



Optometry Council of  
Australia and New Zealand

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Provider:	Queensland University of Technology
Program:	Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry program
Date:	November 2014
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 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](http://www.ocanz.org)).

OCANZ may grant accreditation if it is satisfied that a program of study, and the education provider that provides it, meets the 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 2013, the OCANZ Board appointed a six member assessment team to undertake the reaccreditation assessment of the Queensland University of Technology Optometry program.

The assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission, undertook a four day site visit in May 2014, prepared a report and made 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 Queensland University of Technology of its decision.

### KEY FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

The assessment team is satisfied that the graduates of the Queensland University of Technology Optometry program have the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet competency standards (including both universal and therapeutics 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 clear. The team appreciated the positive approach taken by the academic and administrative staff of the School to participation in the accreditation process. The assessment team was able to engage in frank and open discussions with all parties associated with the accreditation process and appreciated the prompt responses to requests for further information or clarification of issues.

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)
<b>1. Organisation, governance and funding</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Positive development of clinical facilities.  Good relationships with Optometrists Association Australia (Queensland & Northern Territory), Guide Dogs Queensland, external optometrists.	<u>Action required:</u> None
<b>2. Educational goals and objectives</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  The educational goals are clear, relevant and aligned with the OCANZ Standards.	<u>Action required:</u> None

STANDARD	OUTCOME AND EVIDENCE (not met, substantially met with conditions imposed or met)
<b>3. Program development and management</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Strong processes for curriculum design and review are in place.	<u>Action required:</u> None
<b>4. Program curriculum</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Curriculum design provides students with a strong foundation in all topics necessary for optometric practice.	<u>Action required:</u> None
<b>5. Teaching and learning methods</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Wide range of teaching methods.  Strong evidence of continuous assessment.	<u>Action required:</u> None
<b>6. Clinical training and settings</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Expansion of clinical activities.	<u>Action required:</u> None
<b>7. Student assessment</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<u>Areas of strength:</u>  Provision of information regarding assessment methods.	<u>Action required:</u> None

STANDARD	OUTCOME AND EVIDENCE (not met, substantially met with conditions imposed or met)
<b>8. Teaching and support staff</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<p><u>Areas of strength:</u></p> <p>Academic staff are research-active, and research-informed teaching is encouraged within the School.</p> <p>Enthusiastic and suitably qualified clinical staff provide excellent supervision in specialty areas.</p> <p>The addition of the Clinical Coordinator role has resulted in improved efficiency of the clinic.</p> <p>Teaching and learning is well supported by central faculty services, in particular the Library service.</p>	<p><u>Action required:</u> None</p>
<b>9. Students</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<p><u>Areas of strength:</u></p> <p>Clearly documented entry requirements for school leavers.</p> <p>Clear exit point available at the conclusion of the Bachelor of Vision Science after 3 years.</p> <p>Good provision of a wide range of support services for both study and personal wellbeing.</p>	<p><u>Action required:</u> None</p>
<b>10. Physical resources</b>	<b>Overall the standard is MET</b>
<p><u>Areas of strength:</u></p> <p>Clinical facilities of a high standard.</p>	<p><u>Action required:</u> None</p>

## OUTCOME

OCANZ is satisfied that the Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry program conducted by the School of Optometry and Vision Science, Queensland University of Technology 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 Optometry program.