

BRADFORD COLLEGE
GOC QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT
CONTACT LENS PROGRAMME
11-12 November 2019 (2 days)

Date report completed	2 January 2020
Report confirmed by GOC	2 January 2020

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PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS

1.2 PROGRAMME DETAILS	
Programme title	Contact Lenses
Programme type	Certificate
Current approval status	Full Approval
Approved/current student numbers	September 2019 intake: 11

1.3 GOC EDUCATION VISITOR PANEL	
Chair	Sally Powell, Lay Member
Visitors	Paula Baines, Dispensing / Contact Lens Optician Christine Harm, Dispensing / Contact Lens Optician Markham May, Lay Member Nicola Szostec, Optometrist
GOC representative	Richard Calver, Approval and Quality Assurance Officer
Observers	Pam McClean, Optometrist

1.4. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT	
Visit type	Quality Assurance Visit
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To perform a full quality assurance visit in accordance with the GOC's routine quality assurance processes. To confirm that the programme meets the requirements for institutions training students preparing for eventual entry to the Opticians Contact Lens Specialty Register. 	

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
November 2015	Visit	The programme received full approval as a programme contributing to the route to registration for contact lens opticians. Two conditions were set, and six recommendations were made.

PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY

2.1 Visit outcomes	
<p>The Panel recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the programme meets the requirements for training institutions contributing to the route to registration for contact lens opticians; 2. both existing conditions are met; 3. no new conditions are set; 4. eight new recommendations are made; 5. one commendation is issued; 6. the current staffing and facilities permit a maximum capacity of 24 students. <p>The programme team is reminded of the requirement to inform the GOC of any changes which may affect the delivery of the programme (<i>viz</i> Requirement A6.4), which include, but are not limited to, staffing changes, increased student intake or possible new programmes.</p>	
Summary of recommendations to the GOC	
Previous conditions – met/not met	Both conditions have been met.
New conditions	0
New recommendations	8
Commendations	1
Student numbers	The current staffing and facilities permit a maximum capacity of 24 students
Approval/next visit	Between 4 and 18 November 2024.
Factors to consider when scheduling next visit e.g. when students are in, hospital, audit etc.	Students attend for one day per week: the visit should take place when students are in attendance.

2.2 Previous conditions (Reference numbers refer to the relevant section of the previous report)			
The conditions listed below are extracted from the report of 22 April 2019			
Ref No.	Condition	Due date	Met?
1	To build on and further develop the recent work to establish monitoring systems for the programme implementation of student feedback on module system and the annual monitoring report.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	To embed quality control mechanisms into the course and evidence contact lens certificate achievement data.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

2.3 Previous recommendations	
The recommendations listed below are extracted from the report of Click or tap to enter a date.	
Description	Comments
Further assessment tools to be developed to ensure robust formative assessment to give a clear indication of student progress in achieving learning outcomes.	This has not been fully actioned, as there are few marked assessments. Further action is therefore recommended to formalise the formative assessments, and is the subject of a new recommendation (see Section 2.5 recommendation 1).
To consider looking into alternative accommodation for some lectures to create a more pleasant environment conducive to teaching and learning.	Actioned.
To seriously consider the implications of a higher volume of students on provision of resources, classroom and clinic space and staff ratios.	Not actioned, but the programme team has plans for future developments in student intake and new programmes.
As the programme is closely linked with the ABDO exam system ensure students and supervisors are fully informed of ABDO exam requirements and proactively ensure all students and supervisors are fully cognisant of their responsibilities.	The Panel heard of no obvious problems regarding students' or supervisors' knowledge of ABDO requirements, and concluded that the programme team has addressed this recommendation.
Formalise the tracking of student achievement in ABDO exams and practicals.	This has been actioned, but more progress is possible.
To consider more contemporary instruments such as a video slit lamp and corneal topographer.	This has been partly actioned: a video slit-lamp has been acquired but a topographer has not (See Section 2.5, recommendation 6).

2.4 Conditions set at this visit
 Conditions are applied to training and assessment providers if there is evidence that the GOC requirements are not met. The conditions (unmet requirements) for this visit are set out at 3. below.

2.5 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	The programme team should formalise and evidence the process of assessment to gauge student progress. This should involve assessments to prepare students for ABDO exams, track student progress, and help staff and students understand areas of difficulty.
2	Now that new staff have been recruited, the Panel recommends that the Programme Leader delegates tasks to other staff, to develop their expertise and to share the workload which will allow the programme leader to more easily fulfil his leadership role.

3	The team should work together more closely to develop appropriate teaching and learning strategies, including peer observation and peer support within the team.
4	The team should continue to develop more blended learning opportunities, and continue to develop Moodle to facilitate formative assessment.
5	The team should have access to appropriate technical support.
6	A topographer would greatly benefit the programme, particularly with increasing emphasis on new technologies and techniques (e.g. myopia control).
7	The team should develop an online training programme for practice supervisors.
8	The team should develop a tracking process for the formal tracking of students' progress towards achieving core competencies, and develop written guidance for practical supervisors to clarify the criteria for achieving competence.

2.6 Commendations

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

The Panel viewed a teaching session in which a video slit lamp was used to record evidence to support a student's competency assessment. The Panel commends this innovation for evidencing practical competence, and encourages the programme team that it should be developed further.

PART 3 – CONDITIONS – None Set
