

HCPC major change process report

Education provider	De Montfort University
Name of programme(s)	BSc Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time Graduate Certificate in Non Medical Prescribing, Part time Post Graduate Certificate Non-Medical Prescribing, Part time
Date submission received	01 May 2019
Case reference	CAS-14771-B4X4Q2

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Executive Summary

We are the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), a regulator set up to protect the public. We set standards for education and training, professional knowledge and skills, conduct, performance and ethics; keep a register of professionals who meet those standards; approve programmes which professionals must complete before they can register with us; and take action when professionals on our Register do not meet our standards.

The following is a report on the major change process undertaken by the HCPC to ensure that programmes detailed in this report meet our standards for prescribing (for education providers) (referred to through this report as 'our standards'). The report details the process itself, the evidence considered, and recommendations made regarding programme approval.

Section 1: Our regulatory approach

Our standards

We approve programmes that meet our education standards, which ensure individuals that complete the programmes meet proficiency standards. The proficiency standards set out what a registrant should know, understand and be able to do when they complete their education and training. The education standards are outcome focused, enabling education providers to deliver programmes in different ways, as long as individuals who complete the programme meet the relevant proficiency standards.

Programmes are normally [approved on an open-ended basis](#), subject to satisfactory engagement with our monitoring processes. Programmes we have approved are listed [on our website](#).

How we make our decisions

We make independent evidence based decisions about programme approval. For all assessments, we ensure that we have profession specific input in our decision making. In order to do this, we appoint [partner visitors](#) to undertake assessment of evidence presented through our processes. The visitors make recommendations to the Education and Training Committee (ETC).

The ETC make decisions about the approval and ongoing approval of programmes. In order to do this, they consider recommendations detailed in process report. The Committee meets in public on a regular basis and their decisions are available to view [on our website](#).

HCPC panel

We always appoint at least one partner visitor from the profession (inclusive of modality and / or entitlement, where applicable) with which the assessment is concerned. We also ensure that visitors are supported in their assessment by a member of the HCPC executive team. Details of the HCPC panel for this assessment are as follows:

Rosemary Furner	Independent prescriber
Nicola Carey	Independent prescriber
Lawrence Martin	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	BSc Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	Part time
Entitlement	Supplementary Prescribing, Independent Prescribing
First intake	01 January 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 45 across all programmes
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04261

Programme name	Graduate Certificate in Non Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	Part time
Entitlement	Supplementary Prescribing
First intake	01 October 2012
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 45 across all programmes
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04262

Programme name	Post Graduate Certificate Non-Medical Prescribing
Mode of study	Part time
Entitlement	Supplementary Prescribing, Independent Prescribing
First intake	01 January 2014
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 45 across all programmes
Intakes per year	2
Assessment reference	MC04263

We undertook this assessment to consider whether the programme continues to meet our standards, following changes reported to us via the major change process. The following is an overview of the changes from the information received via this process. The education provider intends to make changes to their programme in the following main areas:

- reducing the number of credits to bring the programme more in line with similar programmes locally, and to better integrate it with a post registration advance practice nursing programme at the education provider;
- as a result of the change noted above, how the programme delivers and assesses the HCPC standards for prescribers;
- making practice-based learning credit bearing; and
- the requirements for practice supervisors.

Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment

In order for us to progress with approval and monitoring assessments, we require certain evidence and information from education providers. The following is a list of evidence that we asked for through this process, and whether that evidence was provided. Education providers are also given the opportunity to include any further supporting evidence as part of their submission. Without a sufficient level of evidence, we need to consider whether we can proceed with the assessment. In this case, we decided that we were able to undertake our assessment with the evidence provided.

Required documentation	Submitted
Major change notification form	Yes
Completed major change standards mapping	Yes

Section 4: Outcome from first review

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission, the visitors were not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence that our standards continued to be met at this time, and therefore require further evidence as noted below.

Further evidence required

In order to determine whether the standards continue to be met, the visitors require further evidence for the following standards for the reasons noted below.

We expect education providers to review the issues identified in this report, decide on any changes that they wish to make to programme(s), and then provide any further evidence to demonstrate how they meet the standards.

A.1 The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and 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: The education provider intends to reduce the number of credits and make changes to the type of supervision across their three prescribing programmes. The education provider has not provided any evidence for this standard, but the visitors considered that applicants will need to be aware how the programme is intended to run (specifically, its length and the supervision required). This standard is about how applicants are provided with information to make an informed choice about whether to take up the offer of a place on the programmes. As no information has been provided, the visitors are unclear how applicants will be made aware of how the programme will run. Therefore, the visitors require further information on how this standard continues to be met.

Suggested evidence: Documentation or links containing information reflecting the changes to the reduction in credits that will be made available to applicants.

Section 5: Visitors' recommendation

Considering the education provider's response to the request for further evidence set out in section 4, the visitors are satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the standards continue to be met and recommend that the programme(s) remain approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 24 September 2019 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).