

Education Strategic Review

Consultation on Education Standards and Learning Outcomes

General Optical Council



We are currently conducting an Education Strategic Review (ESR) and as part of this have developed new draft Education Standards and Learning Outcomes. A public consultation on these draft standards and outcomes was opened on 12 November 2018 and closed on 25 February 2019.

The responses to this consultation will help to inform our risk and impact assessment regarding the introduction of these new Education Standards and Learning Outcomes.

What we heard...

We received 539 responses to the consultation survey from individual registrants, universities and professional bodies and organisations.

As a result of a campaign by ABDO, Dispensing Opticians were overrepresented within the responses.



of respondents believed that the draft standards and learning outcomes, either fully or partially, addressed the key themes of the Concepts and Principles of ESR

Key opportunities identified:

- the flexibility of an outcomes based approach and the likelihood of this leading to more innovation/updating of course content
- the emphasis on more practical experience for students was also welcome



Key impacts identified:

- a risk of lower standards due to the outcomes being interpreted differently across different providers
- many respondents wanted to retain an independent final examination/assessment
- implementing more/varied student placements has implications in terms of funding, would be difficult to manage for education/training bodies and placement providers, and may negatively impact students due to the increased requirement to travel.

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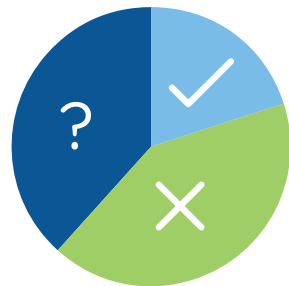
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of respondents disagreed that the draft Standards and Learning Outcomes are fit for purpose

Key themes included:

- concerns about the proposed shift to the integrated model and lack of independent assessment



19% of respondents stated the timescale was realistic

39% of respondents stated the timescale was unrealistic

36% of respondents stated they were unsure



of respondents supported the proposal to link the Learning Outcomes to CET

Views on student registration:

Many respondents (including students) believed that there was a strong argument for retaining student registration



Those for student registration:

registration encourages students to have a clear understanding of their responsibilities. This promotes professionalism and protects the public.

Those against student registration:

- it is a financial burden on students
- the profession is out of step with other health professions who do not require students to be registered - is the GOC approach proportionate?

Key benefits:

- increased flexibility for registrants to tailor learning to their interests

Key barriers:

- core competencies could become neglected