

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND (UWE Bristol)**

**GOC Quality Assurance visit.**

**BSc (Hons) Optometry**

**9 and 10 June 2021**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1 Visit outcomes .....	5
2.2 Previous conditions set at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.....	5
2.3 Recommendations made at the previous visit on 22 and 23 July 2020. ....	6
2.4 No conditions were set at this visit. ....	8
2.5 Recommendations made at this visit.....	8
2.6 Commendations.....	8

# PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS

1.1 PROVIDER DETAILS	
Address	University of the West of England, Bristol Glenside Campus Blackberry Hill Stapleton Bristol BS16 1DD.

1.2 PROGRAMME DETAILS	
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Optometry.
Programme type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time.</li> <li>• Three years.</li> <li>• On campus lectures, seminars, and workshops (online at present due to the COVID19 pandemic), on site clinical skills teaching, with placements periodically during the programme.</li> <li>• Problem based learning and clinical skills.</li> </ul>
Current approval status	Provisionally approved.
Approved/current student numbers	60.

1.3 GOC EDUCATION VISITOR PANEL	
Chair	Mark Bissell, Lay Chair.
Visitors	Preeti Bhogal-Bhamra, Optometrist and Independent Prescriber. Carl Stychin, Lay Member. Kevin Gutsell, Dispensing Optician. Brendan Barrett, Optometrist.
GOC representative	Shaun de Riggs, Approval and Quality Assurance Officer.
Observers	Will Naylor, Education Visitor Panel member. Matthew Tovey, Education Quality Assurance Officer.

1.4. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT	
Visit type	Approval Visit
<p>The purpose of this full approval visit was to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the University of the West of England's BSc (Hons) Optometry to ensure it meets the requirements as listed in the GOC's <i>Optometry Handbook</i> and the GOC <i>Education A&amp;QA-Supplementary Documents-List of Requirements</i> (list of Optometry programme requirements).</li> <li>2. Consider whether the programme sufficiently meets the GOC's requirements for it to be granted full approval and make a recommendation to the executive on approval status.</li> <li>3. Review whether the evidence submitted in support of conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4, which were set at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020, is sufficient for this action to be deemed met.</li> </ol>	

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency this visit took place remotely.

### 1.5 PROGRAMME HISTORY

Set out a chronology of the key events affecting the programme in the last FIVE years, including any visits and key events.

Date	Event type	Overview
11/10/2017	Visit	GOC provisional approval visit – recommendation to Education Committee that provisional approval should be granted, subject to a visit before the programme is due to commence.
12/06/2018	Visit	GOC revisit – provisional approval continues with 15 conditions recommended by the EVP.
05/06/2019	Visit	GOC visit – provisional approval with 4 conditions and three recommendations recommended by the EVP.
23/07/2020	Visit	GOC visit – provisional approval with 4 conditions and eight recommendations recommended by the EVP.
16/04/2021	Visit	GOC visit (one registrant EVP member and Approval and Quality Assurance Officer) – virtual observation of clinical teaching and a tour of the clinical facilities.
10/06/2021	Visit	GOC visit – recommendation to Council that the programme should be granted full approval, with seven recommendations and one commendation provided by the EVP.

## PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY

2.1 Visit outcomes	
The Panel recommended that the University of West of England's BSc (Hons) Optometry should be granted full approval at the next Council meeting. The EVP made seven recommendations and one commendation for the programme.	
Summary of recommendations to the GOC	
<b>Previous conditions.</b>	All four previous conditions set at the July 2020 visit were deemed as met by the EVP.
<b>New conditions</b>	No new conditions are set
<b>New recommendations</b>	<b>Seven</b> recommendations are offered.  Details regarding the recommendations are set out in Part 3.
<b>Commendations</b>	The EVP offers <b>one</b> commendation,  Details regarding the commendation are set out in Part 3.
<b>Student numbers</b>	Year 1 - 58 students. Year 2 – 64 students. Year 3 – 23 students.
<b>Next visit</b>	The next visit should take place by June 2024.
<b>Factors to consider when scheduling next visit e.g., when students are in, hospital, audit etc.</b>	TBC

