

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Programme name	Doctorate in Forensic Psychology
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Practitioner psychologist
Relevant modality / domain	Forensic psychologist
Date of visit	6 – 7 September 2016

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Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. We are a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. We currently regulate 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'practitioner psychologist' or 'forensic psychologist' must be registered with us. The HCPC keep a register of health and care 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 24 November 2016. At the Committee meeting on 24 November 2016, the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. This means that the education provider has met the condition 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 HCPC 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 and practice placements. The programme was already approved by the HCPC 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 HCPC only visit. The education provider did not validate or review the programmes at the visit and the professional body did not consider their accreditation of the programmes. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit. The visit also considered a different programme, the Post Graduate Diploma in Practitioner Forensic Psychology. A separate visitors' report exists for this programme.

Visit details

Name and role of HCPC visitors	George Delafield (Forensic psychologist) Anthony Ward (Counselling psychologist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Alex Urquhart
Proposed student numbers	four per cohort, one cohort per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	1 September 2017
First approved intake	September 2014
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2017
Chair	Denise Parish (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
Secretary	Jack Morris (Cardiff Metropolitan University)

Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HCPC 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 HCPC 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"/>
Service users and carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

The HCPC did not meet with the service users and carers as they were unable to attend the visit.

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be satisfied 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 the relevant part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a condition is set on the programme, which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 57 of the SETs have been met and that a condition should be set on the remaining one SET.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can have its ongoing approval reconfirmed. 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 observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme can have its ongoing approval reconfirmed. Recommendations are made to encourage further enhancements to the programme, normally when it is felt that the particular standard of education and training has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

Conditions

6.7 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for student progression and achievement within the programme.

Condition: The education provider must provide further evidence to demonstrate the requirements for student progression and achievement throughout the programme.

Reason: The visitors reviewed the programme specification for the Doctorate in Forensic Psychology (Document 3). The document stated that at completion of the 120 level 7 credits, the student would achieve the PG Dip in Forensic Psychology and could progress onto the PG Dip in Practitioner Forensic Psychology at level 8, exit the programme and be eligible for HCPC registration. The visitors also reviewed the programme specification for the PG Dip in Practitioner Forensic Psychology, which clearly states on page no two that an applicant must have an MSc in Forensic Psychology before starting the level 8 taught programme. During the visit programme team stated that any student progressing from level 7 to level 8 taught aspect of the programme would have to complete 180 credits at level 7, which includes the 60 credit dissertation module. However the visitors noted that this is not reflected in document 3, which states that the student would only need to achieve 120 credits at level 7 to progress onto level 8. It was later clarified that university requirements allow a student to carry a maximum of 120 credits from level 7 as they exit at level 8, as such the extra 60 credits are an addition and do not count towards the final award at level 8. As such the visitors require further evidence to demonstrate how the requirements for a student to achieve and progress on this programme is clearly specified in relevant programme documentation. In particular the visitors require further evidence as to how the requirements for a student to progress from level 7 to level 8 of the programme, includes the requirement for the completion of the 60 credit dissertation module. With this information the visitors will be able to determine whether the requirements for student progression and achievement throughout the programme are clearly specified.

George Delafield
Anthony Ward