

## Visitors' report

<b>Name of education provider</b>	University of Portsmouth
<b>Programme name</b>	BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Full time and Part Time
<b>Relevant part of HPC register</b>	Biomedical Science
<b>Date of visit</b>	7 and 8 May 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 Thursday 25 September 2008. At the Education and Training Committee's meeting on Thursday 25 September 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 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	Mr Robert Williams (Biomedical Scientist) Mr Robert Keeble (Biomedical Scientist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Katherine Lock
Proposed student numbers	25
Proposed start date of programme approval	6 October 2008
Chair	Dr Stephen Arkle (University of Portsmouth)
Secretary	Mrs S Wallace (University of Portsmouth)
Members of the joint panel	Dr Anne Loweth (External Panel Member) Mr Paul Whiting (External Panel Member) Dr Carol Ekinsmyth (Internal Panel Member) Dr Jasper Graham-Jones (Internal Panel Member) Mr Alan Wainwright (External Panel Member)

## 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 (e.g. specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 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.

A number of conditions are set on the programme, all of 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 1 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.

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

## Conditions

### **2.1 The admission procedures must give both 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 education provider must redraft and resubmit placement handbooks, the programme specification and unit descriptors to more accurately reflect the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme.

**Reason:** The current information available to students does not apply to the new HPC standards of proficiency published in November 2007. The documents also state that all standards of proficiency in the student portfolio do not need to be met upon graduation. It was explained that this is an option for those on the previously designed programme but all standards of proficiency need to be met in order for the student to be eligible for application of HPC registration. The visitors felt that the current information does not give the students the correct information they require when enrolling onto the programme.

### **2.1 The admission procedures must give both 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 education provider must submit a new student handbook for this programme.

**Reason:** The visitors felt that the current student handbook required substantial revision owing to the use of old terminology and it did not make clear enough that completion of the programme does not lead to HPC registration but the eligibility to apply for registration. It also did not provide a transparent outline of the selection procedures and criteria for placement in the second year. Since only 20 students will be chosen to complete this programme, a competitive selection process is in place. Both students and visitors felt that this was not made clear before enrolling onto the programme, thus giving potential false hope to those who may chose to take up a place on the programme.

## Commendations

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

**Commendation:** The visitors would like to commend the programme team for their clinical simulation laboratory.

**Reason:** The visitors felt this innovative facility enables professional biomedical science practice to be delivered and assessed on the university campus. This is unusual for biomedical science programmes.

Robert Williams  
Robert Keeble