

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Bangor University
Programme name	PG Dip Occupational Therapy
Mode of delivery	Full time accelerated
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Occupational therapist
Date of visit	24 - 25 October 2012

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Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HCPC is a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HCPC currently regulates 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title Occupational therapist must be registered with us. The HCPC keep a register of health and care 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. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 4 December 2012. At the Committee meeting on 4 December 2012 the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. This means that the education provider has met the condition(s) outlined in this report and that the programme meets our standards of education and training (SETs) and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to satisfactory monitoring.

Introduction

The HCPC visited the programme at the education provider to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards - the level of qualification for entry to the Register, programme admissions, programme management and resources, curriculum, practice placements and assessment. The programme was already approved by the HCPC 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 an HCPC only visit. The education provider did not validate or review the programmes at the visit. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit. The visit also considered a different programme – MSc Occupational Therapy. A separate visitor report exists for this programme.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Joanna Goodwin (Occupational therapist) Margaret Foster (Occupational therapist)
HCPC executive officers (in attendance)	Matthew Nelson
HCPC observer	Jamie Hunt
Proposed student numbers	Maximum of 25 across all pathways (PG Dip and MSc routes)
First approved intake	September 2009
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2012
Chair	David Wright (Bangor University)
Secretary	Gemma Plowman (Bangor University)

Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HCPC 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal and external evaluation/audit reports and resultant changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clinical audit tool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Validation document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping documents to professional body and QAA standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fitness to practice documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The HCPC did not review the clinical audit tool prior to the visit as the education provider did not submit it. However, they did table it at the visit itself.

During the visit the HCPC 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"/>

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.

A number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the ongoing approval of the programme is reconfirmed.

The visitors agreed that 55 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining two SETs.

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.

The visitors did not make any recommendations for the programme.

Conditions

2.1 The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a programme.

Condition: The programme team must revise the documentation to ensure the relationship and progression between the PG Dip and MSc award is clearly articulated to applicants.

Reason: From reading the documentation, the visitors noted that students registered for the PG Dip Occupational Therapy and MSc Occupational Therapy all initially complete a common two year programme. Students registered for the MSc would then go on to complete a dissertation module. However, there were a number of issues regarding the relationship between the two programmes, and associated options for students which were only fully clarified after discussions with the senior management and programme teams. The visitors were unclear about the timeframe students would have to follow should they wish to step up from the PG Dip to the MSc or should they wish to return and complete the post registration MSc at a future date. The visitors were also unclear whether a PG Dip would be awarded should a student step off the MSc programme during the dissertation module. The visitors felt that the lack of clarity in these areas may prevent applicants from making an informed choice about whether to take up an offer of a place on the programme. In order for this SET to be met, the visitors require the appropriate documentation be amended to clearly reflect the possible avenues through the programmes, timeframes involved and qualifications awarded.

3.8 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be effectively used.

Condition: The programme team must revisit programme documentation to ensure the terminology in use is reflective of the current terminology used in relation to statutory regulation and the HCPC.

Reason: The visitors noted the programme documentation submitted by the education provider did not fully comply with the relevant guidance issued by HCPC. For example, there was reference to the HCPC being an 'External accreditation body' (Programme specification, p1) and the HCPC 'who validate the course professionally' (Student programme handbook, p8). With reference to these two examples respectively; the HCPC is a regulatory body and would grant approval for a programme. The visitors require the documentation to be reviewed to remove any instances of incorrect or out-of-date terminology. In this way the visitors can be sure that the documentary resources available to support students' learning are being effectively used and that this standard can be met.

Joanna Goodwin
Margaret Foster