

PART 1

1 Acknowledgements

The Panel found the Programme Team to be very accommodating to their needs and wish to thank them for the co-ordination of a successful visit. The Panel also wished to thank those who took the time to meet with the Panel throughout the visit.

2 Introduction

This report is in relation to a quality assurance visit to Anglia Ruskin University, BOptom Optometry (Hons) programme which took place on 5-6 December 2017.

The Visitor Panel:

- Barry Mitchell – Lay member & Chair
- Markham May – Lay member
- Navneet Gupta – Optometrist
- Richard Allen – Optometrist
- Graeme Stevenson – Dispensing Optician/Contact Lens Optician
- Paul Baines – Ophthalmologist

The Visitors were accompanied by:

- Lisa Venables – GOC Officer/Accreditation & Quality Assurance Officer
- Karen Beamish – GOC Observer.

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

The Visit was conducted in accordance with the GOC Handbook: Accreditation & Quality Assurance Handbook: Routes to Registration in Optometry.

2.1 Background

The Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) BOptom Programme is a three year full-time programme situated in the Department of Vision and Hearing Sciences. The course is modular with each module assigned credits (usually 15 or 30) accumulating 360 credits over 3 years and leading to the student being awarded a Bachelor in Optometry with Honours (BOptom (Hons)).

All modules are compulsory and must be passed to meet the requirements of the programme and graduate with an optometry honours degree.

The third year of the programme is devoted almost exclusively to core clinical skills although on rare occasions a student may choose a non-clinical project/dissertation. Project/dissertation work accounts for 30 of 120 final year credits.

The standard entry requirement is three A levels (ABB) from Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. Students are expected to have a minimum of five GCSE's including Maths and English.

This visit was a full Quality Assurance Visit to assess whether the standards of education and assessment offered gives sufficient assurance that students have achieved the adequate skills and knowledge to practice safely in accordance with the GOC Handbook.

The Visit also allowed the Panel to follow up on any outstanding Conditions and Recommendations made during the previous visit that took place in December 2012.

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 Panel wished to thank the University and the Programme Team for their hospitality throughout the visit, the efficient arrangement of the agenda resulted in the smooth running of the visit.

To explore whether the programme is meeting the GOC education requirements, the Panel conducted a series of meetings with Senior University Management, the Head of Department, Programme staff, Clinical staff and students. The Panel also observed teaching and clinical sessions, spoke to the External Examiners via telephone and reviewed relevant documentation prior to and during the visit.

Overall, the Panel found the programme to adequately meet the requirements and were particularly impressed with the depth of feedback given to third year clinic students as well as general academic feedback.

The Panel commended the timetabling of individual supervision sessions of primary care episodes and found the University Eye Clinic unique and impressive in reflecting real life clinical experience due in no small part to the skilful scheduling undertaken by the clinic management team.

Based on the findings of the visit, the Panel deem the previous condition and recommendations as met. The Panel concluded that no further conditions are to be imposed but make four recommendations to assist the team in enhancing the programme.

The Panel recommend that the **next visit take place by December 2022**.

The findings of the Panel are set out in Part Two of this report. This report will be submitted to the Education Committee meeting taking place in **April 2018**.

3.1 Previous Conditions

The Condition below has been extracted from the 3-6 December 2012 report.

Ref	Description	Met/ Not met
1	To ensure that the future intake to the programme does not exceed its current level without adequate additional investment in staffing and facilities.	Met

3.2 Previous Recommendations

The Recommendations listed below have been extracted from the 3-6 December 2012 report.

Ref.	Description	Comments
1	That consideration continues to be given to the career development of all staff particularly in relation to the adequate time for research and scholarship.	Evidence presented that this recommendation has been followed.
2	Further consideration is given to increase the amount of external teaching by Specialists in the area of Ocular Disease.	Evidence presented that this recommendation has been followed.
3	That an update is provided as a matter of urgency commenting how concerns regarding the lack of teaching space will be resolved. Details of this should be identified to the GOC in the Annual Monitoring Report 2012/13 submission.	Evidence presented that this recommendation has been followed.

4	That the University continues to recognise and support the importance of visiting clinicians to the Optometry programme.	Evidence presented that this recommendation has been followed.
5	To consider the implementation of grand round sessions to ensure that all students will have observed common abnormal ocular conditions.	Evidence presented that this recommendation was initiated.

3.3 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.	Condition	Description	Due by
n/a	No conditions set		

3.4 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	Add details to the student handbook of the range of exit awards available to students who do not complete the three year honours programme or achieve a minimum of a 2:2 BOptom.
2	To ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to maintain appropriate staffing levels whilst the present programme lead is seconded to a faculty role and the current vacancy filled.
3	Modify the student logbooks to more accurately reflect the complete student experience as expressed on page 7 of the 'University Eye Clinic Handbook' to record all of their patient contacts including unsafe clinical episodes.
4	To enhance student learning it is recommended that a full record of all attempts at gaining GOC Core Competencies is maintained.