



European Council of Optometry and Optics

**Guidelines for the accreditation of optician
qualifications for the award of the
European Qualification in Optics (EQO)**

Part V

EQO Continuing Accreditation

October 2018

Part V: 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 practice experience requirements of the EQO, including completion of the Portfolio of practical experience.

Full Accreditation: If all parts of the EQO, the learning outcomes, the competencies and the practice experience, can be shown to be taught and assessed to a standard equivalent to the EQO and the Portfolio of Practical Experience are all completed within the programme then Full Accreditation will be awarded.

On graduating from a Fully Accredited programme and paying the fee to ECOO (at present €100) graduates receive the EQO along with their academic qualification.

Partial Accreditation: If the Portfolio of Practical Experience is not completed within the programme Partial Accreditation will be awarded.

If a graduate wishes to gain the EQO they will be required to provide evidence that they have successfully submitted the EQO Portfolio of practice experience within two years of completion of the training programme.

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 EQO. A copy of this list should be sent to ECOO and will be used as a permanent record of holders of the EQO and where appropriate to confirm the extent of exemption if the graduate subsequently completes the Portfolio of Practical Experience

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' client 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 practice 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 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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