



Glasgow Caledonian University
Report of the outcomes of the adaptation to the GOC education & training requirements
BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing
GCU-DO1-ETR
Report confirmed by GOC – 16 June 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE – ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT	3
1.1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT	3
SECTION TWO – PROVIDER DETAILS.....	4
2.1 TYPE OF PROVIDER	4
2.2 CENTRE DETAILS	4
2.3 EXTERNAL PARTNERS DELIVERING AND/OR MANAGING AREAS OF THE QUALIFICATION	4
SECTION THREE – QUALIFICATION DETAILS	5
3.1 QUALIFICATION DETAILS	5
SECTION FOUR – SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE ADAPTATION PROCESS	6
4.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITY	6
4.2 GOC REVIEW TEAM	6
4.3 SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	6
4.4 STANDARDS OVERVIEW	6

SECTION ONE – ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This report outlines the outcomes of the review of Glasgow Caledonian University's adapted BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing qualification against the *Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Optometry and Dispensing Optics* (March 2021).

It includes:

- Feedback against each relevant standard (as listed in the 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.

SECTION TWO – PROVIDER DETAILS

2.1 TYPE OF PROVIDER	
Provider <i>Sole responsibility for the entire route to registration</i>	☒
Awarding Organisation (AO) <i>Sole responsibility for the entire route to registration with centres delivering your qualification(s)</i>	☐

2.2 CENTRE DETAILS	
Centre name(s)	Not applicable.

2.3 EXTERNAL PARTNERS DELIVERING AND/OR MANAGING AREAS OF THE QUALIFICATION	
None	

SECTION THREE – QUALIFICATION DETAILS

3.1 QUALIFICATION DETAILS	
Qualification title	BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing
Qualification level	SCQF* Level 10 *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework
Duration of qualification	3 years
Number of cohorts per academic year	One
Month(s) of student intake	September
Delivery method(s)	Blended/distance learning
Alternative exit award(s)	• Certificate of Higher Education in Visual Optics- achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits • Diploma of Higher Education in Visual Optics - achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits • Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing - achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits
Total number of students per cohort	40

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 BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing qualification (qualification) against the <i>Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Optometry and Dispensing Optics</i> (March 2021).

4.2 GOC REVIEW TEAM	
Officer	Ella Pobee – Education Development Officer
Manager	Lisa Venables – Education Development Manager
Decision maker	Sam Morgan – Head of Education & CPD
Education Visitor Panel (panel) members	- Jane Andrews – Lay Chair - David Hill – Optometrist and Independent Prescribing Optometrist member - Lizzie Bartlam – Dispensing Optician member - Kevin Gutsell – Dispensing Optician member

4.3 SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
The qualification has been set no conditions.
The qualification has been set no recommendations.
Commentary against all the standards reviewed is set out in section 4.4.
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/>

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 07 GCU Admissions Policy • 08 GCU Contextualised Admissions Policy • 09 GCU Criminal Convictions Policy • 10 GCU SHLS Fitness to Practise Policy • 41 BSc OD Programme Handbook 2026-7 • Qualification specific webpage The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • Admission and selection processes appear clear and consistent. • Entry and GOC requirements are clearly outlined to applicants and students at various stages. • 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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 07 GCU Admissions Policy • 11 GCU Recognition of Prior Learning-policy The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements: • That the university's recognition of prior learning (RPL) policy and processes are effective and robust. • An explanation of how the university-wide RPL is applied at qualification level.

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 3 – Qualification Diagram • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module/outcome map • 01 GCU BSC Ophthalmic Dispensing Programme Specification GCU • 12 SCQF Level Descriptors • 13 GCU Assessment Preparation Guidance for Academic Staff • 14 GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2024-25 • 15 GCU Assessment and Moderation Policy • 40 GOC ILO Assessment Mapping (detailed)

	The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The assessment strategy is clear and comprehensive. • Learning outcomes have been mapped against Miller's pyramid.
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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 – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 16 GCU Department of Vision Sciences Clinical Facilities • 19 GCU Inclusive and Accessible Learning and Teaching Checklist The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The qualification has incorporated Miller's pyramid. • IPL is evident throughout the qualification. • Students will gain appropriate levels of clinical experience in practice under the supervision of a GOC registered eye-care professional and within the university's vision centre.

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 32 Supervisor training overview

	• 33 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Interaction with Stakeholders • 34 NES Supervision Framework V1.2 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • There is an appropriate E-learning suite/training programme. • Stakeholder 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 supervisors will undertake.
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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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • 01 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Programme Specification • 14 GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2024_25 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The assessment strategy includes a variety of assessment methods. • The qualification has appropriate compensation, trailing and resit opportunities.

