

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Oxford Brookes University
Programme name	BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Operating department practitioner
Date of visit	13 – 14 November 2012

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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. The HCPC is a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HCPC currently regulates 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 9 May 2013. At the Committee meeting on 9 May 2013, 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 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 reviewed 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. A separate report, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outlines their decisions on the programme's status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Nick Clark (Operating department practitioner) Tony Scripps (Operating department practitioner)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Victoria Adenugba
Proposed student numbers	28 per cohort once a year
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2013
Chair	Gina Dalton (Oxford Brookes University)
Secretary	Nicola Kirk (Oxford Brookes University)
Members of the joint panel	David Hodges (Internal Panel Member) Judie Gannon (Internal Panel Member) Julia Winter (Internal Panel Member) Stephen Castleton (Internal Panel Member) Steven Brown (External Panel Member) Helen Booth (College of Operating Department Practitioners)

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"/>
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 from the Dip HE Operating Department Practice, as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

Recommended outcome

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 53 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 4 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

4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised learning outcomes for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure changes will not adversely affect the learning outcomes or how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised learning outcomes, to ensure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

6.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised module descriptors for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure changes will not adversely affect the assessment of the learning outcomes or how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised programme module descriptors, to ensure that the assessment strategy and design guarantees that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

6.2 All assessments must provide a rigorous and effective process by which compliance with external-reference frameworks can be measured.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised module descriptors for the programme prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure changes will not adversely affect the learning outcomes or how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the programme module descriptors, to ensure that the assessment methods are thorough and effective and meet external reference frameworks.

6.4 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes.

Condition: The education provider must submit the revised and finalised assessment methods that will be employed to measure the learning outcomes for the programme with the prior to final programme approval by HCPC.

Reason: Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments as part of the post visit process for the education provider. The visitors will need to review the module descriptors, learning outcomes and assessments to ensure changes will not adversely affect the learning outcomes or how the programme ensures students can meet the SOPs upon completion of the programme. The visitors require the education provider to resubmit the finalised assessment methods that will be employed to measure the learning outcomes, to ensure those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation: If, after review, the assessment regulations change the education provider should clearly articulate the changes to students.

Reason: Currently if a student has a 'mark below 30% in either the written or practical components of a practice related module assessment' they 'will incur an automatic fail of the relevant module' (student handbook p21). Discussion at the visit indicated the programme team may amend the programme assessment regulations to bring them in line with the wider education provider policy which would mean a student would have the chance of one re-sit of the relevant module instead of the automatic fail. The visitors were happy the current programme policy and the wider education provider policy were appropriate and would ensure that only students that have met the learning outcomes could progress through the programme. Therefore, if the programme team decides to amend their programme assessment regulation to bring it in line with the wider education provider policy the visitors suggest that they make students aware of this change.

6.11 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for the appointment of at least one external examiner who must be appropriately experienced and qualified and, unless other arrangements are agreed, be from the relevant part of the Register.

Recommendation: If a new external examiner is appointed for this programme the education provider should notify the HCPC of this change.

Reason: Currently it is envisaged that the external examiner for the Dip HE Operating Department Practice programme will be appointed as the external examiner for this programme. The visitors are happy that the external examiner for the Dip HE Operating Department Practice is appropriate to review this programme. However, if a different appointment is made the visitors advise that the programme team notifies the HCPC of this via the Major change process.

Nick Clark
Tony Scripps