



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	University of New South Wales
Program:	Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Clinical Optometry
Date:	April 2018
Outcome:	Accredited with conditions until 31 December 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) was established in 1996. Its function includes assessment, for the purposes of accreditation, programs designed to produce graduates suitable for registration as optometrists in Australia or New Zealand.

THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The assessment follows the process and procedures described in the OCANZ publication *Accreditation Manual for Optometry Programs in Australia and New Zealand Part 1- Processes and Procedures August 2012* (www.ocanz.org).

The accreditation process evaluates the extent to which the changes to the program of study comply with the OCANZ Standards set out in *Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs, Part 2 – Standards*, effective January 2017. The School prepared a submission that specified the proposed changes and the impact of the changes on each Standard. The school also addressed how the school would manage the change process. A summary of the Standards is in Appendix A to this report.

Under the Australian *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, OCANZ may grant accreditation if it is reasonably satisfied that a program of study, and the education provider that provides it, meet an approved accreditation standard. It may also grant accreditation if it is reasonably satisfied that the provider and the program of study substantially meet an approved accreditation standard, and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

BACKGROUND

- The program was previously granted accredited status by OCANZ in 2011 for an 8 year period, expiring in December 2019. The 2011 assessment team was satisfied that the graduates of the University of New South Wales optometry program have the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to meet the competency standards as entry level practitioners and that they were equipped with the necessary skills to maintain those standards.
- In 2016, The School of Optometry submitted a broad outline of proposed changes to the program via their annual report to OCANZ per stage one of the OCANZ major change process. The proposal was to change the current dual bachelor program to a bachelor/masters program to bring it in line with other programs in Australia. The proposed changes were assessed by the OCANZ Accreditation Committee and it was deemed that the changes constituted a major change.
- In 2017, OCANZ appointed a three member assessment team and the UNSW made an accreditation submission. The submission outlined the changes to the current program and program learning outcomes as well as 15 core evidence requirements as listed on page 4-5 of *Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs, Part 2 – Standard* and details on how the changes may impact on the 5 OCANZ Standards. The accreditation process involved the assessment team reviewing a submission prepared by the University, writing a report and making a recommendation on accreditation to the OCANZ Board. The OCANZ Board approved the report and recommendation.
- In November 2017, UNSW submitted their 2017 Annual Report to OCANZ which addressed 1a) of their accreditation condition. The Accreditation Committee and Chair of the UNSW Assessment Team reviewed the annual report and the Accreditation Committee's decisions on UNSW's conditions are stated in the *Report on the Conditions of the Bachelor of Optometry (Honours)/Bachelor of Science to the Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Clinical optometry, School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of New South Wales, March 2018*. The recommendation was to remove condition 1a). The OCANZ Board approved the report and recommendation.
- At each stage, the OCANZ Board notified the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board – New Zealand (ODOB), and the Head of School and the Vice-Chancellor of University of New South Wales of its decision.

KEY FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team is satisfied that the graduates of the modified University of New South Wales optometry program will have the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet competency standards as entry level practitioners in Australia and New Zealand and that they will be equipped with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

The assessment team appreciated the positive approach taken by the school in their participation in the accreditation process. The assessment team appreciated the prompt responses to requests for further information or clarification on issues raised.

The following table displays the key findings of the assessment team. Where Accreditation Standards are noted as “substantially met” the School is required to provide evidence to OCANZ that the actions detailed in order to meet the specific standard have been appropriately completed. A condition needs to be reported on by the education provider at a time specified by OCANZ. A recommendation refers

to an action or a course of actions that should be considered by the provider to improve the delivery and/or outcomes of the program.

Standard 1 Public safety - Standard 1 is MET	
Criteria	Comments
1.1 Protection of the public and the care of patients are prominent amongst the guiding principles of the educational program, clinical training and student learning outcomes.	The assessment team found that the changes to the program will not impact on public safety.
1.2 Screening for and management of student fitness to practice are effective.	
1.3 Students achieve the relevant competencies before providing patient care as part of the program.	
1.4 Suitably qualified and registered optometrists and/or health practitioners supervise students during clinical education.	
1.5 Health services and optometry practices providing clinical placements have robust quality and safety policies and processes and meet all required regulations and standards.	
1.6 Patients consent to care by students.	
1.7 Where required, all students are registered with the relevant regulatory authority/ies.	
1.8 The education provider holds students and staff to high levels of ethical and professional conduct.	

