



Glasgow Caledonian University
Report of the outcomes of the adaptation to the GOC education & training requirements
Master of Optometry with Independent Prescribing (MOptom IP)
GCU-OP-IP1-ETR
Report confirmed by GOC 23 April 2025

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SECTION ONE – ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This report outlines the outcomes of the review of Glasgow Caledonian University's adapted Master of Optometry with Independent Prescribing (MOptom IP) qualification against the *Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Optometry and Dispensing Optics* (March 2021) and the *Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Additional Supply (AS), Supplementary Prescribing (SP) and/or Independent Prescribing (IP)* (January 2022).

It includes:

- Feedback against each relevant standard (as listed in the merged Adaptation Form).
- The status of all the standards reviewed as part of the adaptation process (which includes the formal response process).
- Any action Glasgow Caledonian University is required to take.

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SECTION TWO – PROVIDER DETAILS

2.1 TYPE OF PROVIDER	
Provider <i>Sole responsibility for the entire route to registration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Awarding Organisation (AO) <i>Sole responsibility for the entire route to registration with centres delivering your qualification(s)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 CENTRE DETAILS	
Centre name(s)	Not applicable.

2.3 EXTERNAL PARTNERS DELIVERING AND/OR MANAGING AREAS OF THE QUALIFICATION
NHS Education Scotland is involved in the delivery of the clinical and practical experience in year five of the qualification.

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SECTION THREE – QUALIFICATION DETAILS

3.1 QUALIFICATION DETAILS	
Qualification title	Master of Optometry with Independent Prescribing (MOptom IP)
Qualification level	SCQF* Level 11 *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
Duration of qualification	5 years
Number of cohorts per academic year	One
Month(s) of student intake	September
Delivery method(s)	Full time
Alternative exit award(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Higher Education in Vision Science - achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits • Diploma of Higher Education in Vision Science - achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits • Bachelor of Science in Vision Science - achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits • Bachelor of Science with Honours in Clinical Vision Science - achieved upon successful completion of 480 credits • Master of Optometry - achieved upon successful completion of 600 credits (requires completion of the Level 11 modules “Independent Prescribing: Prescribing Safely and Effectively” and “Learning and Experience in Practice”)
Total number of students per cohort	80

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SECTION FOUR – SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE ADAPTATION PROCESS

4.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITY	
Type of activity	Review of Glasgow Caledonian University's (university) adapted Master of Optometry with Independent Prescribing (MOptom IP) qualification (qualification) against the <i>Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Optometry and Dispensing Optics</i> (March 2021) and the <i>Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Additional Supply (AS), Supplementary Prescribing (SP) and/or Independent Prescribing (IP)</i> (January 2022).

4.2 GOC REVIEW TEAM	
Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Pobee – Education Development Officer Georgia Smith – Education Development Officer
Manager	Lisa Venables – Education Development Manager
Decision maker	Sam Morgan – Head of Education & CPD
Education Visitor Panel (panel) members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Naylor – Lay Chair Rebekah Stevens– Optometrist member David Hill - Optometrist and Independent Prescribing Optometrist member Janice McCrudden – Optometrist and Independent Prescribing Optometrist member Nicola Szostek – Optometrist & Independent Prescribing optometrist Mark Chatham – Dispensing Optician & Contact Lens Optician

4.3 SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
The qualification has been set no conditions.
<p>The qualification has been set recommendations against the following <i>optometry</i> standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S3.3 S3.4 S3.7 S3.15 S4.4 <p>The qualification has been set recommendations against the following <i>independent prescribing</i> standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S3.3 S3.6 S3.12
Commentary against all the standards reviewed is set out in section 4.4.

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The qualification will remain subject to the GOC's quality assurance and enhancement methods (QAEM) on an ongoing basis.

4.4 STANDARDS OVERVIEW

The standards reviewed as part of the adaptation process for approved qualifications (as outlined in the Adaptation Form**) are listed below along with the outcomes, statuses, actions, and any relevant deadlines. Actions may include the following:

- A **condition** is set when the information submitted did not provide the necessary evidence and assurance that a standard is met; further action is required.
- A **recommendation** is set when the information submitted currently provides the necessary evidence and assurance that a standard is met. However, the GOC has identified this may be an area that could be enhanced or that will need to be reviewed to ensure the standard continues to be met; further action is required.
- **No further action** is required – the information submitted provides the necessary assurance that a standard is met.

