

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Roehampton University
Programme name	MA Art Psychotherapy
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time
Relevant part of HPC Register	Arts therapist
Relevant modality / domain	Art therapy
Date of visit	29 – 30 June 2010

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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 'Art therapist' or 'Art psychotherapist' 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 ongoing approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 16 September 2010. At the Committee meeting on 9 December 2010, the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. 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 to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards - programme management and resources, curriculum, practice placements and assessment. The programme was already approved by the HPC and this visit assessed whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training (SETs) and continued to ensure that 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 did not validate or review the programme at the visit and the professional bodies did not consider their accreditation of the programme. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit. The visit also considered the following programmes - MA Dramatherapy and MA Music Therapy. Separate reports exist for these programmes.

Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Simon Willoughby-Booth (Art Therapist) Patricia Fillis (Radiographer)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Mandy Hargood
HPC observer	Alison Dittmer
Proposed student numbers	12 Full time 12 Part time
Initial approval	1 September 2009
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2010
Chair	Claire Ozanne (Roehampton University)
Secretary	Lucy Heming (Roehampton 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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"/>

Recommended outcome

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 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 ongoing approval of the programme is reconfirmed.

The visitors agreed that 52 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 5 SETs.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for ongoing 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 ongoing 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.

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

Conditions

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.

Condition: The education provider must revisit the advertising material on the website to ensure that the information is up to date and that terminology in use is accurate and reflective of the current terminology used in relation to statutory regulation.

Reason: The website information submitted by the education provider did not fully comply with the advertising guidance issued by HPC. In particular, there were instances of out-of-date terminology in reference to HPC providing state registration for students who complete the programme. The HPC does not provide state registration; instead those graduating from the programme are eligible to apply to the HPC for registration as an Art Therapist.

Also the visitors found that there were instances on the website where the information for the programme was out of date. Therefore the visitors would like to receive revised website information with the correct terminology and correct information available to applicants for the programme to ensure that this standard is met.

2.4 The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including compliance with any health requirements.

Condition: The education provider must provide documentation that clearly specifies what the health requirements for entry to the programme are

Reason: Prior to the visit the visitors received the programme specification that would be available for potential applicants to view. In the documentation it was not clear what the specific health requirements for entry to the programme were. During the meeting with the programme team, the visitors were informed that applicants are informed of the health requirements for entry to the programme on application and at interview.

In order to be assured that this standard is met the visitors would like to receive revised documentation that clearly articulates the health requirements for entry to the programme as described by the programme team.

3.14 Where students participate as service users in practical and clinical teaching, appropriate protocols must be used to obtain their consent.

Condition: The education provider must revise the current student consent form to include a paragraph regarding personal therapy for the student and to remove the sentence "The right to withdraw from participation in the module at any time".

Reason: On their reading of the documentation provided before the visit the visitors recognised that there is a form and protocol in place. However the visitors considered that the form in particular needed to be revised to include a

relevant paragraph that is in the MA Music Therapy consent form regarding taking personal therapy throughout the course of the programme. Also the visitors felt that the sentence “The right to withdraw from participation in the module at any time” was misleading.

The visitors considered that by giving full details in the consent form regarding personal therapy it would reinforce the students recognition that personal therapy was a necessary part of the programme to help them understand their own needs as well as those of the client. During the meeting with the programme team the visitors discussed the consent form with the team. The programme team recognised that the inclusion of the personal therapy paragraph would be valuable.

The programme team also recognised that the sentence regarding the right to withdraw from a module was misleading and also did not accurately reflect what the students were signing the form for. The visitors and the programme team discussed that this could potentially mean that if a student did sign and invoked the right to withdraw from the module they would miss standards of proficiency and this could potentially mean they would fail the programme. Therefore the consent form needed to be explicit about invoking the right to withdraw from a module and its impact on the student’s ability to complete the programme.

In order for the visitors to be assured that the consent form is appropriate and that the standard is met the visitors would like to receive a revised form that is clear and accurate and reflects what the student is consenting to.

5.4 The education provider must maintain a thorough and effective system for approving and monitoring all placements.

Condition: The education provider must provide clearly articulated documentation to demonstrate how it approves and monitors all practice placements.

Reason: The visitors received a clinical placement handbook prior to the visit. Included in this document there was a form that was completed by the practice placement manager. However it was not clear when the placement was monitored subsequently to ensure that the information provided on the form was accurate.

During the meeting with the practice placement educators and the programme team it was clear that initial approval and monitoring via placement visits by the programme teams and regular liaison with the placement providers does happen. It was clear that the programme team and the practice placement educators monitored the placements but this appeared to be completed when a placement came on to the list of available placements and it was unclear whether there was a regular monitoring of the placement thereafter. The forms are completed by the practice placement manager and returned to the education provider. It was not clear what role the education provider plays in the approval and monitoring of the placement. Therefore the visitors would like to receive revised documentation that clearly articulates how all placements are approved and monitored.

6.5 The measurement of student performance must be objective and ensure fitness to practise.

Condition: The education provider must provide clearly articulated documentation that identifies the assessment criteria for assessing the grade for practice placement.

Reason: The visitors noted that the form completed by the practice placement educators required them to grade the competencies and performance at the placement. However there was no guidance or criteria produced for the practice placement educators to use when grading students. The visitors were not satisfied that all practice placement educators would use the same criteria to grade a trainee without any clear assessment grade descriptors. The visitors therefore require further evidence which clearly articulates how the education provider ensures learning outcomes for each placement are consistently assessed.

Recommendations

4.5 The curriculum must make sure that students understand the implications of the HPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

Recommendation: The education provider should consider including references to the HPC Guidance on conduct performance and ethics for students in relevant module reading lists.

Reason: The visitors were content that the education provider was including the HPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics in the reading lists and these were appropriately referenced. The visitors considered that including the HPC Guidance on conduct, performance and ethics for students in relevant module reading lists would enhance the student learning and provide the students with the tools to understand what is required of them when they become practitioners.

Commendations

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

Commendation: The education provider's unique book retrieval and collection service for students on the programme.

Reason: As the programme holds attendance weekends, it is often difficult for students to access the library services. However students are able to request the library books they require on line and the library then arranges deliver to the students on the weekend days they attend the programme. The return of the library books is also made easy by having drop off boxes available to students even if the library is closed. The visitors saw this as innovative and best practice.

Information about this can be found at the following web link
<http://studentzone.roehampton.ac.uk/library/>

Simon Willoughby-Booth
Patricia Fillis