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative

	• Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module/outcome map • 02 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Module Descriptors • 13 GCU Assessment Preparation Guidance for Academic Staff • 14 GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2024_25 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The pass mark is made explicit and is in line with the ophthalmic dispensing academic sector. • Learning outcomes have been outlined against Miller’s Pyramid, assessment (type), module title, year of study, SCQF level and credit volume. • Stakeholder feedback/input, including external examiner has been sought.
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Optometry standard no.	S3.7
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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 13 GCU Assessment Preparation Guidance for Academic Staff • 15 GCU Assessment and Moderation Policy • 32 Supervisor training overview • 33 Supervisor Training screenshots • 34 NES Supervision Framework V1.2 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • There is an E-learning suite/training programme. • Work is currently taking place on the completion of the relevant training modules that supervisors will undertake. • All summative assessments are the responsibility of university staff. • External examiners are involved in assessing and reviewing assessment materials.

Optometry standard no.	S3.14
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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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 02 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Module Descriptors • 04 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing - Approval Submission Document • 33 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Interaction with Stakeholders The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The qualification includes a variety of assessment methods. • There is an appropriate range of learning and teaching methods within the qualification. • Stakeholder feedback has been sought and included in the design and development of 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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 35 Clinical Experience Logbook Y1 (draft) • 36 Clinical Experience Logbook Y2 (draft) • 37 Clinical Experience Logbook Y3 (draft) • 38 BSc OD Tri-party Agreement_GCU DRAFT • 39 BSc OD Programme Handbook (Employers)- 2026-27 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • Students will gain 1600 hours within a practice environment under a GOC-registered professional.

	• While in practice students will have to complete a log which clearly identifies they have met the required hours and passed expected clinical learning/experience. • Students will gain additional real and stimulated patient experience in the university's Vision Centre.
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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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • Template 4 – Assessment Strategy • Template 5 – Module/outcome map • 14 GCU University Assessment Regulations Taught Programmes 2024 -25 • 15 GCU Assessment and Moderation Policy • 35 Clinical Experience Logbook Y1 (draft) • 36 Clinical Experience Logbook Y2 (draft) • 37 Clinical Experience Logbook Y3 (draft) The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The majority of learning outcomes have been integrated into academic assessments and will be the responsibility of university academic staff to sign-off. • There is a robust process in place for assessing the learning outcomes that external clinical supervisors are responsible for delivering/signing-off.

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that these standards are MET.

	Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 33 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Interaction with Stakeholders The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • There are clear, and comprehensive, examples of engagement with a wide and varied range of relevant stakeholders. • Stakeholders feedback has been included in how learning outcomes should be assessed within the qualification.
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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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 17 GCU Dignity at Work and Study Policy • 18 GCU BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing Equality Impact Form • 19 GCU Inclusive and Accessible Learning and Teaching Checklist The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • As part of the qualification's development, an equality impact assessment was undertaken in partnership with the university's Equality & Diversity Advisor. • The qualification has been developed in line with the university's Inclusive and Accessible Learning and Teaching Checklist.

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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET.

	Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 20 GCU Establishment Order The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The university has the appropriate legal status and degree awarding powers.
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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.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 22 GCU Order of Council 2010 • 23 GCU Amendment Order of Council 2020 • 24 GCU University Governance 2023 The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • 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 – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • Although students will be working throughout the qualification and subject to supervision from a GOC-registered professional, the university is solely responsible for students throughout the qualification, for signing-off/verifying the learning outcomes, for all

	the summative assessments, and for the award that leads to registration with the GOC.
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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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 26 GCU Department of Vision Science - Academic Staff • GOC Register The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • 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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 25 GCU SHLS Risk Register 2024-25 • 28 GCU Academic Quality Policy and Practice Document • 29 Register of Interests Policy • 30 Anti-Bribery Policy • 32 Public Interest Disclosure Policy The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • 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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.
Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • Adaptation Form • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 26 GCU Department of Vision Science Academic Staff The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • There are mechanisms for identifying, securing and maintaining a sufficient and appropriate level of resource.

Optometry standard no.	S5.2
Optometry standard description	There must be sufficient and appropriately qualified and experienced staff to teach and assess the outcomes. These must include: • 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.
Status	MET – no further action is required at this stage.
Deadline	Not applicable.

Rationale	The evidence reviewed provided the necessary assurance that this standard is MET. Supporting evidence reviewed included, but was not limited to: • GCU DO ADP-FRM Adaptation form • Template 2 – Criteria Narrative • 26 GCU Department of Vision Science Academic Staff • Staff/student benchmarking contact with other education providers The information reviewed evidenced, amongst other elements, that: • The current staff/student ratio has been appropriately benchmarked. • There is a sufficient number of staff, from a suitable range of professional backgrounds, responsible for the delivery and assessment of outcomes.
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