

BRADFORD COLLEGE

GOC FULL APPROVAL QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT

**FdSc (Foundation Degree) and BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic
Dispensing programmes**

8 and 9 December 2021

Report confirmed by GOC

26 January 2022

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PART 1 – VISIT DETAILS

1.2 Programme details	
Programme title	FdSc (Foundation Degree) Ophthalmic Dispensing and BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes.
Programme description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FdSc Ophthalmic Dispensing programme is a Level 5 full-time course delivered over two years. Assessments include practical reports, written course work, presentations, written and verbal examinations. • The BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic Dispensing programme is a Level 6 qualification. • Students must register with the GOC and ABDO as a student registrant during their period of study. • Assessments include group discussions, seminars, tutorials, and practical sessions, group work, self-directed learning, independent and group projects, lectures, VLE based exercises, presentations, and workshops. • The final year and pre-registration period prepares students for the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) final practical examinations, in addition, successful completion of Bradford College's GOC (General Optical Council) approved programme allows candidates to enter onto the GOC's Register.
Current approval status	Fully approved (FA)
Current student numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-Time BSc (Hons) Students – 49 • Full-Time FdSc Students – 6 • Part-Time FdSc Students - 80

1.3 GOC Education Visitor Panel (EVP)	
Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent McKay, Lay Chair.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiki Soteri, Optometrist/Independent Prescribing. • Andy Husband, Lay Member. • Alexander Gorman, Dispensing Optician and Contact Lens Optician. • Graeme Stevenson, Dispensing Optician and Contact Lens Optician.
GOC representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaun de Riggs, Approval and Quality Assurance Officer.
Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A.

1.4 Purpose of the visit	
Visit type	FULL APPROVAL QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT
The purpose of this full approval quality assurance visit was to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Bradford College's FdSc (Foundation Degree) and BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes to ensure it meets the requirements as listed in the in the 	

GOC's *Dispensing Handbook* 2011 (handbook) and the *GOC Education A&QA-Supplementary Documents-List of Requirements* (Ophthalmic Dispensing Specific Requirements).

2. Consider whether the programme continues to sufficiently meet the GOC's requirements for full approval to continue and make a recommendation to the executive on approval status.

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

1.5 Programme history

Date	Event type	Overview
16/04/2015	Visit	Two-day GOC/EVP quality assurance visit. The Panel recommended that provisional approval of the programme should continue and set two conditions.
22/06/2015	Visit	One day GOC/Sub Panel revisit to review the conditions set at the 16 and 17 April 2015 visit. The Panel proposed that one of the conditions had been met and provisional approval continues.
07/12/2016	Visit	Two-day GOC follow up visit to review the progress of the conditions set at the April 2015 visit. The Panel concluded that some progress had been made towards the outstanding conditions previously set but more work was required, and that a revisit should be undertaken in June 2017 to further review progress with the conditions.
15/06/2017	Visit	One day GOC/EVP audit revisit. The Panel deemed that further progress with the outstanding conditions has been made but more work was required, and that a revisit should be undertaken by March 2018 where the programme's continued provisional approval status would also be reviewed.
17/03/2018	Visit	One day GOC/EVP audit revisit. The Panel deemed that the outstanding conditions had been fully met and recommended that full approval be granted. (, and the next visit should take place in 2021.
11/07/2018	Event	Council granted full approval at its meeting on 11 July 2018.

PART 2 – VISIT SUMMARY

2.1 Visit outcomes	
The Panel recommended that full approval of Bradford College's FdSc Ophthalmic Dispensing and BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes can be continued. The EVP set one condition, provided two recommendations, and offered three commendations to the programme.	
Summary of recommendations to the GOC	
Previous condition	The outstanding condition set for the programme was deemed as met by the Panel at the audit revisit meeting on 17 March 2018.
New condition.	The EVP recommends that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 requirement is deemed as unmet. • 1 condition is set. Details regarding the condition are set out in Part 3 .
New recommendations	The EVP recommends that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 recommendations are offered Details regarding the recommendations are set out in Part 3 .
Commendations	The EVP offers 3 commendations. <p>Details regarding the commendations are set out in Part 3.</p>
Current student numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-Time BSc (Hons) Students – 49 • Full-Time FdSc Students – 6 • Part-Time FdSc Students - 80
Factors to consider when scheduling next visit e.g., when students are in, hospital, audit etc.	None at present.

2.2 Previous conditions

The condition listed below is extracted from the report of Click or tap to enter a date.

Requirement number	Condition number and description	Status
1	To implement core competency documentation which enables monitoring of how and when each individual element of competence is assessed and achieved by each student.	This condition was deemed MET by the executive prior to this visit taking place and was not reviewed by the EVP at this visit.

1.3 No previous recommendations provided by the EVP at the last visit on 17 March 2018.

2.4 Non-applicable requirements

The EVP recommends that some requirements be deemed non-applicable to the programme at this stage due to its structure and level and the differing, but overlapping, roles and responsibilities of ABDO Examinations for example:

- ABDO Examinations is responsible for the supervised practice and ensuring all the elements of portfolio are completed under supervision.

