

Health Professionals Council
Department of Education and Policy

Visitors report

Name of education provider	Oxford Brookes University
Name and titles of programme(s)	Diploma of Higher Education in Paramedic Emergency Care BSc in Paramedic Care BSc (Hons) in Paramedic Care
Mode of Delivery	PT and Mixed mode
Date of event	20-21 July 2005
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2006
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Mr Mark Woolcock Mr Shane Knox
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Ms Karen Scott
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Peter Bradley (Chair) – Oxford Brookes Alisa Clarke - QA Officer – Oxford Brookes Juliet Bostwick – Oxford Brookes Ian Teague – Hampshire Ambulance Trust

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	X
Major change to existing programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 1.

1.1 Confirmation of meetings held

	yes	no	n/a
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme planning team	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date
2005-07-25

Ver.
a

Dept/Cmte
EDU

Doc Type
STRAT

Title
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Diploma in Paramedic Care 20-21
July 2005

Status
Draft
DD: None

Int. Aud.
Public
RD: None

1.2 Confirmation of facilities inspected

	yes	No
Library learning centre	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.3 Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

Requirement (please insert detail)	yes	No	n/a
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	50
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 2 Programme admissions

The admission procedures must:

2.2 apply selection and entry criteria, including:

2.2.1 evidence of a good command of written and spoken English;

Condition: The University must demonstrate that it has mechanisms in place to ensure that graduates of the Diploma programme have written and spoken English language skills sufficient to be eligible to enter the HPC register.

Reason: The University has a range of different English language requirements for the programmes it offers. However, it was not clear from the documentation which level applies to the Diploma in Paramedic Care. Nor was it clear how students would meet the HPC's standards upon graduation.

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

3.8 The facilities needed to ensure the welfare and well-being of students must be both adequate and accessible.

3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The Programme must have a pre-determined (and published) number of students that will be taken at each cohort.

Reason: While the proposed staff student ratio is currently 1:15, in order to ensure that teaching facilities and resources are sufficient to support the number of students enrolled, there must be a maximum number of students that will be taken into any given year. This number must be appropriate to all teaching circumstances (ambulance services, University classes and placements) and cannot be exceeded without authorisation from the HPC.

3.9 Where students participate as patients or clients in practical and clinical teaching, appropriate protocols must be used to obtain their consent.

Condition: The University must ensure that it meets this standard by establishing a formal process to ensure that consent is sought from all students prior to their participation in practical and clinical teaching in the University, on placements and in teaching settings at ambulance trusts.

Reason: There was no evidence provided to suggest that this is a formal process.

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SET 5. *Practice placements standards*

5.1 Practice placements must be integral to the programme.

Recommendation: The Operations Manual must be finalised and formally agreed to by all ambulance services providing training for the Diploma programme.

Reason: If the intention of the Operations Manual is to act as an agreement between the University and the ambulance services, the document must be finalised (draft document only available at the visit), and formally signed by all those organisations involved in the provision of training for the programme.

SET 6. *Assessment standards*

6.7 Assessment regulations clearly specify requirements:

6.7.3 for an aegrotat award not to provide eligibility for admission to the Register

Condition: School assessment regulations must clearly state that an aegrotat award will not provide eligibility for admission to the HPC Register

Reason: While the documentation states that students will not be awarded a Diploma without successful completion of the 6 compulsory modules, it does not make specific reference to aegrotat awards.

Aegrotat - an award to a student who was unable to complete the degree due to illness

Deadline for *Conditions* to be met:

10 February 2006

To be submitted to Approvals Committee on:

6 April 2006

Recommendations

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SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.13 The learning resources, including the stock of periodicals and subject books, and IT facilities, including internet access, must be appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.

Recommendation: That the University pursue reciprocal borrowing rights between other Universities within the student training areas.

Reason: In order to ensure that student have access to IT and library facilities at all times, the HPC recommends that in addition to the current agreement with the Open University, Oxford Brookes seeks to establish close links with other Universities close to students homes and places of employment

SET 5. Practice placements standards

5.1 Practice placements must be integral to the programme.

Recommendation: That the School continues to work toward building uniformity, with respect to student support, between all the ambulance services with whom it has Operations Manual agreements.

Reason: In response to feedback from students, it is clear that there is a level of inconsistency between the different ambulance services, particularly with regard to study leave, information availability and general support for study endeavours. The HPC recognises that this is underway with a number of services and recommends that this be extended to all those who have signed the Operations Manual agreement.

Commendations

Commendations

The HPC would like to commend the programme team on their enthusiasm for the programme they are delivering and for the calibre of staff that have been recruited to deliver the programme. The programme is a step in the right direction for paramedic education and the student's comments were generally positive.

Statements such as "now I am learning to practise rather than to pass an exam" and "it was like a light had been switched on", indicated that students were being given the opportunity to understand the theory and principals underpinning their daily workplace activities.

The nature and quality of instruction and facilities meets the Standards of Education and Training.

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We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

xxx: Shane Knox

yyy: Mark Woolcock

Date: 09/08/05

ALL CONDITIONS MET

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