

Major change visitors' report

Contents

Section one: Programme details.....	1
Section two: Submission details	1
Section three: Additional documentation	2
Section four: Recommendation of the visitors	4

Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	Kingston University
Programme title	Masters in Social Work
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Social worker in England
Date of submission to the HCPC	24 November 2015
Name and role of HCPC visitors	Patricia Higham (Social worker in England) Gerry Mulcahy (Social worker in England)
HCPC executive	Abdur Razzaq

Section two: Submission details

Summary of change

SET 2: Programme admissions
SET 3: Programme management and resources
SET 5: Practice placements

The education provider has created a new part time entry route onto the programme to allow only employees of the partner organisation to enrol on the programme after reaching an agreement.

The following documents were provided as part of the submission:

- Major change notification form (completed by the HCPC executive)
- Context pack
- Major change SETs mapping document (completed by education provider)
- Programme specification
- Internal approval report 2015
- School of social work contextual and resources document
- Practice placement handbook

- Admissions handbook 2015
- Module directory 2015
- Student handbook 2015

Section three: 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 of education and training (SETs), for which additional documentation was requested, are listed below with reasons for the request.

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.

Reason: The visitors reviewed the documentation including the admissions handbook 2015, noting the part time route for potential applicants working in the social care sector. This document suggests that students will be both students and employees whilst on the programme. Within the admissions handbook the visitors were unable to locate any information on the study time that will be allocated to students whilst on placement and acting in an employee capacity. It was also unclear how placement information would be communicated to applicants for this particular route. Therefore the visitors require further evidence to demonstrate how the admissions procedures 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.

Suggested documentation: Information about admission procedures including advertising materials for part time students. For example, an updated admissions handbook with information about the nature and requirements of the part time route for potential students. Such as evidence which supports a commitment to study time whilst on placement.

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

Reason: The visitors reviewed the documentation noting the additional route for applicants who will be employed in the social care sector. Although the visitors were content with the resources to support students for the full time route, the visitors considered students on the part time route will need different support in academic and placement settings. Such as afterhours support, IT and academic support. Students on the part time route will be expected to continue with their employment whilst studying. This could affect SET 3.9 and SET 3.10 as well. The education provider will need to demonstrate that the resources to support student learning are effectively used for the students on the part time route.

Suggested documentation: Documentation that demonstrates how the resources to support student learning for employed students will be effectively used. For example, support available to students when they are not at the education provider but working.

5.2 The number, duration and range of practice placements must be appropriate to support the delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Reason: The visitors reviewed the documentation noting the part time route for applicants who will be employed in the social care sector. The visitors noted that with this change there will be an increase in the number of students which would require additional placement places. In addition, students on the part time route will be expected to continue with their employment whilst studying. The visitors could not determine if;

- students will be given adequate study time by their employers;
- the range of the placements that will be offered to the part time students, and;
- students are expected to complete a placement in their own work place and if so, how the education provider will ensure those placements support the achievement of the learning outcomes.

The education provider is therefore required to demonstrate how they will ensure that the number, duration and range of practice placements are appropriate to support the delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes for the additional students.

The visitors could not determine if these students will be given adequate study time by their employers. The range of the placements that will be offered to the part time students. If students are expected to complete a placement in their own work place, if so, how will the education provider ensure those placement support the achievement of the learning outcomes. The education provider is therefore required to demonstrate how they will ensure that the number, duration and range of practice placements are appropriate to support the delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes for the additional students.

Suggested documentation: Documentation that demonstrates agreements between the education provider and employers about students study time arrangements. The number, duration and range of practice placements must be appropriate to support the delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Section four: Recommendation of the visitors

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 have demonstrated an ability to meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

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

- There is sufficient evidence to show the programme continues to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme will continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency.

- There is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme continues to meet the standards of education and training listed. Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence and if required place conditions on ongoing approval of the programme.