

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/21/3b)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

11 March 2021

Agenda Item 6.1.2

COVER SHEET

DEPARTURES AND VARIATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK:

Unit 28Db: Optometry

Postgraduate Certificate in The Theory of Independent Prescribing for Optometrists

*Presenter: Professor A McKillop*

Action is required of the Committee:

Consideration of approval for exemption from providing an Aegrotat award.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

## **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR EXEMPTION FROM AEGROTAT AWARD**

### **Programme: Postgraduate Certificate in The Theory of Independent Prescribing for Optometrists**

#### **Rationale**

The above programme has recently gone through an internal university revalidation (15<sup>th</sup> December 2020) and been approved for a further five year period. Prior to this, in October 2020, the programme had also been subject to external validation by the professional and regulatory body, the General Optical Council, and was approved for a five-year period, having being very highly commended.

Subsequent to the internal revalidation process, the Academic Office notes have highlighted the university regulations regarding consideration of aegrotat awards and have noted that where such an award is not deemed appropriate, exemption must be sought from the Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee.

This matter has been discussed fully by the course team. Since the programme leads to a regulated professional qualification accredited by the General Optical Council, the award of an aegrotat qualification is not considered valid or appropriate because the regulatory body will not support or recognise an award where the full professional requirements have not been satisfied.

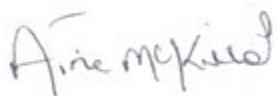
Accordingly, exemption is being sought to remove the requirement for an aegrotat award from the Postgraduate Certificate in The Theory of Independent Prescribing for Optometrists.

With thanks for your consideration,

Dr Julie McClelland  
Course Director  
Pg Certificate in The Theory of Independent Prescribing for Optometrists

Professor KJ Saunders  
Subject Head, Optometry and Vision Science

Mr Arnold Cochrane  
Academic Lead Education, School of Biomedical Sciences



Professor Aine McKillop  
Associate Dean (Education) Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

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