

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Brunel University
Programme name	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Physiotherapist
Date of visit	4 December 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 'Physiotherapist' or 'Physical 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 approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 9 May 2013. At the Committee meeting on 9 May 2013, the programme was approved. This means 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 as it was a new programme which was seeking HCPC 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 validated the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. The education provider, the professional body and the HCPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of the programme and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HCPC's recommendations on the programme only. As an independent regulatory body, the HCPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HCPC's standards. A separate report, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outlines their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Anthony Powers (Physiotherapist) Joanna Jackson (Physiotherapist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Victoria Adenugba
Proposed student numbers	48 per cohort once a year
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2013
Chair	Derek Milligan (Brunel University)
Secretary	Sally McKinley (Brunel University)
Members of the joint panel	Misia Gervis (Internal Panel Member) Ian Kill (Internal Panel Member) Carolyn Mason (External Panel Member) Jill Wickham (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists) Nina Thomson (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists)

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The HCPC did not review external examiners' reports from the last two years prior to the visit as the programme is new and external examiners' reports have not been produced.

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"/>

The HCPC met with students from the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy, 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 a number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 53 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 4 SETs.

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 also made a recommendation 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.

Conditions

4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised learning outcomes for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure that any changes made after the visit will not significantly affect the learning outcomes or affect how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised learning outcomes, to ensure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, core values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in any relevant curriculum guidance.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised learning outcomes for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure that any changes made after the visit will not significantly affect the learning outcomes or affect how the programme reflects relevant curriculum guidance. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised learning outcomes and relevant programme documentation, to ensure the programme continues to reflect the philosophy, core values, skills and knowledge of relevant curriculum guidance. In this way the visitors can be sure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

6.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised module descriptors for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure that any changes made after the visit will not significantly affect the assessment of the learning outcomes or affect how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised programme module descriptors, to ensure that the assessment strategy and design guarantees that those

who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

6.4 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised assessment methods that will be employed to measure the learning outcomes for the programme with the prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure that any changes made after the visit will not significantly affect the learning outcomes or affect how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised assessment methods that will be employed to measure the learning outcomes, to ensure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation: The education provider should consider that if the programme recruits as anticipated the staffing levels for the programme are reviewed appropriately.

Reason: From the evidence provided in the programme documentation and the programme team meeting at the visit, the visitors were content that this standard was met. However, a suggestion in the programme team meeting highlighted that the programme may increase student numbers as the programme becomes established. The visitors would like to recommend that if this happens the education provider considers reviewing the staff numbers for the programme to ensure there continues to be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme. Also if the number of students on the programme increases significantly the visitors recommend that the programme team inform the HCPC through the major change process.

Joanna Jackson
Anthony Powers