



Ulster University
Report of interim quality assurance activities
BSc (Hons) Optometry and MOptom (Hons) qualifications
ULS-OP
Report confirmed by GOC 14 May 2026

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SECTION ONE – ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This report outlines the outcomes of the review of Ulster University’s BSc (Hons) Optometry and MOptom (Hons) qualifications against the *Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook: Routes to Registration in Optometry (2015)* and the *GOC Education A&QA - Supplementary Documents - List of Requirements (Optometry Requirements)*.

It includes:

- Details of the quality assurance activities undertaken as part of this review – these are interim activities to cover the period of transition as GOC qualifications move to the education training requirements.
- A summary of the outcomes of the review.
- Details of any conditions and/or recommendations set.
- Any action Ulster 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>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provider <i>Provider with external parties delivering and/or managing the professional requirements.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.2 EXTERNAL PARTNERS DELIVERING AND/OR MANAGING AREAS OF THE QUALIFICATION

N/A

SECTION THREE – QUALIFICATION DETAILS

3.1 QUALIFICATION DETAILS

Qualification title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc (Hons) Optometry and MOptom (Hons)
Qualification level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc (Hons) Optometry: Level 6 • MOptom (Hons): Level 7
Duration of qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc (Hons) Optometry: 3 years • MOptom (Hons): 1 year
Number of cohorts per academic year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One
Month(s) of student intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September (last intake – September 2022)
Delivery method(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time

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Alternative exit award(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Higher Learning (Level Four) • Associate Bachelor's Degree in Vision Science (Level Five)
Total number of students per cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36

3.2 QUALIFICATION HISTORY		
Date	Quality assurance activity	Overview
16/10/2019	Visit	GOC Quality Assurance visit to Ulster University's BSc (Hons) Optometry and MOptom (Hons) took place on 16 and 17 October, 2019. The EVP recommended the next quality assurance visit taking place in five years' time. The EVP also set one condition and one recommendation for the qualifications.
29/11/2022	Administration	The GOC noted the adaptation of Ulster University's MOptom (Hons) Optometry qualification against the Requirements for Approved Qualifications in Optometry and Dispensing Optics (March 2021). The GOC set one recommendation relating to the qualification, with the qualification remaining subject to the GOC's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Methods (QAEM) on an ongoing basis.
08/08/2024	Event	GOC noted an event concerning an unregistered student who was resitting an element of the qualification.
27/11/2024	Administration	GOC confirmed that the BSc (Hons) Optometry and MOptom (Hons) qualifications would be subject to the interim QA process.
23/01/2025	Change	GOC confirms no further action/noted for Ulster University's notification of event (interim re-location and refurbishment of Ulster University's Optometry Clinic).
13/08/2025	Administration	GOC noted the discontinuation of the BSc (Hons) Optometry qualification following the adaptation of their MOptom (Hons) qualification, owing to the new Education and Training Requirements (ETRs).

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SECTION FOUR – PREVIOUS CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS	
Previous conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 previous condition is MET. <p>Details regarding the previous condition is set out in section 4.2.</p>
Previous recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 previous recommendation is CLOSED. <p>Details regarding the previous recommendation is out in section 4.3.</p>

4.2 PREVIOUS CONDITIONS			
Condition reference	Requirement	Description	Status
2019/01	OP6.12	The University devises a means of evidencing, in the portfolio, the full case record of a patient episode for initial dispensing advice and the identification of safe & unsafe episodes.	This condition was deemed MET prior to the interim quality assurance activity and was not reviewed by the panel as part of this quality assurance activity.

4.3 PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS		
Requirement	Description	Comments
OP1.7	The University put in place a formal procedure for the effective capturing of feedback and reflection.	This recommendation was deemed CLOSED as part of the interim quality assurance activity.

SECTION FIVE – REVIEW TEAM DETAILS

5.1 GOC REVIEW TEAM	
Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaun de Riggs – Education Operations Officer
Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgie Carter – Education Operations Manager
Decision maker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samara Morgan – Head of Education and CPD
Education Visitor Panel (panel) members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carl Stychin – Lay Chair Brendan Barrett – Optometrist member Kiki Soteri – Optometrist and Independent Prescribing Optometrist member Graeme Stevenson – Dispensing Optician and Contact Lens Optician member Sarah Fishburn – Lay member

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SECTION SIX – SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERIM QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITY

6.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITY	
Type of activity	<p>This report outlines the outcomes of the review of Ulster University's BSc Optometry (Hons) and MOptom (Hons) qualifications against the <i>Accreditation and Quality Assurance Handbook: Routes to Registration in Optometry (2015)</i> and the <i>GOC Education A&QA - Supplementary Documents - List of Requirements (Optometry Requirements)</i>.</p> <p>As part of the interim QA process the provider is required to submit documentation against all applicable requirements. A desk-based review is then completed by the panel, who make a recommendation against each requirement. The panel discuss their recommendations at a panel review meeting, where a joint recommendation is then submitted to the executive.</p> <p>The following was also undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student survey.

6.2 SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES OF REVIEW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action is required – the information submitted provides the necessary assurance that the requirements are met. • Conditions are applied to training and assessment providers if there is evidence that the GOC requirements are not met. • Recommendations indicate enhancements that can be made to a programme, these may not be directly linked to compliance with GOC requirements. • A commendation is given when a provider demonstrates good performance. • A change and/or event notification is requested in line with the GOC's change and event notification guidance. 	
The qualification has been set no conditions.	
The qualification has been set no recommendations.	
The qualification has been given no commendations.	

6.6 NON-APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS	
<p>The following requirements have been deemed fully/partially non-applicable to the qualification, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulster University provides the theory aspect of the route to registration (Stage 1). • the College of Optometrists (CoO) is responsible for the clinical placement and ensuring all the elements of portfolio are completed under supervision (Stage 2) through the Scheme for Registration (SfR). 	
A1.3	Provisional approval must be in place prior to advertising the qualification and recruiting the first cohort of students.
OP6.14	Upon completion of the pre-registration placement, the provider must inform the GOC that the student has achieved professional competence at Stage

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	2 so as to allow them to apply for entry to the GOC Register of Optometrists.
OP6.15	Students must be assessed as competent against each of the Stage 2 GOC Core Competencies.
OP6.16	Students must acquire the minimum amount of patient experience within each patient category (attached in Appendix F).
OP6.17	Students must hold certified portfolios containing a record of both their patient experience and achievement of all core competency elements.
OP6.18	The portfolio must include evidence of how and when each individual element of competence was achieved by the individual student.
OP6.19	The portfolio must contain a case record for each individual patient episode contributing to the minimum requirements.
OP6.20	The portfolio must include evidence of the development of the student's professional judgement through critical thinking and reflection.

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SECTION SEVEN – ADDITIONAL ISSUES

7.1 ADDITIONAL ISSUES

No additional issues were identified or raised as part of the interim quality assurance activity.

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