

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Areej Okasheh-Otoom, PhD

Assistant Professor of Optometry
Department of Optometry, Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences
Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)
Irbid, Jordan
Email: aaokashah@just.edu.jo

Profile Summary

Dedicated academic and clinician with extensive experience in optometry education, low vision rehabilitation, community eye care, and clinical training. Active contributor to national professional and regulatory committees related to optometry practice and licensing in Jordan. Experienced in curriculum development, quality assurance, accreditation, and academic leadership.

Research interests focus on low vision rehabilitation, visual impairment, electronic low vision aids, community eye care, pediatric visual impairment, and public health aspects of vision care. Strongly engaged in community outreach initiatives, blindness prevention programs, disability support services, and interdisciplinary collaborations aimed at improving accessibility and eye-health services.

Education

Degree/Program	Institution	Country	Year	Thesis / Focus
Optometry Program in Advocacy and Leadership (OPAL)	World Council of Optometry (WCO)	International	2022	Advocacy and Leadership
PhD in Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation	Cardiff University	United Kingdom	2016	Vision Science, Thesis: The Prescribing and Use of Pocket and Portable Electronic Low Vision Aids for Patients with Visual Impairment
MSc in Optometry	University of New South Wales	Australia	2009	Optometry
BSc in Optometry	Jordan University of Science and Technology	Jordan	2005	Optometry

Academic and Professional Experience

- **Assistant Dean, Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)**
 - **(2023–2025)**
 - Responsibilities included:
 - Oversight of clinical training activities
 - Supervision of laboratories readiness
 - Follow-up of smoking cessation clinic activities
 - Staff affairs and administrative coordination
 - Scholarship and sponsored students' affairs
 - **Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Council Member, Representative of the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences (2022–2026)**
 - **Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Assistant Professor, Department of Optometry (2016–Present)**
 - Responsibilities include:
 - Teaching undergraduate optometry courses
 - Clinical supervision and training
 - Coordination of academic and clinical courses
 - Supervision of undergraduate research projects
 - Participation in accreditation and quality assurance activities
 - Community outreach and vision screening initiatives
 - **Full-Time Lecturer, Department of Optometry, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) (2009–2012)**
 - **Clinical Supervisor, Optometry Clinics, Princess Basma Hospital – JUST (2005–2008)**
 - **Teaching Assistant, Department of Optometry, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) (2005–2008)**
 - **Optometry Clinics Demonstrator and Teaching Assistant, Cardiff University, UK (2013–2014)**
-

National Professional and Regulatory Committees

- Member of the Optometry Professions Licensing Committee, Jordanian Ministry of Health (2018–2025).
- Member of the Committee for Revising the Regulations and Instructions Governing the Practice and Licensing of Optometry Professions, Jordanian Ministry of Health.
- Member of the Optometry Licensing Examination Committee (Refraction, Optical Dispensing, and Contact Lens Fitting), Jordanian Ministry of Health.

- Member of the Accreditation Committee for Optometry Programs, Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission, Jordan.
 - Member of the University Competency Examination Committee, Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission, Jordan.
-

University Service and Administrative Responsibilities

- Liaison Officer for the Accessibility and Inclusive Education Platform for Persons with Disabilities, Jordan University of Science and Technology.
 - Member of several departmental and faculty committees at Jordan University of Science and Technology, including
 - Curriculum Committee
 - Scientific Research Committee
 - Community Service Committee
 - Local and International Accreditation Committee
 - Faculty Quality Assurance Committee
 - Student Affairs Committee
 - Other academic and administrative committees
 - Coordinator and participant in institutional collaboration agreements between Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Jordanian Association of Optometrists, and the Jordanian Optometry Syndicate to support clinical training opportunities and strengthen professional partnerships.
-

Professional Memberships and Leadership Roles

- Active Member of Lions Clubs International, contributing to community service initiatives related to eye-health awareness, visual screening, low-vision assessment, prevention of avoidable blindness, and provision of eyeglasses for underserved populations.
 - Board Member, Al-Diyaa Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of Blind Children.
 - Member of the Arab Federation Committee for Development of Optometry Curricula.
 - Member of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Jordan University of Science and Technology.
 - Honorary Member, Jordanian Optometric Syndicate.
-

Teaching Portfolio

Courses coordinated and taught include:

- Clinical Training in Optometry (1)
- Clinical Training in Optometry (2)
- Community Eye Care
- Geriatric Optometry

- Low Vision and Visual Rehabilitation
- Low Vision and Visual Rehabilitation Laboratory
- Neuro-Optometry
- Ocular Pharmacology
- Optometric Examination (3)
- Optometric Examination (3) Laboratory
- Optometry Theory Examination (2) Laboratory
- Pediatric Optometry
- Research Projects
- Special Topics in Optometry

Conferences, Scientific Activities, and Professional Presentations

- Scientific Committee Member and organizer, Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology Conference (MEACO 2019), Dead Sea, Jordan.
- Invited Speaker at the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology Conference (MEACO 2019), presenting a lecture entitled “Electronic Low Vision Aids.”
- Invited Speaker at the Jordanian Palestinian Optometry Conference (JOPAL 2022), presenting a lecture entitled “The Scope of Optometry Practice in Jordan.”
- Organizer and Head of the Scientific Committee for the 1st Optometry Scientific Day at Jordan University of Science and Technology (2016).
- Invited Speaker at JOVISION 2017, presenting a lecture entitled “Pocket and Portable Electronic Low Vision Aids.”
- Participation in professional scientific conferences and exhibitions related to optometry, ophthalmology, low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, and vision sciences.
- Participant in a workshop organized by the Jordanian Optometric Syndicate, attended by representatives from the Jordanian Ministry of Health, addressing the current status of optometry professions in Jordan, including workforce distribution, employment rates, scope of practice, and regulations governing professional licensing and practice.