2.2 Previous conditions set at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.			
Ref No.	Condition	Due date	Met?
1	The University must provide the GOC with all the following teaching and assessment materials including competency assessment: Clinical Skills 3, Posterior Eye, Dissertation Studies, Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2, Advanced Glaucoma Studies & Medical Retina Studies.  This should include access for the Panel to the VLE within agreed time periods.	27 November 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>  Based on the teaching and assessment materials submitted to the GOC and subsequently reviewed by the EVP at the visit, the Panel deemed that this condition had been met.
2	The University must urgently complete the Eye Clinic in the existing Blackberry Centre.  The GOC must be informed on Friday 21 August 2020 that the building work has been completed and a subsequent update on Friday 2 October 2020 regarding the	02 October 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>  Based on the updates provided to the GOC as requested and a virtual tour of the completed clinical

	installation of the equipment. Should there be any slippages in deadlines, the GOC must be promptly informed.		facilities on 16 April 2021, the Panel deemed that this condition had been met.
3	The University must follow through with their plan to appoint new staff and provide the GOC with an update of the entire staff profile, workload and responsibilities.	02 October 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>  Based on the information provided to the GOC as requested, and discussions at the visit, the Panel deemed that this condition had been met.
4	The GOC must be provided with detailed plans of how the volume and range of patient experience will be delivered for the Year 3 Optometry cohort.	02 April 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>  Based on the information provided to the GOC as requested, and discussions at the visit, the Panel deemed that this condition had been met.

### 2.3 Recommendations made at the previous visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.

The Panel offers the following recommendation(s) 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	Comments
1	The Education Visitor Panel would benefit in the future with secure and appropriate access to systems enabling the review of the required Optometry programme material.	The EVP noted and were satisfied with the progress that had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.
2	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Programme team would benefit from improving means of capturing more informative responses and an increased measure of student participation when seeking feedback about the Optometry programme.	The EVP noted and were satisfied with the progress that had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.
3	The Education Visitor Panel feel that The Programme team would benefit from reviewing the effectiveness of feedback mechanisms about programme quality from a variety of sources including patients, students, staff, supervisors and employers.	As the Panel noted that a lack of progress had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020, the Panel offered a further recommendation to the provider ( <b>please see Part 3 for the new recommendation</b> ).
4	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Optometry programme would benefit from External Examiners being afforded sufficient time and capacity to scrutinise	As the Panel noted that a lack of progress had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020, the Panel

	clinical portfolios and records of clinical competence.	offered a further recommendation to the provider ( <b>please see Part 3 for the new recommendation</b> ).
5	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Optometry programme team would benefit from increased multi-disciplinary learning opportunities, such as the campus healthcare simulation day, enabling Optometry students to gain enhanced experience of working as part of the wider healthcare team.	As the Panel noted that a lack of progress had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020, the Panel offered a further recommendation to the provider ( <b>please see Part 3 for the new recommendation</b> ).
6	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Optometry programme would benefit from the External Examiners achieving improved access, participation and contribution to oversight within the strategic management structure.	As the Panel noted that a lack of progress had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020, the Panel offered a further recommendation to the provider ( <b>please see Part 3 for the new recommendation</b> ).
7	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Optometry programme team would benefit from negotiating and influencing improved timeliness and effectiveness of communications between the programme itself and the relevant student administration team.	The EVP noted and were satisfied with the progress that had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.
8	The Education Visitor Panel feel that the Optometry programme team would benefit from adopting a more structured process for the auditing of feedback from practice-based learning placement providers.	The EVP noted and were satisfied with the progress that had been made following this recommendation being offered at the visit on 22 and 23 July 2020.

## PART 3 – CONDITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENDATIONS

### 3.1 No conditions were set at this visit.

### 3.2 Recommendations made at this visit

The Panel offers the following recommendation(s) 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	To consider reviewing the APL policy for the Optometry programme to ensure proportionate access/opportunity for dispensing opticians or contact lens opticians to have their prior learning taken into account when being admitted on the programme.
2	The Optometry programme would benefit from the exploration and development of opportunities for enhanced multi-disciplinary learning, with greater participation and involvement for programme students, e.g., shared care schemes, in line with the expansion of primary care within optometry, including safeguarding issues, etc.
3	The Programme team are encouraged to reflect on assessment methods that needed to be implemented during the pandemic to ensure that a diverse, robust, and sustainable range of assessment methods is adopted.
4	To give due consideration to resuming the bi-annual Stakeholder Forum to ensure the continuation of stakeholder engagement and to inform the future development of the Optometry programme.
5	To ensure that External Examiners have ample opportunity to review all assessments, including clinical portfolios for the Optometry programme.
6	The EVP considered that the Optometry programme would benefit from the External Examiners achieving improved access, participation, and contribution to oversight within the strategic management structure.
7	In the context of the GOC's Education Strategic Review, the EVP considered that the Programme team would benefit from additional acknowledgment and continuing support from strategic management, particularly regarding workload and protected time for the Optometry programme to continue to meet the GOC requirements in the new landscape of optical education.

### 3.3 Commendations

The Panel identifies the following areas of good practice where the programme exceeds GOC requirements for approval.

The Panel are delighted to commend the UWE Programme for the variety and quality of the approaches used to support students on the Programme itself, not only in relation to their learning but also their wellbeing and welfare.