

PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS

1.1 PROVIDER DETAILS	
Address	Department Of Clinical and Pharmaceutical Sciences School of Life & Medical Sciences Health Research Building University of Hertfordshire College Lane Hatfield AL10 9AB
Responsible officer	Dr Joy Myint
Responsible officer telephone	01707 285 146
Responsible officer email address	j.myint@herts.ac.uk

1.2 PROGRAMME DETAILS	
Programme title	Master of Optometry (MOptom)
Programme type	Integrated Level 7/Masters The College of Optometrists provides the Scheme for Registration within the programme
Current approval status	Provisional Approval
Approved/current student numbers	50

1.3 GOC EDUCATION VISITOR PANEL	
Chair	Sheila Needham, Lay Member
Visitors	Paul Baines, Ophthalmologist Navneet Gupta, Optometrist Markham May, Lay Member Maryna Hura, Dispensing Optician Gurpreet Kaur Bhogal-Bhamra, Optometrist
GOC representative	Ella Pobee, Approval and Quality Assurance Officer
Observers	None

1.4. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT	
Visit type	Approval Visit
The purpose of this approval visit is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review the MOptom programme in relation to the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook: Routes to Registration in Optometry (Sept 2015);• follow up on the outstanding conditions set in 2018;• decide whether full approval can be recommended.	

1.5 PROGRAMME HISTORY		
Set out a chronology of the key events affecting the programme in the last FIVE years.		
Date	Event type	Overview
February 2014	Event	The GOC receives an application from the University of Hertfordshire (University) for approval to deliver a full time, four-year integrated Master of Optometry (MOptom) programme.
April 2014	Event	The GOC and the University carry out a joint validation event for the MOptom programme which results in the GOC setting six conditions. It is decided that provisional approval will not be granted until the conditions are deemed met.
November 2014	Visit	A GOC approval visit is carried out to consider the conditions set at the April 2014 validation event. Provisional approval is granted for the University to commence the MOptom programme in September 2015 with a maximum intake of 50 students, subject to a visit being carried out to consider Year 1 course materials.
July 2015	Visit	The Panel carries out a visit to establish whether the previous conditions imposed have been satisfied and to advise the GOC Education Committee (EdCom) as to the programmes readiness to receive its first cohort of students in September 2015. Both the Panel and EdCom are satisfied that the programme displays sufficient readiness to commence the programme in September 2015.
June 2016	Visit	A GOC approval visit is carried out. The Panel recommends to EdCom that provisional approval remains, five conditions are set, and five recommendations are offered. These recommendations are agreed by EdCom in July 2016.
April 2017	Visit	A GOC approval visit is carried out. The Panel recommends to EdCom that provisional approval continues subject to the conditions set being met. The recommendation is agreed by EdCom in July 2017.
December 2017	Visit/Change	A sub panel carries out a visit to consider the impact of a major change in the proposed management of placement for the 'pre-registration' stage of the programme. The Panel recommends that EdCom considers all conditions met except Conditions 1c and 2 which are deemed partially met. These recommendations are agreed by EdCom in February 2018.
April 2018	Visit	A GOC approval visit is carried out. The Panel recommends to EdCom that five conditions are set, two recommendations are made, and provisional approval continues subject to the conditions being met. These recommendations are agreed by EdCom in July 2018.

PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY

2.1 VISIT OUTCOMES & SUMMARY OF PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOC	
Previous conditions – met/not met	All previous conditions have been met
New conditions	No new conditions are set
New recommendations	3 recommendations are made
Commendations	1 commendation is made
Student numbers	50
Approval	Full approval is recommended
Next visit	April 2022
Factors to consider when scheduling next visit e.g. when students are in, hospital, audit etc.	The visit should take place prior to the Easter holidays to ensure observation and student engagement opportunities are available.

2.2 PREVIOUS CONDITIONS			
Ref.	Description	Due Date	Status
1	The programme team must submit in writing to the GOC a full set of course materials and assessments for year 4 of the programme by the following dates:		MET
a.	the whole Semester A, and	10 September 2018	
b.	the whole of Semester B.	10 December 2018	
2	The University must ensure robust methodology and standardised timing for the assessment of the two Level 6 modules in Semester B Clinical Skills for Optometry 2 and 3 and for the Level 7 module Clinical Skills for Optometry 4. Documentary evidence to be submitted to the GOC.	10 September 2018	MET
3	The University must provide a copy to the GOC of the signed contract between the University and the hospital placement provider for the current cohorts.	28 August 2018	MET
4	The University must provide copies to the GOC of signed contracts between the University and all placement providers for Years 3 and 4 of the programme ensuring placements for current and future cohorts.	10 December 2018	MET

5	The University must ensure that future cohort numbers remain at the level set by the Education Committee (50) until such time as full accreditation is achieved.	Ongoing	MET
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2.3 PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS	
The Panel offered the following recommendations to the Provider, which, it is felt, will assist course development and raise standards:	
Ref.	Description
1	Improve the clarity of the presentation of patient episodes in the e-portfolio
2	All clinical supervisors be made aware of protocols for the management of surrogates presenting with referable conditions

PART 3 – CONDITIONS

3.1 CONDITIONS SET BY THE PANEL

The Panel deemed all requirements met therefore no conditions were set at this visit.

3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THIS VISIT

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

Ref.	Description
1	<p>To continue to review and update course materials to ensure accuracy and relevance.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The Panel and students noted that some of the dispensing module content contains some inaccuracies. The programme leads informed the Panel that the review process has commenced and is ongoing.</p>
2	<p>To clarify the leadership of the programme.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The previous programme lead is now the Head of Optometry and is in the process of devolving some operational duties to other members of staff. The Panel acknowledges that this is in a process of transition but recommends that clarity as to programme leadership is provided for all stakeholders.</p>
3	<p>The Panel recommends the provision of dedicated administrative support for the management of the clinic and lab sessions.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The Panel heard that staff members are heavily involved in administrative tasks relating to organising and operating clinical labs in Years 2 and 3 of the programme in particular and believe that that their time could be better focused on teaching within the lab space and modules instead.</p>

3.3 COMMENDATIONS MADE AT THIS VISIT

The Panel identifies the following areas of good practice where the programme exceeds the GOC requirements.

The successful planning and implementation of a very innovative programme.