International Professional Development and Leadership Activities

- Successfully completed the World Council of Optometry (WCO) Advocacy and Leadership Program (OPAL 2022), an international professional training program focused on advocacy, leadership, and public health in optometry.
- Selected participant in the Looking Towards the Future: Optometry Program in Advocacy and Leadership (OPAL 2022) organized by the World Council of Optometry.

Community Service and Public Health Outreach

Community outreach and public health initiatives contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), through vision screening campaigns, low-vision rehabilitation services, disability support initiatives, smoking cessation awareness activities, inclusive education efforts, and collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

- Organized and supervised multiple free vision screening and eye-care outreach campaigns for school students, university students, and underserved community members.
- Participated in community outreach initiatives in collaboration with Lions Clubs International involving eye-health awareness, visual screening, prevention of avoidable blindness, low-vision assessment, and provision of eyeglasses.
- Organized and supervised school-based vision screening and pediatric eye-health awareness activities.
- Coordinator and speaker in anti-smoking and public health awareness initiatives, including the “Health Ambassadors” smoking cessation initiative.
- Organized and participated in awareness activities related to protecting children and youth from tobacco industry interference.
- Organized and supervised World Sight Day outreach campaigns and activities promoting early detection of visual impairment and blindness prevention.
- Participated in multidisciplinary health awareness and community engagement activities in conjunction with World Children’s Day.
- Delivered educational lectures and awareness sessions for teachers, parents, and community members regarding pediatric visual development, low vision, and visual impairment.
- Supervised optometry students during pediatric low-vision rehabilitation and community outreach activities.
- Coordinated and supervised vision assessment activities for children with visual impairments in collaboration with charitable and educational organizations in Jordan.

Awards and Scholarships

- Second Place Award Recipient in the Best Training and Qualification Program category from the Makeen Arab Award for Tobacco Control, in recognition of contributions and efforts in tobacco control through the Smoking Cessation Clinic at Jordan University of Science and Technology (2025).
- Full PhD Scholarship, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Cardiff University, United Kingdom (2012–2015).
- Full MSc Scholarship, Jordan University of Science and Technology, University of New South Wales, Australia (2008–2009).
- Academic Honors and Distinction Awards (2003–2005).

Workshops and Professional Training

- Exams and Assessment (2020)
- Capacity Development Workshop for E-Learning Development (Level 1) (2022)
- Measuring and Analyzing Student Outcomes (2023)
- Artificial Intelligence Applications in Education: Enhancing Learning and Teaching Experiences (2024)
- Leveraging Digital Skills in E-Learning (2026)
- Recognized Teacher in Higher Education (United Kingdom)
- Effective Researcher, SPSS, R-package, and Academic Writing Workshops
- Behavioral Optometry Training
- Low Vision and Rehabilitation Training
- CPR Training

Research Interests

- Low vision rehabilitation and clinical outcomes
- Electronic and portable low-vision assistive technologies
- Access barriers to eye-care services
- Pediatric visual impairment
- Community eye care and vision screening
- Reading performance assessment
- Optometry scope of practice and professional regulation
- Public health and preventive eye care
- Tele-optometry and AI-driven eye-care services

Selected Publications

- Okasheh-Otoom, A., Gammoh, Y., Otoum, M., & Naqaweh, A. (2022). The Scope of Optometry Practice in Jordan. *Optometry and Vision Science*, 99(1), 35–44.
- Okasheh-Otoom, A. (2026). Barriers to Adoption of Electronic Low Vision Aids Among Eye Care Professionals in Jordan: Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study. *JMIR Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies*.
- Okasheh-Otoom, A., & Gammoh, Y. (2023). A Profile of Visually Impaired Children: A Ten-Year Retrospective Study. *Journal of Pediatric Perspectives*, 11(5), 17685–17697.
- Okasheh-Otoom, A. (2025). Visual Impairment and Low Vision Aids: A Narrative Review (2015–2025). *Middle East Journal of Scientific Publishing*, 8(5).
- Qudah, E. M., Okasheh-Otoom, A., et al. (2024). The Impact of Using Social Media on Communication Between Teachers, Students, and Parents, Achieving Outstanding Student Performance, and Data Confidentiality. *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research*.
- AL-Nusirat, A. A. I., Okasheh-Otoom, A., et al. (2025). The Efficacy of Utilizing AI Tools in Guiding Mindfulness and Stress-Reduction Practices in Educational Settings. *TPM – Testing, Psychometrics, Methodology in Applied Psychology*, 32(3), 881–892.

- Okasheh-Otoom, A. (2026). Effects of Smoking on Ocular Health: Structural and Functional Visual Outcomes with Implications for Nursing Practice. Jordan Journal of Nursing Research (Accepted for Publication).

Referees

Full list of academic and professional referees available upon request.
