

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Cardiff University (Prifysgol Caerdydd)
Programme name	BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Operating department practitioner
Date of visit	29 – 30 April 2014

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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. We are a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. We currently regulate 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'operating department practitioner' 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 26 August 2014. At the Committee meeting, the programme was approved. This means that the education provider has met the conditions 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 also considered their accreditation of the programme. The education provider 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 outlines their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Nick Clark (Operating department practitioner) Joanne Thomas (Operating department practitioner)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Hollie Latham
Proposed student numbers	60 per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2014
Chair	Claire Morgan (Cardiff University)
Secretary	Clive Brown (Cardiff University)
Members of the joint panel	Lloyd Howell (Northumbria University) Paul Wicker (Edge Hill University) Clare Hughes (Cardiff University) Brian Jenkins (Cardiff 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 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 there is currently no external examiner as the programme is new.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 approved DipHE Operating Department Practice, 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 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 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

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

Condition: The education provider must provide further evidence to confirm the staffing strategy for programme.

Reason: In the transition from 'Dip HE Operating Department Practice' to 'BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice' the programme team intend to increase student numbers from 50 students per year to 60 students per year. The 'BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice' will also run over 3 years (in contrast to the previous 2 year programme) bringing the potential total student numbers from 100 to 180 across the programme at any one time. In a meeting with the senior team it was stated that, to accommodate the increase to student numbers, budgets had been agreed and staffing arrangements are underway. Although it had been outlined that staff arrangements are underway, the visitors were unclear of the overall intended increase to staffing levels. Therefore, the visitors require further clarification to show that there will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

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 an up to date version of assessment methods and criteria.

Reason: The visitors were satisfied that the current assessment methods, as evidenced in the documentation, would ensure that students meet the Standards of Proficiency (SOPs) for operating department practitioners. However, in a meeting with the programme team, it was stated that some of the current assessment methods will be changing before the September intake. The visitors did not receive any documentation evidencing the changes. Therefore the visitors require further evidence of any changes made to the assessment methods to ensure that a student who completes the programme can meet the SOPs for operating department practitioners.

Recommendations

3.9 The resources to support student learning in all settings must effectively support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Recommendation: The visitors recommend that the programme team continue to monitor and develop the practice equipment available to students on the programme, to ensure that they continue to effectively support currency.

Reason: The visitors were satisfied that the current resources to support student learning were available and appropriate for the delivery of the programme and are therefore satisfied that this standard is met. However, from a tour of the facilities, the visitors noted that there was an opportunity for the practice equipment to be updated. More specifically, not all of the practice equipment available to students was reflective of current practice. The visitors recommend that the programme team review the currency of the practice equipment available to students to best reflect the resources used in current practice.

Nick Clark
Joanne Thomas