



ECOO European Qualifications Board Advertisement for Optometry Student Member of Accreditation visitor panel for ECOO

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) has a vision to harmonise and develop educational standards and the scope of practice for optometry and optics.

The European Diploma in Optometry and Qualification in Optics are agreed syllabi and competency frameworks. The European Diploma in Optometry is set at the highest standard for the scope of practice for Optometry in Europe and provides a qualification appropriate for Optometric practice at Category 3 of the World Council of Optometry's four categories model. The countries of ECOO have adopted the Diploma as the "Gold Standard" for European Optometry. This has influenced and developed the profession & optometric education. In 2015, ECOO established an Accreditation Agency which independently runs an accreditation system for Institutions to benchmark against the European Diploma in Optometry and Qualification in Optics.

To ensure we represent the views across the profession, the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) is looking for optometry **students** to become members of the Accreditation visitor panels. This is an exciting opportunity to gain insight into your prospective profession, an interest in how optometry is taught in other countries in Europe, and to travel to visit other Institutions teaching optometry and optics.

We are looking for optometry students in the 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of their education, and we are hoping to have a pool of students to call on. While we want to minimise any conflicts with your education schedule, you will need to have the support of your University course team.

The Role of the Visitor

Visitors are responsible for evaluating the self-assessment document, the syllabus, the programme specification, examinations and assessments, for visiting training institutions, observing teaching, inspecting facilities and discussion with students, staff and institutional managers.

Typically working in a team of four, which may include optometrists, opticians and educationalists, the team have to organise their time, keep detailed records, come to an agreed verdict and write up a final report. This report and recommendations are presented to the European Qualifications Board and the ECOO Executive Committee, which makes the final decision.

Time Commitment

You will need to be available approximately 4-6 days per year. You will be required to attend periodic training workshops online. You should be willing to undertake up to two face-to-face visits, normally of three days duration, in any one year. Each visit involves:

- Preparation – review of substantial documentary submissions
- A virtual meeting to discuss the preliminary opinion on the level of accreditation
- The three day Visit;



- Contribution to the draft Visit Report

Responsibilities:

- Reading the documentation sent in advance of the visit and provided during the visit and provide input from the student perspective;
- Participating in the visit to support the evaluation of the evidence from a student perspective (including questioning staff and students and visiting clinical facilities);
- Give an opinion (against the European Diploma or the Qualification in Optics competency-based syllabus) on the adequacy and quality of a programme, assessment systems, the assurance of patient safety and equality and diversity issues;
- Contributing to the drafting of the report on the visit including recommendations made to the institutional staff responsible for the delivery of the programme.

Benefits:

- Travel to schools of optometry in other countries
- Learn more about optometry education and scope of practice of optometry
- Strengthen your CV and develop skills working as part of a team
- Meet leading optometry educators across Europe
- Meet optometry students across Europe

Person Specification

Essential attributes

- Ability to communicate in English (written and oral)
- Good time management and ability to manage email communications
- Be involved in higher education as an optometry student.
- Ability to exercise discretion and work confidentially
- Awareness of, and sensitivity to, equality and diversity issues
- Ability to demonstrate a flexible approach to working

Desirable attributes

- Ability to speak one or more European languages in addition to English
- Experience of working as a member of committees, teams or panels
- Understanding of professional practice and healthcare education/regulation
- Understanding of audit and quality assurance principles

Expenses:

All travel expenses will be covered, and students will be reimbursed for their time on face-to-face visits and preparation meetings for visits with a daily fee of €150

Application procedure

Please submit: a cover letter setting out your interest in this work and your relevant skills and experience (indicative length: 1 page), a Full CV, and provide contact details of a person from your university optometry programme with whom you have discussed this application.

Please send to: accreditation@ecoo.info By: 30 September 2022