

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	University of Cumbria
Name of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography, Full time BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (top-up), Full time BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (top-up, degree apprenticeship), Work based learning
Date submission received	12 August 2021
Case reference	CAS-17100-K8V6Z7

Contents

Section 1: Our regulatory approach.....	2
Section 2: Programme details	2
Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment	3
Section 4: Outcome from first review	3
Section 5: Visitors’ recommendation	4

Executive Summary

We are the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), a regulator set up to protect the public. We set standards for education and training, professional knowledge and skills, conduct, performance and ethics; keep a register of professionals who meet those standards; approve programmes which professionals must complete before they can register with us; and take action when professionals on our Register do not meet our standards.

The following is a report on the major change process undertaken by the HCPC to ensure that programmes detailed in this report meet our standards of education and training (referred to through this report as ‘our standards’). The report details the process itself, the evidence considered, and recommendations made regarding programme approval.

Section 1: Our regulatory approach

Our standards

We approve programmes that meet our education standards, which ensure individuals that complete the programmes meet proficiency standards. The proficiency standards set out what a registrant should know, understand and be able to do when they complete their education and training. The education standards are outcome focused, enabling education providers to deliver programmes in different ways, as long as individuals who complete the programme meet the relevant proficiency standards.

Programmes are normally [approved on an open-ended basis](#), subject to satisfactory engagement with our monitoring processes. Programmes we have approved are listed [on our website](#).

How we make our decisions

We make independent evidence based decisions about programme approval. For all assessments, we ensure that we have profession specific input in our decision making. In order to do this, we appoint [partner visitors](#) to undertake assessment of evidence presented through our processes. The visitors make recommendations to the Education and Training Committee (ETC).

The ETC make decisions about the approval and ongoing approval of programmes. In order to do this, they consider recommendations detailed in process report. The Committee meets in public on a regular basis and their decisions are available to view [on our website](#).

HCPC panel

We always appoint at least one partner visitor from the profession (inclusive of modality and / or entitlement, where applicable) with which the assessment is concerned. We also ensure that visitors are supported in their assessment by a member of the HCPC executive team. Details of the HCPC panel for this assessment are as follows:

Rachel Picton	Radiographer - Diagnostic radiographer
Shaaron Pratt	Radiographer - Diagnostic radiographer
Niall Gooch	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Radiographer
Modality	Diagnostic radiographer
First intake	01 January 1992
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 70
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04934

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (top-up)
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Radiographer

Modality	Diagnostic radiographer
First intake	01 February 2022
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 20
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04935

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (top-up, degree apprenticeship)
Mode of study	WBL (Work based learning)
Profession	Radiographer
Modality	Diagnostic radiographer
First intake	01 February 2022
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 20
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04936

We undertook this assessment to consider whether the programme continues to meet our standards, following changes reported to us via the major change process. The following is an overview of the changes from the information received via this process.

The education provider has notified us that they intend to start two new one year top-up programmes, one a degree apprenticeship and the other a standard taught programme. These programmes will be closely based on the third year of the existing BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography. In the case of the apprenticeship, an End Point Assessment (EPA) will be added to adapt to the format.

The programmes are intended to provide a shortened route to registration for individuals working as assistant practitioners.

Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment

In order for us to progress with approval and monitoring assessments, we require certain evidence and information from education providers. The following is a list of evidence that we asked for through this process, and whether that evidence was provided. Education providers are also given the opportunity to include any further supporting evidence as part of their submission. Without a sufficient level of evidence, we need to consider whether we can proceed with the assessment. In this case, we decided that we were able to undertake our assessment with the evidence provided.

Required documentation	Submitted
Major change notification form	Yes
Completed major change standards mapping	Yes

Section 4: Outcome from first review

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission, the visitors were not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence that our standards continued to be met at this time, and therefore require further evidence as noted below.

Further evidence required

In order to determine whether the standards continue to be met, the visitors require further evidence for the following standards for the reasons noted below.

We expect education providers to review the issues identified in this report, decide on any changes that they wish to make to programme(s), and then provide any further evidence to demonstrate how they meet the standards.

3.4 The programme must have regular and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place.

Reason: There was a reference in the mapping document submitted with the documentation to an audit document. However, this audit was not supplied with the submission and so the visitors could not make a decision about its appropriateness, or whether it evidenced the regular and effective monitoring of the programme. They therefore could not determine whether this standard was met.

Suggested evidence: The audit document mentioned in the mapping document under SETs 3 and 5.

3.9 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

3.12 The resources to support learning in all settings must be effective and appropriate to the delivery of the programme, and must be accessible to all learners and educators.

Reason: The visitors noted from their review of the submission that the education provider was expecting to increase overall learner numbers in their provision by up to 100%. They considered that this might require an increase in programme resources, teaching spaces and staffing. The visitors could not see where in the evidence submitted the possible additional staffing and resourcing requirements were considered and reflected upon, and they were therefore unable to determine whether these standards were met.

Suggested evidence: Recruitment planning or planning for additional resourcing and teaching space.

Section 5: Visitors' recommendation

Considering the education provider's response to the request for further evidence set out in section 4, the visitors are satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the standards continue to be met and recommend that the programme(s) remain approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 02 November 2021 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).