

NEWS FROM THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

Metropolia University in Finland achieves full accreditation

May 2024

The ECOO Accreditation Agency is delighted to announce that the University of Applied Sciences, Metropolia, Helsinki has received full accreditation following the attainment of all the conditions which it was set after the final visit in November 2022. The visitors were impressed with the professionalism and commitment of the team involved as well as the high level of optometry education and dedication to the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO).

This accreditation marks the first time that an educational institution has moved from partial accreditation to full accreditation, which sends out a strong message that accreditation is often a step-by-step process, which is valuable and achievable. It was also very timely as it coincided with the ECOO General Assembly meetings in Helsinki, enabling ECOO members to congratulate their Finnish colleagues.

This brings the number of educational institutions fully accredited with the EDO to six. Three more educational institutions -

from Latvia, Spain and France - are currently undergoing the accreditation process, as well as two universities from Israel.

The EDO syllabus is shaping educational programmes across Europe with interest in gaining accreditation expressed in a wide range of countries. To meet this growing demand, the Accreditation Agency has increased its pool of Educational Visitors and will also soon launch a new call for student visitors because the current pool of students are now graduating.

In 2023 a total of 56 professionals received their EDO from:

- University of South-Eastern Norway (Kongsberg, Norway)
- Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie (Olten, Switzerland)
- University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

In addition, the final cohort of 6 candidates undertaking the last round of independent examinations received their EDO in 2023. The European Qualification in Optics (EQO) is also moving forward, with 13 graduates receiving ed EQO from the OHI GmbH, Optometrie & Hörakustik Initiative (Vienna, Austria) in 2023.

The ECOO Accreditation Agency is delighted that a total of **623** professionals now hold the EDO and 91 hold the EQO, a number that is

growing steadily year on year. work will finally prove successful.

ABOUT THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

ECOO has developed the EDO and EQO as a syllabi and competency frameworks, and operates an accreditation scheme for institutions to benchmark against this framework. The Accreditation Agency has been set up to run this accreditation work.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS WORK VISIT:

<https://ecoo.info/ecoo-accreditation-agency/>