

## Visitors' report

<b>Name of education provider</b>	Queen Margaret University
<b>Programme name</b>	Post Graduate Diploma Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Full time
<b>Relevant part of HPC Register</b>	Physiotherapist
<b>Date of visit</b>	16 -17 June 2009

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## Executive summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HPC is a health regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HPC currently regulates 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'Physiotherapist' or 'Physical therapist' must be registered with us. The HPC keep a register of health professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the approval of the programme. The education provider has until 12 August 2009 to provide observations on this report. The report and any observations received will be considered by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 25 August 2009. At this meeting, the Committee will accept the visitors' recommended outcome and approve the programme.

## Introduction

The HPC visited the programme at the education provider as it was a new programme which was seeking HPC approval for the first time. This visit assessed the programme against the standards of education and training (SETs) and considered whether those who complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was part of a joint event. The education provider reviewed the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. The visit also considered the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration). The education provider, the professional body and the HPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of all the programmes and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HPC's recommendations on this programme only. A separate report exists for the other programme. As an independent regulatory body, the HPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HPC's standards. A separate report, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outline their decisions on the programmes' status.

## Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Anthony Power (Physiotherapist) Fleur Kitsell (Physiotherapist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Mandy Hargood
Proposed student numbers	30
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2009
Chair	Claire Seaman (Queen Margaret University)
Secretary	Emma Wilson (Queen Margaret University)
Members of the joint panel	Jill Wickham (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) Nina Thompson (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) Lindesay Irvine (Internal Panel Member) Vivienne Chisholm (Internal Panel Member) Peter Bowen (Internal Panel Member)

## Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HPC reviewed the documentation detailed below, sent by the education provider:

	Yes	No	N/A
Programme specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Descriptions of the modules	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SETs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SOPs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practice placement handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum vitae for relevant staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
External examiners' reports from the last two years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The HPC did not review external examiners reports prior to the visit as there is currently no external examiner as the programme is new. However the visitors did review the reports for the approved MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) programme.

During the visit the HPC saw the following groups or facilities:

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior managers of the education provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators/mentors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The HPC met with students from the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

## Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that the programme is approved.

The visitors did not set any conditions for the programme.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for approval. Conditions are set when certain standards of education and training have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the standard being met.

The visitors have made a number of recommendations for the programme.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme is recommended for approval. Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme and are normally set when it is felt that the particular standard of education and training has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

The visitors did not make any commendations on the programme.

Commendations are observations of innovative best practice by a programme or education provider.

## Recommendations

### **3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.**

**Recommendation:** The education provider should review the level of administrative and technical support available to support the programme.

**Reason:** The visitors were happy that this standard had been met. However the visitors noted that compared to similar programmes all academic staff carry a very heavy administrative workload. They feel that if current standards are to be maintained there is a strong case for increasing administrative staffing levels.

### **5.5 The number, duration and range of placements must be appropriate to the achievement of the learning outcomes.**

**Recommendation:** The education provider should explore the number, duration and range of placements with particular reference to increasing the number of placement providers outside the NHS.

**Reason:** The visitors were content that the standard was met. However, the visitors considered that as physiotherapy services are increasingly being provided outside of the NHS, in line with the Health Policy agenda, students would benefit from a wider range of placement opportunities.

### **5.8.1 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators must have relevant qualifications and experience.**

**Recommendation:** The education provider should consider identifying the skills that the practice placement educators require rather than their grade and number of years of clinical experience.

**Reason:** The visitors were content that this standard was met. However they recommended that the education provider should identify the skills and competences required by practice placement educators, rather than assuming that individuals who have had a specified number of years' experience would automatically have acquired these skills. Identification of the skills and competences required for the role is more educationally sound and might allow more flexibility in the appointment of practice placement educators in all sectors..

### **5.8.3 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators must undertake appropriate practice placement educator training.**

**Recommendation:** The education provider should consider exploring ways of delivering practice placement educator training, off site and in through distance learning or via video conferencing etc. This will make it easier for practice placement educators from sites that are a long distance from the education provider, to access this training.

**Reason:** The visitors were happy that this standard was met, but felt that the education provider could consider other methods of delivering practice placement educator training to enable more practice placement educators to receive the

training. This would be especially applicable in outlying placement areas or placements that are a long distance from the education provider.

Fleur Kitsell  
Anthony Power

## Visitors' report

<b>Name of education provider</b>	Queen Margaret University
<b>Programme name</b>	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Full time
<b>Relevant part of HPC Register</b>	Physiotherapist
<b>Date of visit</b>	16 – 17 June 2009

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## Executive summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HPC is a health regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HPC currently regulates 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'Physiotherapist' or 'Physical therapist' must be registered with us. The HPC keep a register of health professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. The education provider has until 12 August 2009 to provide observations on this report. The report and any observations received will be considered by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 25 August 2009. At this meeting, the Committee will accept the visitors' recommended outcome and approve the programme.

## Introduction

The HPC visited the programme at the education provider to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards: programme admissions standards, programme management and resources standards, curriculum standards, practice placements standards and assessment standards. The programme was already approved by the HPC and this visit assessed whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training (SETs) and continued to ensure that those who complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was part of a joint event. The education provider reviewed the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. The visit also considered a Post Graduate Diploma Physiotherapy (Pre-registration). The education provider, the professional body and the HPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of all the programmes and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HPC's recommendations on this programme only. A separate report exists for the other programme. As an independent regulatory body, the HPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HPC's standards. A separate report, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outline their decisions on the programmes' status.

## Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Anthony Power (Physiotherapist) Fleur Kitsell (Physiotherapist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Mandy Hargood
Proposed student numbers	30
Initial approval	30 March 2001
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2009
Chair	Claire Seaman (Queen Margaret University)
Secretary	Emma Wilson (Queen Margaret University)
Members of the joint panel	Jill Wickham (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) Nina Thompson (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) Lindesay Irvine (Internal Panel Member) Vivienne Chisholm (Internal Panel Member) Peter Bowen (Internal Panel Member)

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Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that the programme is approved.

The visitors did not set any conditions for the programme.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for ongoing approval. Conditions are set when certain standards of education and training have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the standard being met.

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Commendations are observations of innovative best practice by a programme or education provider.

## Recommendations

### **3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.**

**Recommendation:** The education provider should review the level of administrative and technical support available to support the programme.

**Reason:** The visitors were happy that this standard had been met. However the visitors noted that compared to similar programmes all academic staff carry a very heavy administrative workload. They feel that if current standards are to be maintained there is a strong case for increasing administrative staffing levels.

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Fleur Kitsell  
Anthony Power