

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	The Robert Gordon University
Name and titles of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Nutrition and Dietetics
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	FT
Date of Visit	17 th October 2006
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Sylvia Butson (Visitor – Dietitian) Derek Adrian-Harris (Visitor – Radiographer)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Osama Ammar (Education Officer)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Robert Newton (Chair) Lucy Jack, Quality Officer, Faculty of Health and Social Care (Secretary)

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 checked="" 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 Indications from Annual Monitoring that specialist subject teaching staff numbers were inadequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Investigation of new facilities and impact on existing approval of the programme from Major/Minor Change process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	35
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the Approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

Condition: The Robert Gordon University must produce a schedule of approval and monitoring for all NHS institutions for which it is the link HEI. The schedule will indicate that all placements are visited and assessed for suitability to receive students by the commencement of academic session 2007-2008.

Reason: In order to satisfy the Visitors that the programme team have assumed full responsibility in terms of the management of placement provision, it is required that the commitment to approve and monitor all placement environments within the remit of The Robert Gordon University is outlined in the schedule.

Deadline for Conditions to be met: 14th December 2006
To be submitted to Approvals Panel/Committee on:

1st February 2007 for approval of report.

1st February 2007 for approval of programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

Recommendation: The Robert Gordon University should initiate and develop in conjunction with the component HEIs in the Scottish Cluster the mapping of HPC Standard of Education and Training 5 onto the UDEG document used currently for placement provision. Particular reference should be made to the processes in place to handle any problems that may arise in the placement environment, the development of a common assessment tool for student competencies and the capping of student numbers across the cluster.

Reason: The Visitors felt assured that the placement arrangements met the Standards of Education and Training as a result of being derived from the UDEG document which is a national guidance document across the profession. However, to develop ownership of the placement arrangements within the Scottish Cluster, the visitors felt it was appropriate for The Robert Gordon University to make a start with the process

of mapping the document to the HPC standards to ensure that all Scottish Cluster placements were approved, monitored and assessed with parity.

4.7 Where there is inter-professional learning the profession specific skills and knowledge of each professional group are adequately addressed.

Recommendation: The Robert Gordon University should consider accelerating the implementation of a more ambitious inter-professional learning programme.

Reason: Through discussion it became apparent that the senior management and the programme team were committed to an inter-professional approach to teaching and learning. The Visitors felt with the significant opportunities available at The Robert Gordon University and through its existing link with the University of Aberdeen, that this strategy should be encouraged and promoted.

Commendations

The Panel welcomes the programme leader's intimation that the cohort number will be limited to 35 students for BSc (Hons) Nutrition and Dietetics for all future intakes.

The Panel commends The Robert Gordon University on the implementation of the virtual learning environment.

The Panel received positive feedback from students and graduates in relation to the whole of their learning experience especially the excellent support received from all the staff.

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:

Derek Adrian-Harris

Sylvia Butson

Date: 31/10/06