

# NEWS FROM THE ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY

October 2024



Graduation ceremony at the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), September 2024

## GRADUATES FROM SIX COUNTRIES ACHIEVED THE ECOO EUROPEAN DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY AND THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS IN OPTICS IN 2024

As the academic year came to an end earlier in the summer, another cohort of 49 students graduated with the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO) as an addition to their national degree.

These students came from the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie (Olten, Switzerland), University of South-Eastern Norway (Kongsberg, Norway), University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), Berliner Hochschule für Technik (Berlin, Germany) and the recently

accredited Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki, Finland)

*"I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the students who achieved the EDO. They put in the extra work and effort to complete the additional requirements of the EDO including the practical experience. The EDO provides extremely valuable evidence of the quality of their qualification and hence their competences, which they can build upon over the course of their entire professional career" says Gabriëlle Janssen, ECOO President, who attended the Utrecht graduation ceremony.*

Peter Gumpelmayer, ECOO Treasurer, had the honour to present the EDOs to the 30 students graduating from Olten. *"It is always a pleasure to hand-out the EDO's to the students in Olten, who then move on to practice in a country where the recent changes in the law mean they*

*can use the full breadth of their competencies”.*

In addition to the EDO graduates, 14 students from the OHI GmbH, Optometrie & Hörakustik Initiative (Vienna, Austria) received the European Qualifications in Optics (EQO), which is the entry standard for optics created by ECOO at a European level.

This autumn, the ECOO Accreditation Agency visited the Facultat d’Òptica i Optometria, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain for their first accreditation visit. The visitors’ panel was impressed with the programme

and effort put in by the University team who are seeking full accreditation.

Since 2023, we have included students on the ECOO panels of visitors. The perspective of students has proven to be very valuable and has enriched the process. Now that the current student visitors are graduating, we are in the process of recruiting the next group of students to take on this exciting opportunity. You can find out more about the experience of some of our current student visitors [here](#).



*Graduation ceremony at the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Hochschule für Technik, Institut für Optometrie (Olten, Switzerland), September 2024*

## 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/>