

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Brighton
Programme name	BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant part of HPC Register	Occupational therapist
Date of visit	15 March 2011

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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 'Occupational therapist' 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 at the education provider. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 31 March 2011. At this meeting, the Committee confirmed the ongoing approval of the programme. This means 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

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 - curriculum 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 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	Claire Brewis (Occupational therapist) Jane Grant (Occupational therapist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Ruth Wood
Proposed student numbers	30 per cohort once a year
Initial approval	September 2005
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2011
Chair	Phil Mandy (University of Brighton)
Secretary	Nicky Pont (University of Brighton)

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"/>
Periodic Review 2010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Response to Visitors' assessment of major change	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The HPC did not meet with the senior managers of the education provider with responsibility for resources for the programme; the major change did not rely on the senior manager team so there was no requirement to meet with them.

The HPC did not see the learning resources or specialist teaching accommodation, the nature of the major change did not affect these facilities so there was no requirement to visit them.

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 the ongoing approval of the programme is reconfirmed.

The visitors did not set any conditions for the programme.

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 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 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 did not make any commendations on the programme.

Commendations are observations of innovative best practice by a programme or education provider.

Recommendations

6.4 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes.

Recommendation: The visitors wish to recommend the programme team closely monitor the assessment methods employed in modules OT504 and OT603, to ensure the assessment methods are effective in measuring the learning outcomes.

Reason: From a review of documentation received prior to the visit, the visitors noted the external examiners reports for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. On both occasions the external examiners commented on issues associated with module learning outcomes and in particular the number and nature of the learning outcomes and the alignment with assessment methods. As a result of the external examiners comments the programme team has made a number of structural changes to both the modules and learning outcomes. This visit was brought about because of these major changes to the programme.

Prior to the visit, the visitors were concerned that the restructured modules OT504 and OT603 contained a large number of learning outcomes and that the assessment of these modules did not clearly align to the learning outcomes. After discussion at the visit and from reviewing additional documentation the visitors were reassured by the assessment methods and were satisfied this standard was met.

In light of the fact that both external examiners and the visitors had concerns about the number of learning outcomes and their alignment with the assessment methods, before and after the module restructure, the visitors wish to recommend the programme team closely monitor the assessment methods employed within these two modules and monitor their effectiveness.

6.4 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes.

Recommendation: : The visitors wish to recommend the programme team ensure all learning outcomes for module OT603 will be included within the assessment criteria for this module.

Reason: The visitors received documentation at the visit which included guidelines designed for students and assessors, detailing specific assessment assignments. These guidelines explained the assessments and linked the assignments to the learning outcomes for the module it was associated with. The visitors received the assessment guidelines and criteria for the existing viva assessment (which is to be modified to the new module of OT603) and were reassured the programme team would follow the same template for the new OT603 module. The visitors realise the module assessments are still within the development stage, they felt assessment guidelines and criteria are a valuable tool for students and assessors and recommend the programme team ensure all learning outcomes for the module will be included within the assessment guidelines and criteria when they come to produce it.

Claire Brewis
Jane Grant