The following standards listed were **not reviewed as part of the adaptation process but are monitored as part of the GOC's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Methods (QAEM):

- Standard one - public and patient safety S1.1, S1.2, S1.3, S1.4
- Standard two - admissions of students S2.2, S2.3, S2.4
- Standard three - assessment of outcomes and curriculum design S3.2, S3.8, S3.9, S3.10, S3.11, S3.12, S3.13, S3.20, S3.21
- Standard four - management, monitoring and review of approved qualifications S4.6, S4.7, S4.8, S4.9, S4.10, S4.11, S4.12
- Standard five: leadership, resources and capacity S5.3, S5.4, S5.5

Further details on the evidence that the university was required to complete or submit as part of the education and training requirements (ETR) adaptation process can be found here <https://optical.org/en/publications/qualifications-in-optometry-or-dispensing-optics/> & <https://optical.org/en/publications/qualifications-in-additional-supply-as-supplementary-prescribing-sp-and-or-independent-prescribing-ip-categories/>

Optometry standard no.	S2.1
Optometry standard description	Selection and admission criteria must be appropriate for entry to an approved qualification leading to registration as an optometrist or dispensing optician, including relevant health, character, and fitness to train checks. For overseas students, this should include evidence of proficiency in the English language of at least level 7 overall (with no individual section lower than 6.5) on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scale or equivalent.

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Independent Prescribing no.	S2.1
Independent Prescribing standard description	Selection and admission criteria must be appropriate for entry to an approved qualification for specialist entry to the GOC register (AS, SP and/or IP categories) including relevant health, character and fitness to practise checks. For overseas trainees, this should include evidence of proficiency in the English language of at least level 7 overall (with no individual section lower than 6.5) on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scale or equivalent.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 09 – GCU Admissions Policy • Appendix 10 – GCU Contextualised Admissions Policy • Appendix 11 – GCU Criminal Convictions Policy • Appendix 12 – GCU SHLS Fitness to Practise Policy. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions and selection processes appear clear and consistent. • There are appropriate checks e.g., Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. • The IELTS level is appropriate, and a clear explanation is provided on the webpage.

Optometry standard no.	S2.5
Optometry standard description	Recognition of prior learning must be supported by effective and robust policies and systems. These must ensure that students admitted at a point other than the start of a programme have the potential to meet the outcomes for award of the approved qualification. Prior learning must be recognised in accordance with guidance issued by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and/or Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)/Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)/Qualifications Wales/Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and must not exempt students from summative assessments leading to the award of the approved qualification, unless achievement of prior learning can be evidenced as equivalent.

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Independent Prescribing no.	S2.5
Independent Prescribing standard description	Recognition of prior learning must be supported by effective and robust policies and systems. These must ensure that trainees admitted at a point other than the start of a programme have the potential to meet the outcomes for the award of the approved qualification. Prior learning must be recognised in accordance with guidance issued by The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and/or The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) / Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) / Qualifications Wales / Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and must not exempt trainees from summative assessments leading to the award of the approved qualification. (If necessary, separate arrangements will be made for the safe transition of trainees who have not yet completed GOC-approved therapeutic prescribing qualifications programmes prior to the introduction of the new outcomes and standards.)
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 09 – GCU Admissions Policy • Appendix 13 – GCU RPL Policy. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The university's RPL policy and processes are effective and robust.

Optometry standard no.	S3.1
Optometry standard description	There must be a clear assessment strategy for the award of an approved qualification. The strategy must describe how the outcomes will be assessed, how assessment will measure students' achievement of outcomes at the required level (Miller's Pyramid) and how this leads to an award of an approved qualification.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.1
Independent Prescribing	There must be a clear assessment strategy for the award of an approved qualification. The strategy must describe how the outcomes will be

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standard description	assessed, how assessment will measure trainees' achievement of outcomes at the required level (Miller's Pyramid) and how this leads to an award of an approved qualification.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative (p.6) • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 05 – GCU MOptom IP Programme Specification • Appendix 06 – GCU MOptom IP Module Descriptors • Appendix 14 – SCQF Level Descriptors • Appendix 15 – GCU Assessment Preparation Guidance for Academic Staff • Appendix 16 – GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2023-24 • Appendix 17 – GCU Assessment and Moderation Policy • Appendix 19 – GCU ETR Meeting Log Jan 2024 v.2 • Appendix 20 – GCU ETR Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Feb-May 2022 • Appendix 35 - Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The university has engaged with a variety of stakeholders. • The assessment strategy is clear and comprehensive and includes the mapping and achievement of outcomes to appropriate frameworks (see OP S3.7 & IP S3.6 for further information).

