



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	Deakin University
Program:	Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Optometry Program
Date:	August 2017
Outcome:	Accredited with conditions until 31 July 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 overall aim of the accreditation process is to evaluate the extent to which the program complies with the 10 OCANZ Standards set out in *Accreditation Manual for Optometry Programs in Australia and New Zealand Part 2 –Standards April 2006*. 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).

OCANZ may grant accreditation if it is satisfied that a program of study, and the education provider that provides it, meets an approved accreditation standard. OCANZ may also grant accreditation with conditions on the program's approval, if it is satisfied the program will meet the standard within a reasonable time. OCANZ's recommendations inform registration decisions made under national law in Australia and New Zealand.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the OCANZ Board appointed a six member assessment team to undertake the new program assessment of the Deakin University Optometry program. This executive summary outlines the process to date and gives an overview of the key findings of the assessment team.

The accreditation process has involved:

- In 2011, Deakin University submitted an accreditation submission addressing the OCANZ Standards. In 2012, Deakin University submitted a follow up submission with further information addressing the OCANZ Standards.

- In April 2013, the assessment team conducted a site visit and produced a document *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, June 2013*. In this report, the assessment team recommended that the program should be accredited to 31 July 2016, subject to a wide range of conditions. The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.
- The Assessment Team conducted a second site visit in September 2014 responding to the Deakin University Optometry program 2013 Annual Report and an Interim Report dated March 2014. The report, *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, September 2014*, addressed Deakin's response to the initial conditions and site visit. The assessment team recommended 22 updated conditions were proposed in this report. This was approved by the OCANZ Board.
- The *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, January 2015*, addressed the findings of the assessment team after consideration of Deakin's 2014 Annual Report. An updated list of 13 conditions was proposed in this report by the assessment team. These conditions were approved by the OCANZ Board.
- In June 2015, Deakin submitted a report addressing how it has met Standard 6 – Clinical training and settings. It also submitted progress reports in January, March and May, and correspondence in May 2015, addressing patient numbers from the clinical residential placement program and related issues. The *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, June 2015* assessed this material and conditions 2-6 of the 13 outstanding conditions. Condition 1 relates to a comprehensive progress report and site visit to take place in November 2015. Conditions 7 to 13 are not due to be addressed until Deakin's 2015 Annual Report to OCANZ which is due in November 2015. An updated list of 9 conditions was proposed in this report by the assessment team. These conditions were approved by the OCANZ Board.
- In November 2015, Deakin submitted its 2015 Annual Report and progress report. The assessment team conducted a site visit to Deakin University in November 2015. The *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, February 2016* report assesses the 2015 Annual Report and progress report and the site visit. The assessment team recommended an updated list of 4 conditions and that accreditation with conditions be extended until 31 July 2019. The OCANZ Board adopted the recommendation.
- In March 2016 and June 2016, Deakin submitted *Interim Reports* addressing the items detailed within Condition 1 of the *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, February 2016*. In November 2016, Deakin submitted its annual report addressing conditions 2 to 4 of the *Report of the OCANZ Assessment Team, February 2016*. The Accreditation Committee and Chair of the Deakin Assessment Team reviewed Deakin's reports and the Accreditation Committee's decisions on Deakin's conditions are stated in the *Report on Accreditation Committee February 2017*. An updated list of 3 conditions was recommended in this report and the OCANZ Board approved these conditions.
- At each stage, the OCANZ Board notified the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board – New Zealand (ODOB), the Course Director/Chair in Vision Sciences 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	OUTCOME AND EVIDENCE (not met, substantially met with conditions imposed or met)
1. Organisation, governance and funding	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of School of Medicine's Resources 	
2. Educational goals and objectives	Overall the standard is MET
3. Program development and management	Overall the standard is MET
4. Program curriculum	Overall the standard is MET
5. Teaching and learning methods	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative teaching and learning program 	
6. Clinical training and settings	Overall the standard is SUBSTANTIALLY MET WITH CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deakin must provide a consolidated report as well as analysis and commentary on the number and diversity of patients seen by the students, encompassing all areas of clinical practice including general examinations, therapeutics, and special clinic areas (including low vision, contact lenses and paediatrics) at the mid-point (covering start of CRP to February) and at the end of the CRP (covering March to end of CRP) for 2017 and 2018. These reports must also outline how any failure of the clinical residential placement program to meet the clinical training needs of particular students has been remediated. The 2017 Annual Report must include a schedule of negotiation with health facilities that have taken place until the end of 2017 and indicate how future agreements will enable students to have increased diversity of experience in special clinical areas (including low vision, contact lenses and paediatrics). The 2017 Annual Report must provide the numbers of new/repeat/discontinued CRP practices and supervisors and comments on contingency planning for the sustainability of the CRP program should there be a reduction in returning CRP practices or supervisor numbers. 	
7. Student Assessment	Overall the standard is MET
8. Teaching and support staff	Overall the standard is MET

9. Students	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly motivated, enthusiastic students 	
10. Physical resources	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REACH facilities are of a high standard 	

OUTCOME

The program remains accredited with conditions until 31 July 2019. The OCANZ Board has approved the updated conditions list as follows.

UPDATED CONDITIONS

1. Deakin must provide a consolidated report as well as analysis and commentary on the number and diversity of patients seen by the students, encompassing all areas of clinical practice including general examinations, therapeutics, and all special clinical areas (including low vision, contact lenses and paediatrics) at the mid-point of the CRP (covering start of CRP to February) and at the end of the CRP (covering March to end of CRP) for 2017 and 2018. These reports must also outline how any failure of the clinical residential placement program to meet the clinical training needs of particular students has been remediated.
2. The 2017 Annual Report must include a schedule of negotiation with health facilities that have taken place until the end of 2017 and indicate how future agreements will enable students to have increased diversity of experience in special clinical areas (including low vision, contact lenses and paediatrics).
3. The 2017 Annual Report must include details on numbers of new/repeat/discontinued CRP practices and supervisors and comments on contingency planning for the sustainability of the CRP program should there be a reduction in returning CRP practices or supervisor numbers.

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