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## ACO Announces Launch of New Comprehensive Certificate Courses

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Australian News  
friday, 24 June 2016

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) will be rolling out a program of in-depth, post-graduate level certificates for practising optometrists who want to increase their competency and be recognised as experts in their area of interest. The Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses (ACO-CACL) is now open for enrolments and applications will be accepted until the 19 August 2016. The Certificate in Glaucoma will commence in the second half of 2016. These courses have been developed in response to increasing demand for more comprehensive learning and recognition of advanced skills in the optometry profession.

Offering a flexible, remote learning syllabus the certificates will feature self-paced learning, online lectures, demonstration videos and e-learning materials. A practical clinical experience placement within Australia and/or New Zealand is also incorporated. Candidates can commence their studies as soon as their application is received and approved.

The ACO-CACL features an expert team of presenters including Prof James Wolffsohn, Ass Prof Richard Vojlay, Jessica Chi (National President CCLS of Australia), Dr Adrian Bruce, (ACO Lead Optometrist Contact Lens) and more. They will deliver a range of topics including current information on soft and hard lenses, lens fitting and special lenses.

General Manager of Professional Development, Jolanda de Jong, sees the ACO as leading the future of CPD in Australia with in-depth study that is "a great opportunity for optometrists to gain experience in their chosen field of interest and enhance their professional satisfaction by delivering the best outcomes for their patients". The comprehensive learning they undertake will "reassure patients that their optometrist has been motivated to undertake study and is up to date with current best practise and knowledge. This will give them confidence that they are receiving the best care available."

Graduates of the ACO-CACL will receive post-nominals upon completion of the full course and 48 CPD (including 8 therapeutic) points for re-registration purposes in Australia.

For more information see [www.aco.org.au](http://www.aco.org.au) or contact [cpd@aco.org.au](mailto:cpd@aco.org.au) (ph) 03 9349 7477.

