

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Queen Margaret University
Name and titles of programme(s)	Pharmacology for Podiatrists
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	Part time
Date of Visit	28 February 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 07
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Pam Sabine (Podiatrist) Anne Wilson (Podiatrist)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Abigail Creighton
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Richard Bent (Chair) Linda Graham (Secretary) Alison Barlow (Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists)

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major change to existing programme	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	20 (as part of the MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery programme) 20 (as a stand alone programme)
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ALL CONDITIONS MET

The following summarises the key outcomes of the Approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 2 Programme admissions

2.1 The admission procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make, or take up the offer of a place on a programme

2.2.4 The admission procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including appropriate academic and/or professional entry standards;

Condition: The programme team must revisit the admissions criteria to ensure that all applicants have the statutory entitlement to administer local anaesthetics. The programme team must amend the advertising and recruitment information to make sure applicants are aware of these changes to the admissions criteria.

Reason: The statutory entitlement to administer and supply prescription only medicines is an extension of the statutory entitlement to administer local anaesthetics. Applicants need to be trained and competent in the administration of local anaesthetics in order to embark on this 'prescription only medicine' programme. Applicants need to know the admissions requirements for this programme, so they can make an informed choice about when to apply for this programme, as they may need to complete training in local anaesthetics beforehand.

SET 6. Assessment standards

6.1 The assessment design and procedures must assure that the student can demonstrate fitness to practise.

Condition: The programme team must clarify the assessment pass marks for each the components in the programme.

Reason: The assessment pass marks listed in the programme documentation are currently not the same as those discussed with the programme team. Clarification is needed as to the overall module pass mark and the pass mark for both the coursework and examination component. It is important that the pass marks ensure that students who successfully complete the programme can administer relevant prescription only medicines, interpret any relevant pharmacological history and recognise potential consequences for patient treatment in a safe and skilful manner. It is also important that students receive accurate and easy to understand information.

Deadline for conditions to be met: 9 March 2007

Expected date visitors' report submitted to Panel for approval: 28 March 2007

Expected date programme submitted to Panel for approval: 28 March 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.5 Subject areas must be taught by staff with relevant specialist expertise and knowledge.

Recommendation: All Podiatrists in the programme team, who do not hold the statutory entitlement to administer and supply prescription only medicines should be encouraged to complete this programme (or an equivalent).

Reason: The visitors wished to encourage Podiatrists (without the prescription only medicine entitlement) to complete this programme, or an equivalent. The visitors were confident that the current programme team contained the relevant specialist expertise and knowledge needed to delivery a sound programme, but as best practise, felt the Podiatrists may wish to bring their own specific expertise and knowledge to the programme to help improve the overall student experience.

COMMENDATIONS

The visitors wish to commend the enthusiasm and attention to detail shown by the Head of Faculty and their team and their innovation in the area of Web CT.

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

We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

Pam Sabine

Anne Wilson

Date: 1 March 2007