Independent Prescribing standard no.	S3.2
Independent Prescribing description	The approved qualification must be taught and assessed (diagnostically, formatively and summatively) in a progressive and integrated manner. The component parts should be linked into a cohesive programme (for example, Harden's spiral curriculum), introducing, progressing and assessing knowledge, skills and behaviour until the outcomes are achieved.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.

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Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 36 - Terms of Reference and Standard Operations of PABS • Further information narrative. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes have been mapped against Miller's Pyramid. • Trainee progression mechanisms are outlined and appear robust. • The assessment strategy appears robust. • There is a good combination of summative assessment methods. • There are planned points for monitoring student attainment and progression.
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Optometry standard no.	S3.3
Optometry standard description	The approved qualification must provide experience of working with: patients (such as patients with disabilities, children, their carers, etc); inter-professional learning (IPL); and team work and preparation for entry into the workplace in a variety of settings (real and simulated) such as clinical practice, community, manufacturing, research, domiciliary and hospital settings (for example, Harden's ladder of integration ¹⁰). This experience must increase in volume and complexity as a student progresses through a programme.
Status	MET – recommendation.
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 05 – GCU MOptom IP Programme Specification • Appendix 18 – GCU Department of Vision Sciences Clinical Facilities • A draft of the partnership agreement between the university and NHS Education Scotland

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualification has incorporated Miller's pyramid. IPL is evident throughout the qualification. Students will gain appropriate levels of clinical experience throughout placements and within the university's vision centre. <p>Although the evidence submitted demonstrates how the university meets this standard, the GOC requires a copy of the signed and finalised partnership agreement between the university and NHS Education Scotland.</p>
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Optometry standard no.	S3.4
Optometry standard description	Curriculum design, delivery and the assessment of outcomes must involve and be informed by feedback from a range of stakeholders such as patients, employers, students, placement providers, commissioners, members of the eye-care team and other healthcare professionals. Stakeholders involved in the teaching, supervision and/or assessment of students must be appropriately trained and supported, including in equality and diversity.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.3
Independent Prescribing standard description	Curriculum design and the assessment of outcomes must involve and be informed by feedback from a range of stakeholders such as patients, employers, trainees, commissioners, placement providers, members of the eye-care team and other healthcare professionals.
Status	MET – recommendation.
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template 2 – Criteria Narrative Appendix 19 – GCU ETR Meeting Log Jan 2024 Appendix 20 – GCU ETR Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Feb-May 2022 Appendix 21 – NES ETR Focus Group Outcomes Report Appendix 22 – GCU ETR Focus Groups Staff August 2022 Notes Appendix 23 GCU ETR Focus Group Students May 2022 Notes Evidence submitted in support of a further information request.

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	<p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Education Scotland stakeholders (including supervisors and assessors) are appropriately trained. • There is an appropriate E-learning suite/training programme. • Stakeholder diversity and engagement in curriculum design and the assessment of outcomes is robust. • Work is currently taking place on the completion of the relevant training modules that assessors and supervisors will undertake. <p>Although the evidence submitted demonstrates how the university meets this standard, the GOC requires the finalised optometric specific training programme for supervisors including the last four remaining modules that relate to year five assessment.</p>
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Optometry standard no.	S3.5
Optometry standard description	The outcomes must be assessed using a range of methods and all final, summative assessments must be passed. This means that compensation, trailing and extended re-sit opportunities within and between modules where outcomes are assessed is not permitted.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.4
Independent Prescribing standard description	The outcomes must be assessed using a range of methods and all final, summative assessments must be passed. This means that compensation, trailing and extended re-sit opportunities within and between modules where outcomes are assessed is not permitted.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 05 – GCU MOptom IP Programme Specification • Appendix 16 – GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2023-24. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment strategy includes a variety of assessment methods. • Appropriate compensation and resits are allowed.

