

Visitors' report – amended approval process for independent prescribing programmes

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	De Montfort University
Programme name	BSc Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant entitlements	Independent prescribing Supplementary prescribing
Name of HCPC visitors and visitor role	Rosemarie Furner (Independent prescribing) Paul Blakeman (Chiropodist / podiatrist)
HCPC executive	Hollie Latham
Date of assessment day	1 November 2013

Section two: Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve education programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us.

As well as approving educational programmes for individuals who want to join the Register, the HCPC approve programmes for those already on the Register.

Along with several other entitlements, we currently approve programmes to allow:

- chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with supplementary prescribing; and
- chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists to have their registration record annotated with independent prescribing.

We have previously ensured that a currently running supplementary prescribing programmes at this education provider have met the standards of education and training (SETs). As this new or amended programme is based on an existing HCPC approved supplementary prescribing programme, we can be satisfied that it meets some of the standards for prescribing, which are based on the SETs.

However, we have identified some standards where we will need to make a judgement about how the introduction or modification of elements of the programme impact on the way it meets these standards.

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and that those who complete the programme demonstrate an ability to meet the standards for all prescribers (along with the additional standards for independent prescribers where required).

Section three: Submission details

The following required documents were provided as part of the submission:
Information for applicants (eg advertising materials, admissions / entry criteria)

- Programme specification
- Student handbook
- Information about programme and management team structure, including staff CVs
- Module descriptors
- Extracts from practice placement documents
- Extracts from assessment regulations relating to student progression and external examiners
- Standards for prescribing mapping document

Section four: Additional documentation

- The visitors agreed that no further documentation was required in order to make a recommendation.
- The visitors agreed that additional documentation was required in order to make a recommendation. The standards for which additional documentation is requested are listed below with reasons for the request.

Section five: Recommendation of the visitors

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that:

- There is sufficient evidence to show the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing, and therefore that the programme be approved
- There is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme meets the standards for education providers part of the standards for prescribing. Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence, and if required place conditions on approval of the programme

Visitor's comments

The visitors noted that there were several typographical errors within the documentation and felt that as a result some incorrect information could be disseminated to students. The visitors suggest that the education provider reviews the documentation to ensure that these errors are remedied to ensure that the correct information is disseminated to students.

It was also noted that throughout the documentation there was a lack of programme specific referencing. The visitors noted that in many instances the BSc Non-Medical Prescribing was often confused with the Post Graduate Certificate Non-Medical Prescribing. The visitors suggest that the documentation is reviewed to ensure that students obtain the correct and relevant information for their programme.

The visitors noted inconsistencies in the percentage weighting of "Unseen examination (numeracy)" in the module descriptor MPHE 5500. The education provider must provide clarity on the percentage weighting for this module. The visitors felt that this needed to be amended to ensure that students receive the correct information. The revision would be reviewed at the next annual monitoring audit.

The visitors noted that the Student Learning and Assessment document referenced the following; "The focus is on the NMC (2006) Proficiencies of Nurse and Midwife prescribers and the NPC (2003) Competency Framework for Prescribing.". It was noted that the external assessment frameworks for the NPC has since been updated to "The NPC 2012 Single Competency Framework for All Prescribers". Evidence will be needed show that the education provider is using the current NPC framework document. The visitors felt that this needed to be amended to ensure that students receive the correct information. The revision would be reviewed at the next annual monitoring audit.