

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Glasgow Caledonian University
Programme name	BSc in Operating Department Practice
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of HPC Register	Operating department practitioner
Date of visit	3 – 4 April 2012

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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 15 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 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. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 12 June 2012. At the Committee meeting on 12 June 2012 the programme was approved. 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 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 validated the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. 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 the programme and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HPC's recommendations on the programme only. 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, outlines their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Penny Joyce (Operating department practitioner) Nick Clark (Operating department practitioner)
HPC executive officer (in attendance)	Benjamin Potter
Proposed student numbers	20
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2012
Chair	Tony Kilpatrick (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Secretary	Morven Gillies (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Members of the joint panel	Gill Maxwell (Internal Panel Member) Jacqueline Riley (Internal Panel Member) Helen Booth (College of Operating Department Practitioners)

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 any external examiners' reports from the last two years prior to the visit as there is currently no external examiner for the programme as it is new.

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 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 condition is set on the programme, which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 56 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining SET.

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 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.

Conditions

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

Condition: The education provider must revisit the programme documentation to ensure that the terminology in use is accurate and reflective of the current terminology used in relation to the HPC.

Reason: The visitors noted that the programme documentation submitted by the education provider included instances of incorrect terminology in relation to the HPC's standards of conduct performance and ethics. In particular, there were instances of incorrect terminology in referencing the 'HPC Code of Conduct' (e.g. Module M1B721426, module descriptor; Mentor placement handbook, Appendix 1 and Practice placement document, p34). The HPC does not have a 'code of conduct' which a registrant must follow. Instead registrants must act in accordance with the HPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics. The visitors considered the terminology to be misleading to students and therefore required the programme documentation to be reviewed to remove any instance of incorrect terminology throughout.

Recommendations

3.6 Subject areas must be taught by staff with relevant specialist expertise and knowledge.

Recommendation: The education provider should consider appointing an HPC registered operating department practitioner to the programme team to further enhance the profession specific profile of the programme.

Reason: From a review of the documentation provided the visitors were satisfied that the current core team had sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified and experienced staff to effectively deliver the programme. They also noted in discussions at the visit, the work that had been done by the current team to raise the profile of the profession throughout Scotland and to develop this new training route to professional registration. They were therefore satisfied that this standard has been met. In further discussions with the senior team it was highlighted that to support the programme in the future an additional member of staff would be recruited to provide input and support to the current programme team. The visitors recommend that the education provider considers the appointment of an HPC registered operating department practitioner to this role. In this way the education provider may be able to further enhance the profession specific profile of the programme.

6.2 All assessments must provide a rigorous and effective process by which compliance with external-reference frameworks can be measured.

Recommendation: The programme team should consider increasing the pass mark for the drug calculation assessment.

Reason: From a review of the programme documentation the visitors were satisfied that the assessment methods complied with external-reference frameworks and were therefore satisfied that this standard has been met. However, in discussion with the programme team it was highlighted that the current drug calculation assessment had a pass mark of 80 per cent. The programme team stated that this was proportional given the stage at which the student undertakes the assessment within the programme and is in line with the education provider's assessment criteria for passing an assessment of this kind. The visitors articulated in further discussion that it was common for assessments of this kind to have a 100 per cent pass mark, to embed the skill of drug calculation in students' learning and to enhance the patient safety aspects associated with drug calculation. The visitors therefore recommend that the programme team consider revising the 80 per cent pass mark for this assessment and increase it to 100 per cent. In this way the programme team may enhance students' knowledge of the patient safety aspects associated with this skill set and further embed this in their learning.

Penny Joyce
Nick Clark