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Optometry standard no.	S3.6
Optometry standard description	Assessment (including lowest pass) criteria, choice, and design of assessment items (diagnostic, formative and summative) leading to the award of an approved qualification must seek to ensure safe and effective practice and be appropriate for a qualification leading to registration as an optometrist or dispensing optician.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.5
Independent Prescribing standard description	Assessment (including lowest pass) criteria, choice and design of assessment items (diagnostic, formative and summative) leading to the award of an approved qualification must ensure safe and effective practice and be appropriate for a qualification for specialist entry to the GOC register (AS, SP and/or IP).
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Appendix 06 – GCU MOptom IP Module Descriptors • Appendix 15 – GCU Assessment Preparation Guidance for Academic Staff • Appendix 16 – GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2023-24 • Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The university has examples of marking criteria and rubrics that include specific examples of unsafe practice to guide assessors. These examples cover both the optometry and independent prescribing elements of the qualification. • The pass mark is made explicit and is in line with the optometric academic sector.

Optometry standard no.	S3.7
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Optometry standard description	Assessment (including lowest pass) criteria must be explicit and set at the right standard, using an appropriate and tested standard-setting process. This includes assessments which might occur during learning and experience in practice, in the workplace or during inter-professional learning.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.6
Independent Prescribing standard description	Assessment (including lowest pass) criteria must be explicit and set using an appropriate and tested standard-setting process. This includes assessments which occur during learning and experience in practice.
Status	MET – recommendation.
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 19 – GCU ETR Meeting Log Jan 2024 • Appendix 20 – GCU ETR Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Feb-May 2022 • Appendix 21 – NES ETR Focus Group Outcomes Report • Appendix 22 – GCU ETR Focus Groups Staff August 2022 Notes • Appendix 23 GCU ETR Focus Group Students May 2022 Notes • Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Education Scotland stakeholders (including supervisors and assessors) are appropriately trained. • There is an E-learning suite/training programme. • Stakeholder diversity and engagement in curriculum design and the assessment of outcomes is robust. • Work is currently taking place on the completion of the relevant training modules that assessors and supervisors will undertake. <p>Although the evidence submitted demonstrates how the university meets this standard, the GOC requires a copy of the signed and finalised partnership agreement between the University and NHS Education Scotland and the completed year five assessment strategy which is due for completion in July 2025.</p>

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Optometry standard no.	S3.14
Optometry standard description	There must be a range of teaching and learning methods to deliver the outcomes that integrates scientific, professional, and clinical theories and practices in a variety of settings and uses a range of procedures, drawing upon the strengths and opportunities of context in which the qualification is offered.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.11
Independent Prescribing standard description	A range of teaching and learning methods must be used to deliver the outcomes.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 19 – GCU ETR Meeting Log Jan 2024 • Appendix 20 – GCU ETR Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Feb-May 2022 • Appendix 35 - Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualification includes a variety of assessment methods. • There is an appropriate range of learning and teaching methods within the qualification.

Optometry standard no.	S3.15
Optometry standard description	In meeting the outcomes, the approved qualification must integrate at least 1600 hours/48 weeks of patient-facing learning and experience in practice. Learning and experience in practice must take place in one or more periods of time and one or more settings of practice.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.12
Independent Prescribing	To enable the development of trainees' clinical, diagnostic and prescribing skills to meet the outcomes, the approved qualification must integrate learning and experience in practice (as a guide, approximately 90 hours).

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standard description	The supervision of a trainee's learning and experience in practice must be co-ordinated by an appropriately trained and qualified registered healthcare professional (DPP) with independent prescribing rights. (See also S4.4-S4.6.)
Status	MET – recommendation.
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – criteria narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – module outcome map • Appendix 3 – Programme Specification • Appendix 4 – Module descriptors • Evidence submitted in support of a further information request • Evidence submitted in support of the formal response process. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The optometry element of the qualification includes the required minimum 1600 hours/48 weeks of patient-facing learning and experience in practice. • The independent prescribing element of the qualification includes the required minimum 90 hours of patient-facing learning and experience in practice. <p>Although the evidence submitted demonstrates how the university meets this standard, the GOC requires a copy of the signed and finalised partnership agreement between the University and NHS Education Scotland.</p>

Optometry standard no.	S3.16
Optometry standard description	Outcomes delivered and assessed during learning and experience in practice must be clearly identified within the assessment strategy and fully integrated within the programme leading to the award of an approved qualification.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.13
Independent Prescribing standard description	Outcomes delivered and assessed during learning and experience in practice must be clearly identified, included within the assessment strategy and fully integrated within the programme leading to the award of an approved qualification.