Standard 2 Academic Governance and Quality Assurance - Standard 2 is MET	
Criteria	Comments
2.1 The provider has robust academic governance arrangements in place for the program of study that includes systematic monitoring, review and improvement.	The assessment team found that the changes to the program will not impact on academic governance and quality assurance.
2.2 Quality improvement processes use student and other evaluations, internal and external academic and professional peer review to improve the program.	
2.3 There is relevant external input to the design and management of the program, including from representatives of the optometry professions.	
2.4 Mechanisms exist for responding within the curriculum to contemporary developments in health professional education and practice.	

Standard 3 Program of Study - Standard 3 is SUBSTANTIALLY MET

Criteria	Comments
<p>3.1 A coherent educational philosophy informs the program of study design and delivery.</p> <p>3.2 Program learning outcomes address all the professional competencies endorsed by OCANZ.</p> <p>3.3 The quality, quantity and diversity of clinical training are sufficient to produce a graduate competent to practice across a range of settings.</p> <p>3.4 Learning and teaching methods are intentionally designed and used to enable students to achieve the required learning outcomes.</p> <p>3.5 Principles of inter-professional learning and practice are embedded in the curriculum.</p> <p>3.6 Teaching staff are suitably qualified and experienced to deliver the units that they teach.</p> <p>3.7 Learning environments support the achievement of the required learning outcomes.</p> <p>3.8 Learning environments support the achievement of research skills appropriate to the academic level of the program</p> <p>3.9 Facilities and equipment are accessible, well-maintained, fit for purpose and support the achievement of learning outcomes.</p> <p>3.10 Cultural competence is appropriately integrated within the program and clearly articulated as required disciplinary learning outcomes: including an emphasis on Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika cultures.</p> <p>3.11 The optometry program has the resources to sustain the quality of education that is required to facilitate the achievement of the competency standards.</p>	<p>The assessment team found that although the change document and curriculum map gave assurance that all necessary content will be covered. The 2018 and 2019 detailed course outlines are required as evidence that content has been moved as indicated in the change document.</p> <p>Condition 1- The 2018 Annual Report must provide 2019 course outlines including specific detail of topic areas covered in each course</p>

Standard 4 The Student Experience – Standard 4 is MET

Criteria	Comments
<p>4.1 Course information is clear and accessible.</p> <p>4.2 Admission and progression requirements and processes are robust, equitable and transparent.</p> <p>4.3 Students have access to effective grievance and appeals processes.</p> <p>4.4 The provider identifies and provides support to meet the academic learning needs of students.</p> <p>4.5 Students are informed of and have appropriate access to personal support services provided by qualified personnel.</p> <p>4.6 Students are represented within the deliberative and decision making processes of the program.</p>	<p>The assessment team found that the changes to the program will not impact negatively on the student experience.</p>

4.7 Equity and diversity principles are observed and promoted in the student experience.	
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Standard 5 Assessment – Standard 5 is MET	
Criteria	Comments
5.1 There is a clear relationship between learning outcomes and assessment strategies. 5.2 Scope of assessment covers all learning outcomes relevant to the competencies. 5.3 Multiple assessment tools, modes and sampling are used including direct observation in the clinical setting. 5.4 Program management and co-ordination, including internal and external moderation, ensure consistent and appropriate assessment and feedback to students. 5.5 Suitably qualified and experienced staff assess students, including external experts for final year. 5.6 All learning outcomes are mapped to the required competencies, and are assessed.	The assessment team found that the changes to the program will not impact negatively on assessment.

OUTCOME

OCANZ is satisfied the Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Clinical Optometry program at the University of New South Wales substantially meets the OCANZ Accreditation Standards.

The OCANZ Board had agreed to accredit the program until 31 December 2019 with conditions, provided there are no major changes to the program during this period. The condition is:

Condition 1-

The 2018 Annual Report must provide 2019 course outlines including specific detail of topic areas covered in each course

The School is required, within its annual report, to include any changes made to the program in the preceding year and describe any significant changes to the resources allocated to the School during that year. This is a general requirement of all accredited programs and not a condition specific to this Bachelor of Optometry program.