

Major Change Visitors' Report

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Section one: Programme details

Name of education provider	University of Portsmouth
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time
Relevant part of HPC register	Biomedical scientist
Date of submission to HPC	10 May 2005
Name and profession of HPC visitors	Robert Keeble (Biomedical scientist) David Houlston (Biomedical scientist)
HPC executive	Mandy Hargood

Section two: Submission details

Summary of change

SET 1 Level of qualification for entry to the Register

SET 2 Programme admissions

There is a proposed change to the title of the programme (from BSc (Hons.) Applied Biomedical Science to BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science, applicants will need to be aware of this to be able to make an informed choice as to whether to take up a place on the programme.

SET 3 Programme management and resources

The programme is being revised to be incorporated in the new Healthcare Scientist awards there may be a change to how the programme is managed and resourced.

SET 4 Curriculum

Proposed changes include changes to the credit values of the courses taught on the programme

SET 5 Practice placements

There is an increase in the number of required practice placement days for the programme.

SET 6 Assessment

Proposed changes include changes to the credit values of the courses taught on the programme and assessment for the courses.

The following documents were provided as part of the submission:

- Change notification form
- Context pack
- Major change SETs mapping document (completed by education provider)
- Programme document

Section three: Additional documentation

- The visitors agreed that no further documentation was required in order to make a recommendation.
- The visitors agreed that additional documentation was required in order to make a recommendation. The SETs for which additional documentation was requested is listed below with reasons for the request.

Section four: Recommendation of the visitor(s)

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 have demonstrated an ability to meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that:

- There is sufficient evidence to show the programme continues to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme will continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency.
- There is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme continues to meet the standards of education and training listed. Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence and if required place conditions on ongoing approval of the programme.

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.

Reason: As there are likely to be students applying to this programme from the Healthcare Science degree, visitors will need to be assured that the entry criteria for the Applied Biomedical Science is clear. On the basis of the variance in titles between the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and the BSc (Hons) Health Care Scientist to assess the programme and the ability of students to be eligible to apply to the HPC register on graduation.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

3.1 The programme must have a secure place in the education provider's business plan

Reason: The Healthcare Science degree is a new degree that is now to incorporate the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science degree.

The University state that this Healthcare Science degree is to replace the existing BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science course. As such the two are linked and it is not clear what effect these changes will have on the availability of resources and how these will be used to deliver an effective BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science course programme.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is secure within the education providers business plan.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

3.2. The programme must be effectively managed

Reason: The new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science has been extensively changed with a greater emphasis on placement study in each year. This will place a major responsibility on the Placement providers in terms of number of their staff required and how many extra hours of training time they will have to provide but there seems to have been only one meeting to date between the employers and the Education Provider to discuss this major development.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is managed effectively.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

3.3 The programme must have regular monitoring and evaluation systems in place

Reason: This is now a combination of several different courses into a single event with different educational levels ranging from a BSc to a BSc (Hons) Applied. This will require various levels of monitoring and evaluation to mirror the multiplicity of academic levels within the combined events and this currently not reflected in the documentation.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme does have regular monitoring and evaluation systems proposed and how these are to be applied.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

3.15 Throughout the course of the programme, the education provider must have identified where attendance is mandatory and must have associated monitoring mechanisms in place

Reason: It is unclear from the documentation provided which parts of the new BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science course are mandatory for the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and what action will be taken if students fail to attend

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme does have the appropriate monitoring mechanisms in place to monitor failure to attend and how this will be communicated to both practice placement educators and students.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register

Reason: The HPC standard of proficiency (SOPs) statements for biomedical scientists are referenced in the HCS Practitioner Training Module, however, they are reinterpreted from the original in many cases, acknowledged by the education provider who state that this document “broadly” uses the SOP s of the HPC.

