

Contact lens optician careers



Contact lens opticians (CLO) are trained dispensing opticians (DC) who have taken the next step in their career to be able to specialise in the fitting and supply of contact lenses. Their role will range from carrying out assessments and interpreting technical data through to providing patient aftercare such as reviewing the fitting and any issues they may have.

What do contact lens opticians do?

Contact lens opticians (CLO) specialise in fitting contact lenses and ensuring people look after their lenses and their eyes. They are trained to provide the most suitable contact lenses for their patients, and to monitor a person's eye health following fitting to ensure no complications occur. With further training, contact lens opticians can qualify in minor eye conditions and become accredited through the [Eye Health Examination Wales \(EHEW\) Service](#), where they will then be able to provide care for patients with a range of acute eye problems such as dry eyes and conjunctivitis.

Where do contact lens opticians work?

- community - optical practice
- hospitals
- research and development
- manufacturing industry.

What skills do I need to be a good contact lens optician?

- excellent communication skills with a passion for helping others - taking time to listen to each person's specific needs and providing advice in a clear manner
- comfortable with dealing with technical data as part of the process of choosing the best lenses for a patient
- good problem-solving and decision-making skills
- interested in keeping up-to-date with the latest research and developments in eye care.

How do I become a contact lens optician?

Step one: you will need to become a fully qualified dispensing optician by completing a [General Optical Council \(GOC\)](#) approved course and pass the [Association of British Dispensing Opticians \(ABDO\)](#) professional exams.

Step two: once qualified and registered with the [GOC](#) you can then undertake specialty training in contact lens fitting via blended learning which includes practice-based learning, college and completing coursework.

How much do contact lens opticians earn?

The average salary for a contact lens optician is around £33,000; this can increase with experience, progression into practice management and through further training.

Want to find out more? Visit:

Careersville: <https://careersville.heiw.wales>

NHS Wales Careers: www.nhswalescareers.com



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