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Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module Outcome Map • Template 8 – Mapping to Indicative Guidance. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “DOES” outcomes will be delivered in the onsite clinic and during the year five placement. • The qualification provides clinical learning and practice in different environments. • There is a clear rationale for outcomes taught within clinical settings.

Optometry standard no.	S3.17
Optometry standard description	The selection of outcomes to be taught and assessed during learning and experience in practice and the choice and design of assessment items must be informed by feedback from stakeholders, such as patients, students, employers, placement providers, members of the eye-care team and other healthcare professionals.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.14
Independent Prescribing standard description	The selection of outcomes to be taught and assessed during periods of learning and experience in practice and the choice and design of assessment items must be informed by feedback from a variety of sources, such as patients, employers, trainees, DPPs, members of the eye-care team and other healthcare professionals.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 06 – GCU MOptom IP Module Descriptors

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 19 – GCU ETR Meeting Log Jan 2024 • Appendix 20 – GCU ETR Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Feb-May 2022 • Appendix 21 – NES ETR Focus Group Outcomes Report • Appendix 22 – GCU ETR Focus Groups Staff August 2022 Notes • Appendix 23 GCU ETR Focus Group Students May 2022 Notes. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are clear, and comprehensive examples of engagement with a wide and varied range of relevant stakeholders. • Engagement subject areas include assessment strategy/assessments, placements and learning outcomes.
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Optometry standard no.	S3.19
Optometry standard description	The collection and analysis of equality and diversity data must inform curriculum design, delivery, and assessment of the approved qualification. This analysis must include students' progression by protected characteristic. In addition, the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion must be embedded in curriculum design and assessment and used to enhance students' experience of studying on a programme leading to an approved qualification.
Independent Prescribing no.	S3.15
Independent Prescribing standard description	Equality and diversity data and its analysis must inform curriculum design, delivery and assessment of the approved qualification. This analysis must include trainees' progression by protected characteristic. In addition, the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion must be embedded in curriculum design and assessment and used to enhance trainees' experience of studying on a programme leading to an approved qualification.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 24 – GCU Dignity at Work and Study Policy • Appendix 25 – GCU MOptom IP Equality Impact Assessment Form

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 26 – GCU Inclusive and Accessible Learning and Teaching Checklist Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDI and protected characteristic data have informed qualification design, delivery, policy and procedures. Appropriate analysis of progression by protected characteristics is undertaken.
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Optometry standard no.	S4.1
Optometry standard description	The provider of the approved qualification must be legally incorporated (i.e., not be an unincorporated association) and provide assurance it has the authority and capability to award the approved qualification.
Independent Prescribing no.	S4.2
Independent Prescribing standard description	The organisation responsible for the award of the approved qualification must be legally incorporated (i.e. not be an unincorporated association) and have the authority and capability to award the approved qualification.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template 2 – Criteria Narrative Appendix 27 – GCU Establishment Order (Abridged) Appendix 28 – GCU Qualifications Framework. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The university has the appropriate legal status and degree awarding powers.

Optometry standard no.	S4.2
Optometry standard description	The provider of the approved qualification must be able to accurately describe its corporate form, its governance, and lines of accountability in relation to its award of the approved qualification.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.

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Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 29 – GCU Oder of Council 2010 • Appendix 30 GCU Amendment Order of Council 2020 • Appendix 31 GCU University Governance 2023 • Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualification’s governance structures, committees, and lines of accountability are clear and appropriate.

