

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	University of Salford
Name of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy, Part time BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy Degree Apprenticeship, WBL (Work based learning)
Date submission received	12 December 2019
Case reference	CAS-15877-V3B2L8

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:

Joanna Jackson	Physiotherapist
Kathryn Campbell	Physiotherapist
Rabie Sultan	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Profession	Physiotherapist
First intake	01 September 1999
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 29
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04549

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy Degree Apprenticeship
Mode of study	WBL (Work based learning)
Profession	Physiotherapist
First intake	01 September 2020

Maximum learner cohort	Up to 5
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04563

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 wants to have a work based learning (WBL) degree apprenticeship route through the existing part time BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy programme. The degree apprenticeship will have two new modules focusing on practice, which will replace two modules regarding inter-professional learning. Additionally, the degree apprenticeship will have a third new module which will help learners to prepare for the end point assessment

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.

3.3 The education provider must ensure that the person holding overall professional responsibility for the programme is appropriately qualified and experienced and, unless other arrangements are appropriate, on the relevant part of the Register.

Reason: The education provider provided curriculum vitae of Linda Hollingsworth and Helen Carruthers, role description and person specification documents as evidence for this standard. The education provider mentioned in the standards mapping document that Helen is the programme leader for the degree apprenticeship route and part time route, whilst Linda is programme leader for the full time route. From reviewing the documentation, the visitors agreed that both are suitable qualified and experienced for the role. However, the visitors could not see information about the process in place of recruiting a programme leader, including details of how a suitable replacement will be appointed, if deemed necessary in the future. Additionally, the visitors noted the successful candidate should have 'Current HCPC registration as a Physiotherapist (or equivalent)' as stated in the person specification document.

From this, the visitors were not clear if the programme leader should be a physiotherapist who is on the HCPC register. The visitors were also unclear as to what 'equivalent' means. Therefore, the education provider must demonstrate the process in place to recruit a programme leader including details of how a suitable replacement will be appointed if required. The education provider must also clarify if the programme leader should be only someone who is on the Register as a physiotherapist.

Suggested evidence: Process in place to recruit a programme leader, including details of how a suitable replacement will be appointed if necessary. Additionally, clarity is needed if the future programme leader will only be someone who is on the HCPC register as a physiotherapist.

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 25 March 2020 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).