



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider: Deakin University
Program: Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Optometry
Program
Date: July 2019
Outcome: Accredited until 31 July 2027

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 a program of study complies with the OCANZ Standards set out in *Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs, Part 2 – Standards*, effective January 2017. Deakin Optometry prepared a submission that addressed how it was meeting each of the Standards.

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

In November 2018, Deakin tendered its reaccreditation submission, addressing each of the 2017 OCANZ Accreditation Standards for Entry-Level Optometry Programs and providing the associated 15 core pieces of evidence outlined in the OCANZ Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide. This report outlines the findings of the assessment team which assessed the submission and conducted an assessment team site visit in March 2019.

The OCANZ Board notified the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board – New Zealand (ODOB), Associate Head of School (Teaching and Learning), School of Medicine and the Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University of its decision.

KEY FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team is satisfied that the graduates of the Deakin University Optometry program should have the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet competency standards (including both universal and therapeutic competencies) as entry level practitioners and that they will be equipped with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

The following table lists the key findings of the assessment team. Where an Accreditation Standard is noted as 'substantially met with conditions' or 'not met' the School is required to provide evidence to OCANZ that the actions required in order to meet the specific Standard have been taken.

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.	
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.	<p>Strength Robust engagement with students and the profession</p> <p>Observation Best practice requires staff to engage with international as well as national developments; allocate resources where possible to support such engagements.</p> <p>Recommendation Encourage external review process/processes to continue prior to next reaccreditation.</p>
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 MET	
Criteria	Comments
3.1 A coherent educational philosophy informs the program of study design and delivery.	<p>Strengths Strong and well-developed focus on problem-based learning, team-based learning, peer review and self-reflection</p> <p>Well qualified and experienced staff</p> <p>Appointment of indigenous health academic to enhance integration of cultural awareness/cultural safety training in program</p> <p>Development of clinical communication curriculum</p> <p>Observations Range of clinical training settings has diversified significantly since initial accreditation</p> <p>New log book design should improve data accuracy</p> <p>There is no direct observation of CRP</p> <p>Recommendations Encourage students to have CRP placements across varying practice settings</p>
3.2 Program learning outcomes address all the professional competencies endorsed by OCANZ.	
3.3 The quality, quantity and diversity of clinical training are sufficient to produce a graduate competent to practice across a range of settings.	
3.4 Learning and teaching methods are intentionally designed and used to enable students to achieve the required learning outcomes.	
3.5 Principles of inter-professional learning and practice are embedded in the curriculum.	
3.6 Teaching staff are suitably qualified and experienced to deliver the units that they teach.	
3.7 Learning environments support the achievement of the required learning outcomes.	
3.8 Learning environments support the achievement of research skills appropriate to the academic level of the program	
3.9 Facilities and equipment are accessible, well-maintained, fit for purpose and support the achievement of learning outcomes.	
3.10 Cultural competence is appropriately integrated within the program and clearly	

<p>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>Strongly recommended that Deakin implement a formal quality assurance process for CRP</p> <p>Further work required to improve cultural safety for Māori and Pasifika cultures</p>
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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>4.7 Equity and diversity principles are observed and promoted in the student experience.</p>	<p>Strengths</p> <p>Student feedback mechanism, particularly use of focus groups</p> <p>Appointment of a dedicated School of Medicine counsellor</p>

Standard 5 Assessment – Standard 5 is MET

Criteria	Comments
<p>5.1 There is a clear relationship between learning outcomes and assessment strategies.</p> <p>5.2 Scope of assessment covers all learning outcomes relevant to the competencies.</p> <p>5.3 Multiple assessment tools, modes and sampling are used including direct observation in the clinical setting.</p> <p>5.4 Program management and co-ordination, including internal and external moderation, ensure consistent and appropriate assessment and feedback to students.</p> <p>5.5 Suitably qualified and experienced staff assess students, including external experts for final year.</p> <p>5.6 All learning outcomes are mapped to the required competencies, and are assessed.</p>	<p>Strength</p> <p>Move to competency-based skills assessment</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Decide how to best benchmark assessment on an ongoing basis across the program</p>

OUTCOME

OCANZ is satisfied that the Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Optometry program conducted by Deakin University meets the OCANZ Accreditation Standards.

The OCANZ Board had agreed to accredit the program for a period of eight years until 31 July 2027 provided there are no major changes to the program during this period.

Deakin Optometry 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 optometry program.