HCPC major change process report

Education provider	University of Bradford
Name of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Blood Science, Full time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Cellular Science, Full time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Genetics Science, Full time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Infection Science, Full time
Date submission received	19 May 2020
Case reference	CAS-16118-P2X9T0

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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 of education and training (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:

Sara C Smith	Biomedical scientist
Kathleen Simon	Biomedical scientist
Niall Gooch	HCPC executive

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Blood Science
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Biomedical scientist
First intake	01 September 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04638

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Cellular Science
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Biomedical scientist
First intake	01 September 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04639

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Genetics Science
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Biomedical scientist
First intake	01 September 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04640

Programme name	BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Life Sciences) with Infection Science
Mode of study	FT (Full time)
Profession	Biomedical scientist
First intake	01 September 2017
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 30
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	MC04641

We undertook this assessment to consider whether the programme continues to meet our standards, following changes identified 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 informed us that they were amending the structure of practice-based learning on the programme.

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.

2.1 The admissions process must give both the applicant and the 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 visitors understood that information about the changed placement structure would be provided to applicants coming on to the programme in future years, after the changes had been made and approved. However, they were not clear how the change would be communicated to those who are applying for, or have already accepted, or been offered, a place for September 2020. Therefore, the visitors require further evidence to demonstrate that those starting the programme in September 2020 will have full information about the placement structure, so that they can make an informed decision.

Suggested evidence: Evidence to demonstrate how the education provider has communicated to those starting the programme in September 2020 the new structure of practice-based learning.

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 20 August 2020 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available on our website.