

PART 1

1 Acknowledgements

The Visitor 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 Visitor Panel also wishes to thank those who took the time to meet with them.

2 Introduction

This report relates to an accreditation visit to Cardiff University's Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) in Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists which took place on 26 February 2018. This report should be read in conjunction with the reports relating to the visits that took place on 12 and 13 April 2016 and 19 and 20 July 2017.

The Visitor Panel:

- Sheila Needham – Lay Chair
- Markham May – Lay Member
- Paul Baines – Ophthalmologist
- Richard Allen – Optometrist, (IP)

The Visitor Panel was accompanied by:

Lisa Venables – Accreditation and Quality Officer/GOC Officer

Ella Pobee – Accreditation and Quality Officer/Observer

The General Optical Council (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 *A Handbook for Optometry: Specialist Registration in Therapeutic Prescribing (July 2008)*.

2.1 Background

In 2015 Cardiff University submitted an application to the GOC for the accreditation of a new part-time, distance learning PgCert in Therapeutic Prescribing for Optometrists, hereby referred to as 'the Programme'.

The University is an existing GOC accredited training provider which is delivering the independent prescribing route to registration in conjunction with the College of Optometrists. The University delivers the training element of the route and the College of Optometrists delivers the practice-based learning and qualifying examination elements of the route.

A Visitor Panel first visited the programme in April 2016 after which provisional approval was granted. A further visit to monitor the University's progress took place in July 2017. During this visit no conditions were set and there was a recommendation to consider the effects of managing two cohorts on the Programme Lead.

The purpose of this visit was to:

- review the programme against the standards listed in the GOC's handbook *Specialist Registration in Therapeutic Prescribing July 2008*;
- assess whether the programme sufficiently meets the GOC's standards to allow the first cohort of students to graduate from the programme and be eligible to apply to enter onto the GOC Specialist register;
- assess whether the programme sufficiently meets the GOC's standards to be awarded full accreditation
- propose an appropriate timeframe for the next visit to take place

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. The documentation also provided updated materials in relation to any changes since the last GOC visit.

3 Visit Outcomes

The visit took place over one day during which the students were not present. The Visitor Panel met with the Programme Lead, the Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes, and the Professor & Director of Learning and Teaching. The Visitor Panel conducted telephone interviews with one External Examiner and students from cohorts one and two.

These meetings, along with documentation provided by the Programme Team prior to, and during, the visit, allowed the Visitor Panel to explore the development of students and the programme.

The Visitor Panel heard positive feedback from all stakeholders regarding the course, particularly in relation to the Programme Lead who, they felt, demonstrated excellent knowledge of the subject and understanding of the students.

No conditions or recommendations were applied by the Visitor Panel to the Programme. The Visitor Panel recommends to the Education Committee that:

- i. no further conditions/recommendations are imposed
- ii. full accreditation is granted
- iii. a maximum of forty-eight students (48) per cohort is agreed
- iv. the next visit takes place by spring 2023

This report will be submitted to the Education Committee meeting taking place on 25 June 2018.

3.1 Previous Conditions

No previous conditions

3.2 Previous Recommendations

The Recommendations listed below are extracted from the 19-20 July 2017.

Description

The Optometry Postgraduate Department should manage the demands made upon the IP Programme Lead in light of the fact that there will be two cohorts of students running concurrently from the semester beginning September 2017.

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 Visitor Panel propose the following condition(s):

Ref.	Condition	Description	Due by
	No conditions		

3.4 Recommendations

The Visitor 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
	No recommendations