

## **Optometry Annual Monitoring**

### **Introduction:**

All GOC approved training institutions are required to provide annual monitoring submissions for the years in between GOC quality assurance visits.

Annual Monitoring will enable the GOC to monitor progress against conditions and recommendations, keep abreast of any changes to approved programmes and to identify any areas of risk. In preparation for each quality assurance visit by the GOC Visitor Panel, Visitors will be issued with all of the annual monitoring submissions since the last visit to be used as the pre visit information pack.

Below is a summary of the information collated from each Optometry Annual Monitoring submission.

### **Summary:**

Overall the majority of the conditions and recommendations that have been set by the GOC visiting panel have been met by the Institutions and the process has not highlighted any areas of concern.

#### **Design and Structure**

In terms of changes to the training programme design and structure there have been two Institutions that have made changes, the other Institutions remain unchanged. City University underwent a substantial restructuring in 2007 in terms of the credit structure being streamlined and as a result of the new programme City University merged smaller modules into large modules, however the overall syllabus has remained the same.

Manchester University made changes to enhance the tutorial units to extend students knowledge of the degree subject.

#### **Clinical Work**

There have been some clinical work changes, Anglia Ruskin University introduced specialist clinics in this academic year, clinics included a binocular vision/visual stress clinic and low vision clinic.

City University had entered into an agreement for final year students to see patients at the Institute of Optometry. As a result the Institute is able to meet patient episode requirements without assistance from external partners.

Glasgow Caledonian University made changes to logbooks as requested during a GOC visit and have been approved at a June 2008 visit. Manchester University BSc and MOptom students now achieve some of their dispensing clinical experience on a placement at a local practice.

The University of Ulster made changes to the way that student patient encounters were adapted in 08-09 to a more student centred approach.

### Abnormal Ocular Conditions/Hospital Experience

Anglia Ruskin University students have gained hospital experience in 3 hospitals since a GOC visit in 2007. In addition to this students are also observing diabetic retinopathy screening at a local optical practice. Log books have also been modified to record specialist clinics details and students write a reflective summary of experience.

Cardiff University have a scheduled attendance at a paediatric clinic at the University Hospital of Wales for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. City University visual impairment clinic now recruits volunteer patients, rather than depending on real patients, this has resulted in better patient experience at the low vision clinic.

Glasgow Caledonian University introduced a new location to the hospital experience of the Golden Jubilee Hospital Clydebank.

The University of Ulster put in place for students to attend the Ophthalmology Department at Altnagelvin Hospital; students were able to attend for 3.5 hour session and this has been expanded to attend for two sessions in 2009-10. This is in addition to ongoing arrangements with Causeway Hospital. 08/09 also saw the enhancement of student experience and learning through the introduction of Ocular Pathology mini rounds.

### Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Anglia Ruskin University staff members are now using interactive response system during lectures and the OSCE's have been introduced in a 1<sup>st</sup> year clinical module and a 2<sup>nd</sup> year clinical module.

City University have increased its use of online lectures and have started to produce clinical skills teaching videos. Several vision lectures have also been made available online for students. Assessment mechanisms remain largely the same except for the introduction of OSCEs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Clinical Skills and Visual Impairment module.

Glasgow Caledonian University's clinical logbooks now contribute 20% to the final mark in the General Optometric Practice module.

Manchester University introduced a faculty policy in 08/09 for every first year module to include an e-learning component delivered through the Blackboard learning system. The inclusion of an e-learning component was extended to include all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year modules for 09-10 academic year.

The University of Ulster teaching and learning methods mainly remain the same except for an enhanced specialist teaching in some areas by attendance at hospital clinics.

### Student progression and achievement

There were no outstanding issues with the Institutions in this area.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

There were no issues arising from the Institutions in terms of external examiner appointments. Anglia Ruskin University in response to a GOC recommendation appointed a second external examiner to the Optometry programme and Manchester University have continued to appoint two external examiners to the Optometry programme.

### Staffing

There were no areas of concern in relation to staffing and the information provided by the Institutions is in line with the GOC handbook.