



European Council of Optometry and Optics

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

Part VI

Financial Aspects of EQO Accreditation

September 2018

Part VI: Financial Aspects of Accreditation

The EQO scheme is designed to be self-funding with all costs covered by the applicant institutions. A daily fee is paid to Visitors to cover their time commitment and an honorarium is paid to the Chair of the Accreditation Panel. Applicants will also be expected to cover the costs of travel and accommodation where this is necessary.

Students graduating with the EQO would also be required to pay a fee of €100 to cover the award of the Diploma.

The applicant institution will be liable for charges that depend on the extent to which it engages with the Accreditation Scheme. The purpose of this document is to list these charges and make it clear to applicant institutions the extent of their potential costs.

All costs will be reviewed periodically and updated versions of this document will be available on the ECOO website.

The Accreditation process and estimates of the related costs

Parts I to IV of the Accreditation Scheme describe the various stages of the process in chronological order and should be consulted in conjunction with this document.

The Accreditation Scheme allows for either a full accreditation process or benchmarking for those schools which do not want to undertake the full accreditation scheme but want to find out how their course aligns with the EQO. The fees for both are set out below.

It is not possible to estimate the costs of travel and accommodation, which will vary depending on the location of the school being accredited. As a guide, the preliminary visit will involve travel, overnight accommodation and meals for two Visitors. The panel meeting, which follows the receipt and analysis of the self assessment document, will involve travel for four Visitors to an easily accessible venue. The full Visit will involve travel, accommodation for three nights and meals for four Visitors.

The timescale for completing the process is dependent on how long the applicant takes to complete the self assessment form and to respond to requests for further information. If there are no delays it should be possible to complete each stage in three months with a total time to final approval by ECOO within 12 months from the initial expression of interest.

Fees for Full Accreditation and Benchmarking

Fees for Full Accreditation*

Stages at which the fees are payable

Preliminary Visit**	€1080
Review of Self-Assessment Form	€1990
Visit	€3790
Final Report	€640
Total	€ 7500

Fees for Benchmarking*

Preliminary Visit**	€1080
Review of Self Assessment Form	€1990
Final Report	€640
Total	€3710

**Includes all preliminary work and support up to the submission of the Self Assessment form.

*Does not include costs for travel and accommodation which will be charged at cost

Subsequent visits to approve progress from partial to full accreditation will be subject to an additional charge dependent on the work involved.

Registration of the Qualification in Optics

Each optician awarded the EQO by Accreditation will be required to pay a one off registration fee of €100. These fees are to be collected by the accredited institution and transferred to ECOO. Once ECOO is informed of the final number of diplomates, the Secretariat will issue an invoice.

Continuing Accreditation

Accreditation will normally be given for five years but may be for a shorter period. Renewal of accreditation will require a full visit. The fee for this will be approximately €3,300 not including travel and accommodation.

As can be seen the actual costs may vary substantially depending on travel and accommodation arrangements.

Any enquiries regarding the costs should be addressed to the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee.

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