The documentation faces towards the Health Care Scientist (HCS) Practitioner programme and aspires to contain within it the requirements for the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme. Given that the current BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is already a three year programme there are concerns about the time available for the required BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science content in this new form. It would also seem that the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science is regarded as a subset of the Health Care Science Practitioner Programme rather than an award in its own right. Therefore it is not clear how the HPC Standards of Proficiency for Biomedical Scientists will be met.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme will continue to produce successful graduates that meet the SOPs for the Biomedical Science part of the register.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

5.2 The number, duration and range of practice placements must be appropriate to support the delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Reason: There are a greater number of placement days required for the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science than previously required. The placement providers have only agreed places for 2011 and 2012 yet placement is required for all three years of this course. This means students starting in 2011 have no guarantee that the programme will be able to support them through to graduation and therefore no guarantee that HPC Registration will be possible. There is no evidence that students on the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science are made aware of this situation.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether there are sufficient placements for the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science to meet this standard.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

5.8 Practice placement educators must undertake appropriate practice placement educator training.

Reason: There is no evidence provided that the current practice placement Tutors and Educators have attended update training to meet the new assessment criteria for the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme. There is also confusion in the documentation provided whether this training is mandatory or not

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the practice placement educators receive appropriate practice placement educator training.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

5.10 There must be regular and effective collaboration between the education provider and the practice placement provider.

Reason: The notes of the meeting with the Employers and the education providers refers to significant detail in Appendix 1 which is not included in the documentation provided. The information referred to has significant influence on the meeting and appears to provide a lot of detail about the development of the programme. As there is a greater emphasis on placements in the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme it is important that the detail around practice placements can be viewed to identify how these changes may affect how the programme team collaborate with practice placement educators.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether there is regular and effective collaboration with the practice placement providers.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

5.11 Students, practice placement providers and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about and understanding of:

- **the learning outcomes to be achieved;**
- **the timings and the duration of any placement experience and associated records to be maintained;**
- **expectations of professional conduct;**
- **the assessment procedures including the implications of, and any action to be taken in the case of, failure to progress; and**
- **communication and lines of responsibility.**

Reason: The documentation is not clear on the criteria for failing a placement. Placements are a key part of the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme and students and practice placement educators must be aware of the expectation expected of them.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether students and practice placement educators know what is expected of them.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

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- **expectations of professional conduct;**
- **the assessment procedures including the implications of, and any action to be taken in the case of, failure to progress; and**
- **communication and lines of responsibility.**

Reason: This is a new degree to replace the current BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science but will require completion of the IBMS Certification of Competence Portfolio or equivalent for HPC Registration as the existing programme did, this is not fully reflected in the documentation received.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is meeting the learning outcomes to be achieved on practice placement.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be

easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

6.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Reason: The HPC standard of proficiency (SOPs) statements for biomedical scientists are referenced in the HCS Practitioner Training Module, however, they are reinterpreted from the original in many cases, acknowledged by the education provider who state that this document “broadly” uses the SOP s of the HPC.

The documentation faces towards the Health Care Scientist (HCS) Practitioner programme and aspires to contain within it the requirements for the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme. Given that the current BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is already a three year programme there are concerns about the time available for the required BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science content in this new form. It would also seem that the new BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science is regarded as a subset of the Health Care Science Practitioner Programme rather than an award in its own right. Therefore it is not clear how the HPC Standards of Proficiency for Biomedical Scientists will be met.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme will continue to produce successful graduates that meet the SOPs for the Biomedical Science part of the register.

There have been extensive changes to the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science and it is now proposed to combine this with other degree courses by incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

6.8 Assessment regulations, or other relevant policies, must clearly specify requirements for approved programmes being the only programmes which contain any reference to an HPC protected title or part of the Register in their named award.

Reason: The documentation must make it clear which programme leads to registration with HPC it is not clear how this is done in the new documentation.

Therefore the visitors considered that a visit was the most appropriate way to gather evidence to determine whether the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science programme is the only award that leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the HPC.

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incorporation within and replacement by them. This is a radical change to the programme and there is a huge amount of new information. Therefore it will be easier if this evidence was expedited by face to face questions and answers with the University, the programme team, students and practice placement educators.

Section five: Visitors' comments

The visitors also wished to point out that the comprehensive nature of the submission was not entirely conducive to coming to their decision. The visitors articulated that the education provider should consider the relevance of submitted documentation for future major change submissions.