

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Hull
Programme name	BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Operating department practitioner
Date of visit	11 – 12 December 2013

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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 'operating department practitioner' 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 approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 13 February. At the Committee meeting, 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 HCPC visited the programme at the education provider as it was a new programme which was seeking HCPC 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 HCPC 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 HCPC's recommendations on the programme only. As an independent regulatory body, the HCPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HCPC's standards. Separate reports, produced by the education provider and the professional body outline their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Penny Joyce (Operating department practitioner) Julie Weir (Operating department practitioner)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Ruth Wood
Proposed student numbers	27 per cohort once per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2014
Chair	Dina Lewis (University of Hull)
Secretary	Sue Murphy (University of Hull)
Members of the joint panel	Phil Ashwell (College of Operating Department Practitioners) Sarah Frankish (Internal Panel Member) Steve Himsworth (Internal Panel Member) Lucy Hurst (Internal Panel Member)

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"/>

The external examiner reports' from the last two years related to the approved DipHE Operating Department Practice programme.

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"/>
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 met with students and graduates from the DipHE Operating Department Practice programme, as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

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.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that 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 54 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining three SETs.

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 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 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.

Conditions

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.

Condition: The education provider must submit further evidence to demonstrate how they ensure potential applicants to the programme are fully informed about the criminal conviction checks required for the admissions procedures.

Reason: The documentation submitted prior to the visit demonstrated criminal conviction checks were undertaken appropriately through the admissions processes. The visitors noted the programme advertising materials online did not include explicit information about the required criminal conviction checks. The visitors consider information about the criminal conviction checks to be important to enable potential applicants to make informed decisions about this programme. This includes the requirement for the criminal conviction check, information about the level required and why this is needed along with details about the process. The visitors therefore require the education provider to submit further evidence demonstrating how they ensure potential applicants to the programme are fully informed about the criminal conviction checks required for the admissions procedures.

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.

Condition: The education provider must ensure the programme's documentation does not inaccurately refer to HCPC setting the attendance requirements.

Reason: Before the visit, the visitors received information confirming the programme handbook for this new programme would not be created until after the approval event. The visitors were provided with the existing DipHE Operating Department Practice programme handbook. It was confirmed this would be updated to ensure relevance to the new BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice programme. The visitors noted the DipHE Operating Department Practice programme handbook includes an incorrect statement; that the HCPC have "regulations that specify the required number of hours for both theory and practice within the approval of this programme" (DipHE ODP Programme Handbook, p16). HCPC programme approval does not set the number of hours for either theory or practice that students' need to complete. This is a programme administrative decision. In order to determine this standard is met the visitors require the education provider to ensure the programme's documentation does not inaccurately refer to HCPC setting the attendance requirements.

4.5 The curriculum must make sure that students understand the implications of the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

Condition: The education provider must ensure programme documentation accurately refers to HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

Reason: At the visit, the visitors were presented with module descriptors for the programme that had updated reading lists. The visitors noted all module descriptors (except module: Fundamentals of Operating Department Practice) refer to an "HCPC Student

Code of Conduct (2012)" (section T throughout). The visitors also noted the module descriptors do correctly refer to the HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics (section U3 throughout). The HCPC additionally has a publication for students regarding these standards - HCPC's Student guidance on conduct and ethics. To ensure students are being given accurate information about the HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics the visitors require the documentation to be reviewed to ensure the correct references are being made throughout. This will support the curriculum in ensuring students understand the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics, and the implications of the standards on their practise.

Recommendations

5.11 Students, practice placement providers and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about an 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.

Recommendation: The visitors recommend the programme team monitor closely the assessment of the clinical learning outcomes.

Reason: The visitors were assured the programme team would fully prepare all parties for placement and so considered this standard to be met. Through the visit, the visitors heard the assessment of clinical learning outcomes for the DipHE programme had students submitting varied and large amounts of written work. The revised assessment for the BSc programme has an observational rather than a written focus. The visitors are aware the revisions to the method of assessing clinical learning outcomes are a significant change for existing practice placement providers. The visitors recommend the programme team monitor closely how the new assessment method is used to ensure students and practice mentors understand the changes and so the programme team can intervene where necessary to offer further guidance and support the assessment.

6.5 The measurement of student performance must be objective and ensure fitness to practise.

Recommendation: The visitors recommend the programme team monitor the assessment of the clinical learning outcomes to ensure effectiveness.

Reason: The visitors were assured the measurement of student performance would be objective and ensure fitness to practise and so considered this standard to be met. Through the visit, the visitors heard the assessment of clinical learning outcomes for the DipHE programme had students submitting varied and large amounts of written work. The revised assessment for the BSc programme has an observational rather than a written focus. The visitors considered this change to be appropriate, they considered that demonstrating fitness to practise through written work was difficult and an observational approach is more effective at demonstrating a students' fitness to practise. The visitors are aware the change is a substantial change for mentors to accommodate and will need support from the programme team. The visitors recommend the programme team monitor closely the new assessment method to:

- ensure assessments are carried out objectively and consistently;
- ensure students' fitness to practise is being appropriately demonstrated; and
- to ensure support is provided for mentors if necessary.