General Optical Council

Glasgow Caledonian University
GOC Full Approval Quality Assurance Visit
BSc (Hons) Optometry
25 and 26 October 2023

Report confirmed by GOC	15 May 2024

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PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS

1.2 Programme details

Programme title	BSc (Hons) Optometry
Programme description	- The programme is a four-year, full-time programme that adheres to the standard academic year. - Glasgow Caledonian University (the University) delivers the theory element of the route to registration including all stage one competencies. - Upon successful completion of the programme at 2:2 or above students are able to progress onto the Scheme for Registration delivered by the College of Optometrists (CoO). The CoO is responsible for the clinical placement, all stage two competencies and the qualifying examinations.
Current approval status	Fully approved (FA)
Approved student numbers	80 per annum

1.3 GOC Education Visitor Panel (EVP)

Chair	Jane Andrews
Visitors	Pam McClean – Independent Prescribing Optometrist Maryna Hura – Dispensing Optician Will Naylor – Lay member
GOC representative	Lamine Kherroubi – Education Officer (Operations)

1.4 Purpose of the visit

Visit type	FULL APPROVAL QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT
Visit format	PHYSICAL

The purpose of this full approval quality assurance visit was to review Glasgow Caledonian University's BSc (Hons) Optometry programme to ensure it meets the requirements as listed in the *GOC's Optometry Handbook 2015* and the *GOC List of Requirements*.

This visit took place physically.

1.5 Programme history

Date	Event type	Overview
11/10/2018	Visit	A visit to Glasgow Caledonian University's BSc (Hons) Optometry programme took place to obtain assurance that the standards of teaching and clinical practice within the Programme are compliant with the GOC's Core Competencies and requirements.
20/11/2020	Event	Glasgow Caledonian University notified the GOC they have resumed on-campus face-to-face teaching in some practical and clinical classes. This change was noted and acknowledged.
20/10/2022	Event	Glasgow Caledonian University notified the GOC that their student numbers exceed the GOC approved

		maximum student number of 80 for their year 3 cohort. This was noted and acknowledged.
25/05/2023	Change	Glasgow Caledonian University requested approval from the GOC for a temporary change in assessment regulations. This was acknowledged and approved.
10/10/2023	Event	Glasgow Caledonian University notified the GOC that their student numbers may exceed the GOC approved maximum student number of 80.

PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY

2.1 Visit outcomes

The panel was pleased to observe the commitment to the programme demonstrated by all the staff and students it met. The panel recognises that the programme team is in the process of developing the qualification in line with the GOC's new Education and Training Requirements (ETRs). The panel set **one** new condition and made no recommendations. The panel is satisfied that the programme should continue to be fully approved.

Summary of recommendations to the GOC

Previous conditions	There were **no** previous conditions or recommendations.
New conditions	**One** new condition is set. Details regarding the condition are set out in section **3.1**.
New recommendations	**No** new recommendations are set.
Commendations	**Four** commendations are offered. Details regarding the commendations are set out in section **3.3**.
Actual student numbers	**Year 1** – 96 **Year 2** – 67 **Year 3** – 77 **Year 4 -** 82
Approval status	The programme remains fully approved.
Next visit	The programme, in its current form, is being taught out after the 2023 intake because the provider is intending to make a submission to the GOC for an adapted qualification (in line with the new GOC's new Education and Training requirements – 'ETR') in early 2024. During this transition period between the two sets of GOC standards, another visit may be scheduled in line with our current and/or future quality assurance policies, as deemed appropriate.
Factors to consider when scheduling next visit e.g., when students are in, hospital, audit etc.	Should a further visit be scheduled, it should factor in: • time to speak to students from all cohorts. • time to speak to external examiners. • the implementation of the GOC's new ETRs.

2.2 Previous conditions
The conditions listed below are extracted from the report of 11 October 2018
There were no conditions set at the previous visit.

2.3 Previous recommendations
The recommendations listed below are extracted from the report of 11 October 2018
There were no recommendations set at the previous visit.

2.4 Non-applicable requirements
The panel recommends that some requirements be deemed fully or partially non-applicable to the current programme due to the structure and division of roles between Glasgow Caledonian University and the College of Optometrists (CoO), for example:
• The University only provides evidence of competency in relation to GOC Stage 1 competencies of the route to registration.

OP6.14	Upon completion of the pre-registration placement, the provider must inform the GOC that the student has achieved professional competence at Stage 2 so as to allow them to apply for entry to the GOC Register of Optometrists.
OP6.15	Students must be assessed as competent against each of the Stage 2 GOC Core Competencies.
OP6.16	Students must acquire the minimum amount of patient experience within each patient category (attached in Appendix F).
OP6.17	Students must hold certified portfolios containing a record of both their patient experience and achievement of all core competency elements.
OP6.18	The portfolio must include evidence of how and when each individual element of competence was achieved by the individual student.
OP6.19	The portfolio must contain a case record for each individual patient episode contributing to the minimum requirements.
OP6.20	The portfolio must include evidence of the development of the student's professional judgement through critical thinking and reflection.

PART 3 – CONDITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENDATIONS

Conditions are applied to training and assessment providers if there is evidence that the GOC requirements are not met.

Recommendations indicate enhancements that can be made to a programme, these may not be directly linked to compliance with GOC requirements.

Commendations identify areas of good practice where the programme exceeds GOC requirements for approval.

3.1 Conditions set at this visit
The unmet requirements for this visit are set out below along with the conditions that are required to meet the requirements.

OP2.7	Staffing levels must be increased proportionately to reflect any increase in the number of students recruited to the programme.
OP2.14	There must be a 17:1 student:staff ratio. The net ratio must include both full time and part time hourly paid staff.
Condition 1	The provider must evidence that they meet the 17:1 student:staff ratio for the BSc (Hons) Optometry programme.
Date Due	1 April 2024
Rationale	Documentation presented at the time of the visit demonstrated that the Provider met the required student-staff ratio for the 2022-23 academic year.
	In advance of the visit, the Provider had provided the GOC with early notification of an increase to student numbers for 2023-24 as a result of a large intake to Year 1. These data were preliminary at the time of the visit (October) and would be confirmed at the census point in December.
	The Panel observed, through both documentation and meetings at the visit, that, if confirmed, the preliminary data would mean that the Provider would not meet the required student-staff ratio for the 2023-24 academic year.
	During the Facilities and Resources session, the Provider indicated that, should the SSR fall short of GOC requirements at the census date, a request for additional staff resources would be made to the Faculty Senior Management Team in order to meet the requirement.

3.3 Commendations made at this visit

The panel would like to commend the provider for:
- Providing clear, concise, and well-organised pre-visit documentation.
- Demonstrating a well-organised programme with staff working effectively as a team and engaged students whose views are heard.
- Providing EDI progression data by protected characteristic at programme level.
- Providing their students with comprehensive practical facilities and patient variety.