The European Council of Optometry and Optics

Guidelines for the accreditation of qualifications which meet the standards of the European Diploma in Optometry

Part VII:

Potential Accreditation of European Diploma Candidates from non-accredited courses
Introduction

A number of requests have been received from optometrists who have not graduated from a fully accredited course as to whether they could receive the European Diploma in Optometry.

The possible reasons for this are:
- They have qualified from a partially accredited course:
- They have qualified from a course that has been fully accredited after the date of graduation of the applicant.

ECOO may consider the request of such candidates in the following scenarios:

1. Qualification from a partially accredited course:
   a. If the deficit could be made up by attending a course at a fully accredited university. It would be the responsibility of the host university to ensure that the deficits are identified and covered and that a full Portfolio is completed and assessed.
   b. That the deficits are covered and the candidate completes the Portfolio and this is then assessed by the ECOO Accreditation Panel.

2. Qualification from a course that has been fully accredited after the date of graduation of the applicant.
   a. That, with the exception of the Portfolio, the course taken by the candidate was identical to that accredited.
   b. That there were substantial conditions requested by ECOO before full accreditation had been agreed. In this case the candidate would be required to meet those conditions and complete a full Portfolio including experience since graduating. The Portfolio could be assessed internally or by the Accreditation Panel. This scheme would need to be agreed by the Accreditation Panel.
   c. Candidates who had completed a fully accredited course but had not opted to complete the Portfolio. It is acceptable for the Portfolio to be completed at a later date subject to it being assessed by the department and the agreement of the Accreditation Panel.

The European Diploma of Optometry Portfolio requirements are set out in PART III.

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