



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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