



The European Council of Optometry and Optics

**Guidelines for the accreditation of
European Optometric/Optics
qualifications for exemption from all or
part of the examinations of the
European Diploma in Optometry**

**Part IV:
Continuing Accreditation**

**February 2014
(Under review 2018)**

Part IV: Continuing Accreditation

1. Introduction

Accreditation is awarded after a successful visit to the training institution. The level of accreditation awarded depends on the extent to which the training programme provides evidence that all of the graduates have achieved all of the learning outcomes, competencies and clinical experience requirements of the European Diploma.

Full Accreditation: If all parts of the European Diploma, the learning outcomes, the competencies and the clinical experience, can be shown to be taught and assessed within the training programme to a standard equivalent to the European Diploma then Full Accreditation will be awarded.

On graduating from a Fully Accredited programme and paying the fee to ECOO (at present €150) graduates receive the European Diploma along with their academic qualification.

Partial Accreditation: If not all parts of the European Diploma are taught and assessed within the training programme to a standard equivalent to the European Diploma then Partial Accreditation will be awarded.

On graduating from a Partially Accredited programme graduates receive a certificate listing those parts of the European Diploma from which they are exempted.

If a graduate wishes to gain the European Diploma they will be required to take only the examinations for the non-exempted sections and/or submit the ECOO Portfolio of clinical experience.

2. Record of Full and Partial Exemption.

Each year, Partially and Fully Accredited institutions are required to keep a record of the names of their graduates and the awarded level of exemption from the European Diploma. A copy of this list should be sent to ECOO and will be used as a permanent record of holders of the Diploma and where appropriate to confirm the extent of exemption if the graduate subsequently applies to take the examinations for the remaining sections of the European Diploma.

3. Continuing Accreditation

Full and Partial Accreditation is normally awarded for a maximum of five years, subject to the following conditions.

- Submission to ECOO of a list of the names of the accredited graduates within one month of the end of the academic year.
- Submission to ECOO, before the start of the next academic year, of a certificate confirming that there has been no change in the content, mode of delivery or students' patient experience of the accredited training programme.
OR: If there have been any changes to the accredited training programme, to submit a detailed list of the changes, the rationale for the changes and the expected effect on the competencies and clinical experience of graduates.

On receipt of this annual report it will be for ECOO to decide:

- if more information is required,
- if the level of accreditation should be increased or reduced,
- if a further visit is necessary.

N.B. The European Council of Optometry and Optics reserves the right to give full or partial accreditation for a period of less than five years, to specify the requirements for continuing accreditation and to make further visits to ensure that the accredited standard is being maintained.

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