D3.1	All students must gain experience of supervised practice, including real patient contact, working alongside suitably qualified registered practitioners.
D3.3	A record of practical work, PBL and reflective learning achieved must be kept in a portfolio that links theory and practice throughout the route to registration.
D3.4	Competency-based assessments must be carried out at suitable junctures throughout the training. The portfolio must contain a record of patient experience and the achievement of all competency elements.
D3.5	Providers must provide supervisors and students with written guidance on the aims and objectives of the period of supervised practice.
D3.6	A mechanism to ensure students are safe to practise under supervision within the practice environment must be in place.
D3.8	A written protocol for supervision during practical patient contact must be provided.
D3.9	Appropriate contractual arrangements for student placements must be in place.
D3.10	Students, regardless of mode of training, must complete a period of supervised pre-qualification experience amounting to no fewer than 1600 hours, in order to register as a qualified dispensing optician.
D3.11	A set of defined tasks must be successfully undertaken and evidenced with detailed case records presented in the portfolio (see relevant competencies and patient experience requirements).
D3.12	A record must be kept of the full evidence of the dispensing experience gained so as to demonstrate that the required total numbers of frame fittings, adjustments and verification of spectacles have been completed at the appropriate stage in the training programme.
D3.13	The students' practical experience and PBL must include access to unselected patients with a wide range of ages, ocular conditions and refractive status.

D3.14	The students' practical experience and PBL must contain instruction, demonstration, and supervision by experienced registered practitioners in general and specialist practice settings.
D3.15	The students' practical experience and PBL must contain small group practical instruction which incorporates student observation, practitioner demonstration and direct student participation.
D3.16	The students' practical experience and PBL must contain specific experience relating to low vision and paediatric dispensing.
D3.18	The provider must ensure that any PBL is carried out under the supervision of an appropriately qualified, registered, and approved supervisor, in line with the GOC supervision requirements
D3.19	The content of the pre-registration period must reflect the stated learning outcomes, and the assessments appropriately measure the students' achievements.
D3.21	Effective quality assurance measures must be in place.

PART 3 – CONDITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENDATIONS

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.

3.1 Condition set at this visit

The unmet requirement for this visit are set out below along with the condition that is required to meet the requirement.

GOC Requirement number: A5.3	Students who gain sufficient academic credits to receive an award but do not meet the professional requirements must receive an alternative award to that approved by the GOC. The alternative award must not use the protected title of optometry/dispensing optician.
Condition 1	Bradford College must devise an alternative award title for students on the FdSc (Foundation Degree) and/or the BSc (Hons) Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes who gain sufficient academic credits to receive an award but do not meet the professional requirements, in order to differentiate from the award that is approved by the GOC.
Date due	31 August 2022
Rationale	Having reviewed the pre-visit documentation prior to the visit and discussions during the meetings at the visit, the EVP were not provided with any evidence that Bradford College provides an alternative award for students who do not meet the professional requirements of either the FdSc (Foundation Degree) or BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes.

3.2 Recommendations offered at this visit

The EVP offers the following recommendations to the provider.

GOC Requirement number: A1.2	The route to registration must be clearly communicated to prospective and current students.
Recommendation 1	Bradford College should devise a statement in the programme specifications for the course which clearly communicates the route to registration to prospective and current students, i.e., that they must successfully demonstrate the required competencies and successfully complete the GOC approved programme, before continuing their progression on the route to registration from Bradford College to ABDO Examinations.
Rationale	Having reviewed the pre-visit documentation prior to the visit and discussions during the meetings at the visit, the EVP were not reassured that the documentation or evidence provided consistently made it explicitly clear to prospective and current students that in order to progress on the route to registration, from Bradford College to ABDO Examinations, that they must successfully demonstrate the required core competencies.

GOC Requirement number: A5.1	Staff training and development opportunities must be provided.
Recommendation 2	Bradford College should develop a strategic approach to staff development to include engagement with the wider academy.
Rationale	<p>During the visit, the EVP heard of positive staff development opportunities for the Programme team. However, it was confirmed to the EVP during the visit that the programme team is a small one. Therefore, the EVP were mindful that additional workloads and the future development of staff needs, and the programme overall, could be impacted if these areas were not reviewed and appropriately addressed.</p> <p>The EVP recommend that, being mindful of work/life balance considerations and effective workload monitoring, Bradford College considers a collective approach to developing and obtaining breadth of expertise for the programme's future (i.e., revalidation programme roll out and implementation of the updated learning, teaching, and assessment strategy), e.g., station exams, OSCEs and further digitally enhanced supported learning and to further explore opportunities for collaboration beyond the subject area of vision sciences.</p>

3.3 Commendations made at this visit

The EVP wishes to commend the following areas:

- The programme team's student-centred approach and their commitment to providing a high-quality learning experience.
- The pro-active use of technology to support and enhance the learning experience.
- The provision of feedback to students in a timely manner.