

PART 1

1 Acknowledgements

The GOC Visitor Panel (the Panel) would like to thank the Programme Team for their hospitality and wish to thank the individuals who took the time to meet and speak with them during the Visit.

2 Introduction

This report is in relation to Quality Assurance Visit to Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)'s Postgraduate Ocular Therapeutics Course (hereby referred to as the Independent Prescribing (IP) Course or the Course), which was undertaken on 6-7 September 2017.

The GOC Visitor Panel comprised:

Sheila Needham - Lay Chair
Markham May - Lay Member
Dr Robert Harper - IP Optometrist
Dr Navneet Gupta - IP Optometrist
Dr Paul Baines - Ophthalmologist

The Panel was accompanied by Kabir Kareem, GOC Accreditation and Quality Assurance Officer and two observers, Barry Mitchell, Lay Chair in training, and Claire Herbert, GOC Education Strategic Review Project Director.

The Visit was undertaken in accordance with the GOC Handbook for Optometry Specialist Registration in Therapeutic Prescribing 2008, hereby referred to as 'the Handbook'.

The GOC is required to undertake such visits in order to obtain assurance that the standards of teaching and practice within the Programme are compliant with the GOC's core competencies and standards as listed in the Handbook.

2.1 Background

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) was informed by the GOC's Head of Education in September 2009 that the GOC was satisfied with the Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists course after the GOC Accreditation Visit in August 2009. GCU was required to provide the results of each cohort of students before the next Quality Assurance visit proposed for Summer 2014, however this visit did not take place.

The course was renamed the Postgraduate Ocular Therapeutics Course in 2009.

The University is a training provider that delivers the Independent Prescribing (IP) route to specialist registration in conjunction with the College of Optometrists (the College). The University delivers the training element of the route and the College are responsible for ensuring each student's completion of the practice-based learning and administering the common final assessment of the route.

The objective of the Quality Assurance visit was to review the course to determine:

- whether it continues to meet fully the GOC requirements; and
- enables students to achieve the competencies required for entry into the specialist register for Therapeutic Prescribing.

It was conducted based on the requirements set out in the GOC Specialist Registration in Therapeutic Prescribing Handbook dated July 2008.

2.2 Documentation

Prior to the Visit, the GOC received pre-visit information from the provider based on the requirements outlined in the GOC Handbook.

3 Visit Outcomes

The GOC Visitor Panel met with the Programme and Module Leaders, the Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences, the academic teaching staff, and students from a range of cohorts, from the first 2009 cohort to the current cohort of 2017.

The Visitor Panel also conducted a telephone call with one of the external examiners for the MSc programme which the IP course sits within.

The Visitor Panel recommends to the Education Committee that:

- i. No conditions are assigned;
- ii. One recommendation is offered to the University;
- iii. Full accreditation continues for the Postgraduate Ocular Therapeutics Course; and
- iv. The next Quality Assurance Visit takes place before September 2022.

3.1 Conditions

Conditions are applied to training and assessment providers if there is evidence that the GOC requirements are not met. In order to ensure that the programme meets the GOC requirements, the Panel propose the following condition(s):

Ref.	Description	Due by
	None Assigned	

3.2 Recommendations

The Panel offers the following recommendation to the provider. Recommendations indicate enhancements that can be made to a programme but are not directly linked to compliance with GOC requirements.

Ref.	Description
1	The programme team should provide evidence that there is robust and effective external quality assurance of the Postgraduate Ocular Therapeutics Course. In particular, the

	external examiners should be asked to report specifically on modules 1, 2, and 3 of the Course, rather than simply providing a generic review of the MSc programme. (Section 11- Quality Assurance and Enhancement)
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