technician
- Retail manager



What do you think would be  
great about this job?



What do you think would be  
hard about this job?



## Websites for more info:

- Valley's Careers Website - [www.careersinc.uk/outwood-valley/](http://www.careersinc.uk/outwood-valley/)
- National Careers Service - [www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)
- Apprenticeships - [www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)
- Association of British Dispensing Opticians - [www.abdo.org.uk](http://www.abdo.org.uk)
- General Optical Council - [www.optical.org](http://www.optical.org)

A green line-art illustration of four people in various celebratory poses, such as raising their arms and hugging, set against a white background.

## Where to get help with your careers ideas

- Careers Office is on ground floor next to Student Reception
- Rachel Jones and Sean Panting are your Careers Advisers and are in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays – come and see us at break, lunch or after school.
- Look out for careers events after school and at lunch-times.