

Approvals Committee
22 November 2005

Department of Education
Education provider observations on Visitor's reports

Executive Summary and Recommendations

1. Introduction

In accordance with the Health Professions Order, article 16 (9b), the Health Professions Council shall, receive observations on all visitors reports. The HPC is also obligated under Article 16 (12) of the Order to publish both the visitor's reports and observations from the Education Provider (EP).

As part of the HPC approvals process, the Committee is asked to receive the visitors' reports and observations for comment and/or response.

The following Education Providers have made observations on the visitor's reports provided by the HPC. All visitor reports and EP observations are attached.

Education Provider	Programme	Date of visit	Visitors
University of Abertay Dundee	BSC (Hons) BioMedical Science	19/09/05	Martin Nicholson David Houlston

2. Decision

The Committee is asked to:

- Accept the recommendation of the Visitors, as detailed in the Visitor report (attached)
or
- Make amendments to the Visitors Report as considered appropriate
and/or
- Provide a response to the Education Provider's observations

3. Background information

None

4. Resource implications

There are no resource implications.

5. Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

6. Background papers

None

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Visitor report and observations from University of Abertay Dundee

Department of Education and Policy

Visitors report

Name of education provider	University of Abertay Dundee,
Name and titles of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences –
Date of event	19 th September 2005
Proposed date of approval to commence	2006
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Martin Nicholson MSc. CSci. FIBMS Biomedical Scientist David Houliston Csci FIBMS Biomedical Scientist
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Ms Nicole Borg, Ms Joanna Kemp
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	

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"/>

Part 1.

1.1 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 planning team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Confirmation of facilities inspected

	yes	No
Library learning centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Specialist teaching accommodation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.3 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	15
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

Condition 1

Set 2: Program Admission

SET 2.1 give both the application 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 program.

Condition: - clarify further in documentation

Reason: - The mechanism of the allocation of student placements should be clear and detailed. In particular, explaining that the number of placements may limit their choice regarding selection of preferred clinical specialty.

Condition 2

Set 2: Program Admission

*SET 2.2 apply selection and entry criteria, including:
2.2.1 Evidence of a good command of written and spoken English*

Condition: - clarify further in documentation

Reason: - There was a concern expressed that the entry to the course with English at Standard grade 3 or a TOEFL min. score of 550 or IELTS 5.5 may place the student at a disadvantage. Reference should be made to the availability if required, of English courses at the University for Students to attain level 7.0

Condition 3

Set 2: Program Admission

SET 2.2.3 compliance with any health requirements

Condition: - clarify health requirements for students in Biomedical Science

Reason: - Students should at the induction stage, be informed of the need for health vaccinations in this field and appropriate measures offered.

Condition 4

Set 3: Program management and resource standards

SET3.2 The program must be managed effectively

Condition: - The funding for the teaching element of this course must be confirmed by the University.

Reason: - Funding is yet to be confirmed. Additional funding is also required for the Placement Hospitals for backfill and training support. Funding must be confirmed by 5th April 2006.

Condition 5

Set 5: Practice placement standards

Sets 5.1 to 5.13

Condition: - To develop documentation for all of the Standards of Education Training Set 5: Practice Placement Standards by mid April. Need particular focus on SETS 5.2, 5.8 and 5.9.

Reason: - The section regarding Practice Placement Standards needs specific confirmation on

- i) The provision of adequate numbers of staff at the placement hospitals required to meet training needs. This shall require funding which is not yet in place for backfilling of trainer's staff posts.
- ii) The need for compulsory attendance at placement educator training by all relevant trainers.
- iii) The need for the funding and appointment of a Placement officer. (Full or part time)

Commendation

- 1) The HPC visitors were very impressed with the collaboration between the Hospital laboratory staff and the University.
- 2) They were enthusiastic supporters for this course to meet the needs of the hospital service.
- 3) The Students and Graduates from existing BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science course expressed their appreciation of the efforts of all in the delivery of the course.
- 4) Four graduates having already found employment in the local hospital reported that their course prepared them well for a career as biomedical scientists.



UNIVERSITY
of
ABERTAY DUNDEE

Ms Jo Kemp
Executive Officer
Education and Training
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Road
London
SE11 4BU

19th October 2005.

Dear Ms Kemp,

I have been forwarded Report of the Biomedical sciences course approval event from Alan Bruce and am very pleased that you and your visitors were able to commend our course on a number of points. I would however like some clarification on the information included in Conditions 4 and 5.

In both these Conditions you make specific reference to the requirement for 'backfill funding' of the Hospital trainers to be in place in order for the course to be approved. We fully accept that you need to be convinced of both the quality and quantity of training support staff who will be involved in the delivery of the course and that they should be suitably trained. Clearly our course can only be delivered if a suitable number of placements can be offered by the hospitals. How they manage the funding of staff to do this is an issue for them and not something that we as a university can be expected to resolve.

Our documentation clearly illustrated the expertise of the Clinical Trainers and this aspect was not commented on at all on the day of the event. Indeed one of your Commendations referred to how 'very impressed your team was with the Collaboration between Hospital and university staff'. I would trust therefore that we will satisfy the conditions provided we can convince the HPC that enough suitably qualified and trained staff are available in the various clinical placements to manage the students on the course.

I welcome your comments on the above and will be happy to discuss them with you.

Regards,

Professor John Palfreyman
cc Dr Alan Bruce

SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY SCIENCES