

ESR concepts and principles consultation Q&A

Why are you reviewing the UK's system of optical education?

We are conducting the Review to make sure that, as technological change and the increased prevalence of enhanced services alter the roles that optical professionals play in delivering eye care, we continue to protect the public by ensuring that UK education programmes and qualifications leading to GOC registration equip students to meet patients' future needs.

What is the current Education Strategic Review (ESR) concepts and principles consultation about?

This consultation is a key stage in our Education Strategic Review and sets out a series of 11 concepts and principles that could underpin optical education and training in the future. We want to hear from stakeholders about how these concepts and principles would impact on them, the optical sector and wider health systems.

What are the 11 concepts and principles that you are exploring?

The concepts relate to how education providers could develop and deliver courses in the future and the approach the GOC could take to approving and quality assuring them. You can find out more about each of the concepts and principles by watching our short video available here - <https://www.optical.org/en/Education/education-strategic-review/index.cfm>.

You'll also find a full breakdown of the concepts and principles in the consultation document on our website - <https://www.optical.org/en/get-involved/consultations/index.cfm>

How have you chosen the 11 concepts and principles in the consultation?

These principles have been informed by what we are hearing from stakeholders about what the future holds for the professions we regulate, as well as our independent research on educational patterns and trends in optical and other health professional education and regulation.

What are the concepts and principles in this consultation seeking to achieve?

The concepts and principles in this consultation aim to:

- free universities and colleges up to be innovative, responsive and agile,
- put patient safety and professionalism at the heart of education and training,
- recognise the important place optical services have as part of a wider health system,
- enable new relationships and create greater mutual understanding between education providers, employers and professional associations,
- develop a more proportionate approach to the regulation of education providers.

How can I respond to the consultation?

All responses should be either emailed or posted by the deadline of 16 March 2018 to: Roz Platt General Optical Council, 10 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG, email: rplatt@optical.org

How can I continue to be involved with the ESR after the consultation closes?

It's worth keeping an eye on the "Get involved" section of the ESR webpage on our website at www.optical.org, which we regularly update with opportunities to get involved in the ESR, such as through events and future consultations.