



Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	University of New South Wales
Program:	Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science
Date:	July 2011
Outcome:	Accredited for 8 years provided no major changes to the program during this period

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 Courses 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 Courses in Australia and New Zealand Part 1 – Accreditation Process 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 2010, OCANZ determined that accreditation of the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program conducted by the School of Optometry and Vision Science, the University of New South Wales constituted a *major change assessment*. The program length was increasing from 4 to 5 years, and incorporating therapeutic practice requirements.

The OCANZ Board appointed a three person assessment team to undertake the assessment. The program had previously been granted accredited status by OCANZ for an 8 year period, expiring in 2010. The team recommended accreditation until 2011, when a full reaccreditation was scheduled to take place once the first cohort of students had graduated from the five year program.

In 2011, OCANZ appointed a six person team to undertake the reaccreditation assessment. The accreditation process involved reviewing the submission, conducting a site visit, writing a report and making a recommendation on accreditation to the OCANZ Board.

The OCANZ Board notified the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA), Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board – New Zealand (ODOB), 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 Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program will have the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet competency standards (including the therapeutic competencies) as entry level practitioners and that they will be equipped with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

The submission prepared by the School was comprehensive and the assessment team appreciated the positive approach taken by the academic and administrative staff of the school participating in the accreditation process. The assessment team was able to engage open and frank discussion with all parties associated with the accreditation process and appreciated the prompt responses to requests for further information or clarification on issues raised.

The following table lists the key findings of the assessment team. Where an accreditation standard is noted as ‘substantially met with conditions imposed’ 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. Recommendations with no attached condition for accreditation are suggestions from the assessment team of opportunities for continuous improvement.

STANDARD	OUTCOME AND EVIDENCE (not met, substantially met with conditions imposed or met)
1. Organisation, governance and funding	Overall the standard is MET
<p><u>Areas of strength:</u></p> <p>Good governance and management structures</p> <p>Good communication channels between committees, staff and Head of School</p> <p>Harmonious working relationships between the School and various external organisations</p>	<p><u>Action required:</u> None</p>

2. Educational goals and objectives	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Educational goals and objectives are well-aligned with the OCANZ standards</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None
3. Course development and management	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Close interaction with Centre for Eye Health enables students to be involved with new technologies</p> <u>Recommendation:</u> <p>School to produce master document which shows the complete syllabus of core subjects</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None
4. Course curriculum	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Comprehensive detail of the structure and content of the optometry curriculum</p> <p>Strong culture of research</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None
5. Teaching and learning methods	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Wide variety of teaching methods</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None
6. Clinical training and settings	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Diverse range of clinical experiences</p> <u>Recommendation:</u> <p>Expansion of hospital placements</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None
7. Student assessment	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> <p>Diversity of assessment methods</p>	<u>Action required:</u> None

8. Teaching and support staff	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Highly committed and enthusiastic staff <u>Recommendation:</u> Review high workload for academic staff	<u>Action required:</u> None
9. Students	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Clear entry requirements for student selection	<u>Action required:</u> None
10. Physical resources	Overall the standard is MET
<u>Areas of strength:</u> Good clinical facilities	<u>Action required:</u> None

OUTCOME

OCANZ is satisfied that the Bachelor of Optometry Bachelor of Science program conducted by the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of New South Wales meets the 10 OCANZ Accreditation Standards including those for therapeutic practice.

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

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 program.