

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Manchester Metropolitan University
Programme name	MSc Applied Biomedical Science
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of HPC register	Biomedical Science
Date of visit	7 – 8 October 2008

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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 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'Biomedical Scientist' 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 on 2 December 2008. At the Education and Training Committee's meeting on 2 December 2008, 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 an HPC only visit. The education provider and validating/awarding body did not validate or review the programme at the visit and the professional body did not consider their accreditation of the programme. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit.

Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Mr Thomas Cavanagh (Biomedical Scientist) Dr Phil Mandy (Podiatrist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Ms Mandy Hargood
HPC observer	Mr Roy Dunn
Proposed student numbers	10
Proposed start date of programme approval	January 2009
Chair	Mr Michael Jeffrey (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Secretary	Mrs Barbara Furnival (Manchester Metropolitan University)

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 external examiners' reports prior to the visit as there is currently no external examiner as the programme 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 (e.g. specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The HPC met with students from the MSc Biomedical Science and BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science, co-terminus route, 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 SETs and that those who complete the programme meet our 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 62 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 did not make any recommendations for the programme. Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme and are often suggested when it is felt that the standards of education and training have been met at the threshold level.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme is recommended for approval.

The visitors have also made a number of commendations. Commendations are observations of innovative best practice by a programme or education provider.

Condition

- 2.1 The admission procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make or take up the offer of a place on a programme.**

Condition: The programme specification provided as part of the admission procedures must clarify that the title MSc Applied Biomedical Science allows students on successful completion of the programme to be eligible to apply for registration with the HPC.

Reason: In the visitors reading of the documentation prior to the visit it was not clear in the programme specification provided that the title MSc Applied Biomedical Science would allow students on successful completion of the programme to be eligible to apply for registration with the HPC. As this document is provided as part of the admission procedures, the visitors would like to receive documentation that explicitly defines that the MSc Applied Biomedical Science would allow students on successful completion of the programme to be eligible to apply for registration with the HPC.

Commendations

The visitors wish to commend the following aspects of the programme,

Commendation: The visitors wished to congratulate the programme team on their partnership working with the clinical placements providers, the strategic health authority and the Primary Care Trusts.

Reason: During the meeting with the placement providers and the senior team the visitors were impressed by the obvious close collaboration between the programme team and the placement providers, strategic health authority and the Primary Care trusts and the extraordinary support that the programme team received from these groups. This is unique to Manchester Metropolitan University and this was seen as best practice.

Commendation: The visitors wished to congratulate the education provider in its research and laboratory functions associated with the programme, particularly the collaboration with the Institute for Biomedical Research into Human Movement and Health (IRM).

Reason: The visitors were impressed with the research facilities as this would feed into the MSc Applied Biomedical Science programme and would allow students access to service users as the IRM will be setting up clinics for patients. This was seen as innovative and best practice.

Mr Thomas Cavanagh
Dr Phil Mandy