

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Sheffield
Name and titles of programme(s)	BMed Sci (Hons) Orthoptics
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	F/T
Date of Visit	18 th -19 th July 2006
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2006
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Moira Helm (Occupational Therapist) Patricia Blackburn (Orthoptist)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Karen Scott Osama Ammar (Observing)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Ian Peake (Chair)

Scope of visit (*please tick*)

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

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students (current or past as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Specialist teaching accommodation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	30
---	-----------

Conditions

None

Recommendations

None

Visit Summary

Set 1: Programme admissions

The level of entry to the Register is at BSc (Hons) level.

The admissions procedures for the programme are robust and meet all the HPC requirements for this SET.

SET 2: Programme management and resource standards

The senior management demonstrated a clear long-term commitment to the programme.

The programme is well managed. The programme team is a strong and cohesive unit providing an excellent service to students and placement providers. Staff are actively engaged in a range of continuing professional development activities, including clinical practice and research.

All specialist teaching spaces were considered to be fit for purpose and well appointed. In addition, positive advances had been made toward increasing the use of IT and technology for teaching and learning purposes.

SET 4: Curriculum standards

Curriculum standards for the programme meet all the HPC requirements.

Both inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary learning are integral to the programme and this will be further enhanced by the changes already made to the programme.

All necessary aspects were included in the programme and it was not considered to need a recommendation for change. It was suggested that a stronger focus could be placed on ethics and the 'softer' side of the discipline in the first year of the programme.

SET 5: Practice placement standards

All the HPC standards relating to placements are met by the programme.

It was evident from the visit that communication between the placement providers and the University were excellent despite the significant distances between some of the placements.

While there was no formal network between the providers themselves, it was suggested that the new IT systems implemented to enhance teaching and learning would also be an effective tool for enhancing placement networking for clinical tutors.

SET 6: Assessment standards

Assessment standards for the programme meet at all HPC requirements.

Recent, well-considered changes to the programme have ensured that re-take opportunities in the 3rd year bring the programme in line with standard practice at other UK institutions.

Visitors' signatures:

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

Moira Helm

Patricia Blackburn

Date: 27th July 2006