

**Health Professions Council
Approvals Panel – 5 September 2006**

**MINOR/MAJOR CHANGE
MASTER OF NUTRITION - UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The University of Nottingham submitted a minor/major submission regarding the development of a second access route to their approved degree, which would allow appropriately qualified graduates to gain direct entry into year three of the programme. This development also includes the creation new modules, changes to a number of existing modules and changes to the existing regulations. It is planned to take effective from September 2006.

Visitors and the Executive reviewed the original submission and requested further information from the University of Nottingham to help clarify a number of points and allow them to make a final recommendation to the Approvals Panel. This further information has subsequently been received and reviewed by a Visitors and the Executive.

The Visitors wish to recommend that the proposed ‘second access route’ is not a major change to an existing programme, but a new programme in itself. It results in two distinct routes, operating alongside each other, rather than one revised Masters of Nutrition programme that students from both routes (traditional or direct entry) complete. The design of the ‘second access route’ is based on an understanding that the students who enter through this route will not have studied many of the subject areas taught on the traditional route and therefore a number of new modules have been developed for them specifically.

The Visitors wish to recommend that this proposal is considered as a new programme and that separate approval is sought for it. This Approvals Visit would assess whether the programme meets the Standards of Education & Training and whether upon successful completion, the students meet the Standards of Proficiency. This would mean that the current HPC approval for the Master of Nutrition programme would not be extended to cover the proposed ‘direct entry route’ of the programme.

Decision

The Panel is asked to accept the Visitors’ recommendation that the above submission should be dealt with as new programme seeking approval, rather than an existing programme undertaking major change.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

Visitors Report

Date of paper

22 August 2006

Visitors' Report Major/Minor Change

Section One: Programme Details

Name of awarding institution	University of Nottingham
Programme title	Master of Nutrition
Name of site where the programme is delivered	University of Nottingham
Name of School or Faculty	Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Mode of Delivery	Full time
Duration of programme	4 years
Visitor(s)	Gill Pearson

Please list the documents submitted by the education provider, in support of the major/minor change form:

Module information
 Policy on APEL
 Mapping of Standards of Proficiency
 Programme specification of 2 programmes Direct entry to Year 3 & 4 year programme
 Minutes of Contract Review Meeting 16.12.05
 Minutes of Course Management Group 9.11.05
 Academic Appeals Policy & Procedure
 University requirements for the provision by Schools of personal support for students
 General Policies on Assessment
 Code of Practice for Placement Learning Programmes
 Learning & Teaching strategy for Dietetics
 Staff CVs
 Interim School Plan 2006/7 – 2008/9
 Information Services strategy 2003 – 2005
 Approval and monitoring process for Practice Placements

Please provide a summary of the proposed changes below.

Introduction of a route for direct entry to the programme at Year 3.
 Students will be given APEL for years 1 & 2; they will then take some 2nd and 3rd year modules with students on the 4 year programme, some modules written just for them, and they will do the work based placements with the students on the 4 year programme.

Section 2: Recommendation of the Visitor(s)

Visitors' are asked to select one of the following recommendations –

- The following documentation is requested (please list below) before a final recommendation can be made -

If the option is to pursue a major change route more documentation would be required to show how the direct entry students met all the learning outcomes of the approved 4 year programme.

Evidence is also required to show how placements will be found for these additional students

- The programme has undergone a minor change & continues to meet the Standards of Education and Training. Upon successful completion, students will meet the Standards of Proficiency.
- The programme has undergone a major change, but continues to meet the Standards of Education and Training. Upon successful completion, students will meet the Standards of Proficiency.

(If you have comments to make, which may be useful when considering future annual monitoring and/or minor/major change submissions, please list these on the following page)

- The programme has undergone a major change and an Approvals visit is required to consider the following Standards of Education and Training - SET 1, SET 2, SET 3, SET 4, SET 5 & SET 6 (delete as appropriate)

(Details of the rationale behind this decision and the focus for the suggested visit should be listed on the following page)

See below

This request is not really a major change to an existing programme but is presenting a new programme. Students on the new route will not have studied many of the subject areas that are in the approved route, (and which are required by SET 4.2) new modules are being developed for them and although they take a number of existing modules they will not have studied the pre-requisites for these modules. If the University wants to continue with this application they should apply for a new programme approval or reconsider the current plans.

To opt for the latter they would need to ensure students entering the existing programme at year 3 have covered the entire learning outcome delivered in years 1 & 2, so that they are able to study on the existing modules and meet both the pre-requisite requirements but also have covered all relevant subject areas as identified in SOP 3.

Visitors' signatures:

Name: Gill Pearson

Signature:

Date: 21 August 2006