Optometry standard no.	S4.4
Optometry standard description	The provider of the approved qualification may be owned by a consortium of organisations or some other combination of separately constituted bodies. Howsoever constituted, the relationship between the constituent organisations and the ownership of the provider responsible for the award of the approved qualification must be clear.
Status	MET – recommendation
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 01 – MOptom IP Memorandum of Understanding SG NES GCU IHI • Appendix 03 – MOptom IP Letter of Confirmation of Placement Support • A draft of the partnership agreement between the university and NHS Education Scotland. • Evidence submitted in support of a further information request. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are well-defined roles and responsibilities for both the university and NHS Education Scotland and these are clearly outlined.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The university understands its role as the sole provider for the qualification. <p>Although the evidence submitted demonstrates how the university meets this standard, the GOC requires a copy of the signed and finalised partnership agreement between the university and NHS Education Scotland.</p>
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Optometry standard no.	S4.5
Optometry standard description	The provider of the approved qualification must have a named person who will be the primary point of contact for the GOC.
Independent Prescribing no.	S4.3
Independent Prescribing standard description	The provider must have a named point of contact for the approved qualification.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template 2 – Criteria Narrative. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualification has an appropriate named person.

Optometry standard no.	S4.13
Optometry standard description	There must be an effective mechanism to identify risks to the quality of the delivery and assessment of the approved qualification, ensure appropriate management of commercial conflicts of interest and to identify areas requiring development.
Independent Prescribing no.	S4.11
Independent Prescribing standard description	There must be an effective mechanism to identify risks to the quality of the delivery and assessment of the approved qualification and to identify areas requiring attention or development.

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Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 32 – SHLS Risk Register 2023-2024 • Appendix 33 – MOptom IP Risk Register Dec 2023 • Appendix 39 - Register of Interests Policy • Appendix 40 - Anti-Bribery Policy • Appendix 41 - Gifts and Hospitality Policy • Appendix 42 - Public Interest Disclosure Policy. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are appropriate mechanisms and quality assurance processes in place for identifying and mitigating risks to the qualification. • The university has considered and implemented appropriate mechanisms for the management of commercial conflicts of interest within the qualification.

Optometry standard no.	S5.1
Optometry standard description	There must be robust and transparent mechanisms for identifying, securing, and maintaining a sufficient and appropriate level of ongoing resource to deliver the outcomes to meet these standards, including human and physical resources that are fit for purpose and clearly integrated into strategic and business plans. Evaluations of resources and capacity must be evidenced, together with evidence of recommendations considered and implemented.
Independent Prescribing no.	S5.1
Independent Prescribing standard description	There must be robust and transparent mechanisms for identifying, securing and maintaining a sufficient and appropriate level of ongoing resources to deliver the outcomes to meet these standards, including human and physical resources that are fit for purpose and clearly integrated into strategic and business plans. Evaluations of resources and capacity must be evidenced together with evidence of recommendations considered and implemented.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.

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Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 34 – GCU Department of Vision Sciences Staffing. <p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are mechanisms for identifying, securing and maintaining a sufficient and appropriate level of resource.
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Optometry standard no.	S5.2
Optometry standard description	<p>There must be sufficient and appropriately qualified and experienced staff to teach and assess the outcomes. These must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appropriately qualified and experienced programme leader, supported to succeed in their role; • sufficient staff responsible for the delivery and assessment of the outcomes, including GOC registrants and other suitably qualified healthcare professionals; • sufficient supervision of students' learning in practice by GOC registrants who are appropriately trained and supported in their role; • and an appropriate student:staff ratio (SSR), which must be benchmarked to comparable provision.
Independent Prescribing no.	S5.2
Independent Prescribing standard description	<p>There must be a sufficient and appropriately qualified and experienced staff team. This must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appropriately qualified and experienced programme leader, supported to succeed in their role; and • sufficient staff responsible for the teaching and assessment of the outcomes, including GOC registrants and other suitably qualified healthcare professionals.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	<p>The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.</p> <p>Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCU IP ADP-FRM Adaptation form • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Appendix 34 – GCU Department of Vision Sciences Staffing.

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	<p>The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current staff/student ratio has been appropriately benchmarked. • There are sufficient staff responsible for the delivery of the assessment of outcomes from a suitable range of professional backgrounds. • There are well-defined roles and responsibilities for both the university and the NHS Education Scotland stakeholders and these are clearly outlined.
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