

Major Change Visitors' Report

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| Name of education provider | University of Ulster |
| Programme Name | BSc (Hons) Dietetics |
| Mode of delivery | Full time |
| Relevant part of HPC Register | Dietetics |
| Date of submission to HPC | 16 September 2008 |

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Executive summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) approves educational programmes in the UK which health professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HPC approve programmes on an open-ended basis which requires that, when significant changes occur to a programme, we receive notification and are able to ensure all our standards continue to be met. The HPC is a health regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HPC currently regulates 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title "Dietitian" or "Dietician" must be registered with us. The HPC keeps a register of health professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The major change visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. The visitors' recommended outcome is that there is insufficient evidence to show how the standards of education and training are being met and it was not certain that those who complete the programme will continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency. An approval visit is required to collect more evidence and if necessary place conditions on the ongoing approval of the programme.

Introduction

The education provider contacted the HPC to notify of changes occurring to the programme that may have an impact on the standards of education and training and the standards of proficiency. The nature of the change required additional scrutiny by visitors to determine whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme demonstrated a continued ability to meet the standards of proficiency.

Major change submission details

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name and profession of HPC visitors | Sylvia Butson (Dietitian) Alison Nicholls (Dietitian) |
| HPC executive officer | Elisa Simeoni |

Summary of change

SET 3 Programme management and resource standards

Changes to placement management relating to change to the Health Service in Northern Ireland

SET 4 Curriculum standards

Changes to the curriculum relating to changes to curriculum guidance published by the professional body

SET 5 Practice placements standards

Changes to placement structure and management relating to changes to curriculum guidance and changes to the Health Service in Northern Ireland

SET 6 Assessment standards

Changes to placement assessment relating to changes to curriculum guidance and changes to the Health Service in Northern Ireland

Sources of evidence

To show how the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency the education provider submitted the following documentation:

- Programme specification**
- Descriptions of the modules**
- Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SETs**
- SOPs mapping document**
- Curriculum vitae for relevant staff**
- Promotion of safe, high quality health and social care in undergraduate curricula, June 2007 – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**
- Minutes of DMNI meeting and notes of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics Revalidation meeting**

After initial scrutiny of these documents the following additional documentation was requested to assist the visitors in the assessment of the change(s):

- Student handbook**
- Mapping of Placement A Learning Outcomes to proposed revalidated courses**
- Learning Outcomes for placements 1&2**
- Dates of training and updating visits to Dietetic training units**
- Details of student performance and progression**

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme have demonstrated an ability to meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that there is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme continues to meet the following standards of education and training:

4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in the curriculum guidance for the profession.

Reasons: Under 2.8 in the guidelines of the BDA Curriculum Framework for the Pre-Registration Education and Training of Dietitians it is stated that 'Placements should be integrated with academic learning and include a placement in the workplace early in the academic course'. Although the curriculum guidance states that 'HEI's may wish to operate different placement configurations' the placement structure includes two days work experience for which no detailed information has been provided. The visitors are therefore unable to determine how the new programme structure reflects the curriculum guidance related to the early placement. It is essential that the detail of this is known to ensure that the required SOP's are being met to underpin practice, which could be obtained during discussion with the programme team and practice educators.

4.3 Integration of theory and practice must be central to the curriculum to enable safe and effective practice.

Reasons: The education provider has made available in Appendix 1 a mapping of the previous placement structure learning outcomes to the proposed revalidated course. This mapping document states that the learning outcomes required for safe and effective practice are still packaged within the new programme structure. However the visitors are unable to locate, in the module descriptors, information to ensure integration of theory and practice and the required academic underpinning to support the new style placements. There is no evidence that the placement providers are aware of these apparent changes in terms of attainment of learning outcomes to the point at which students will access placement, or that these will be compensated for as learning outcomes in practice. A meeting with the practice educators will therefore ensure that this SET is met.

5.5 The number, duration and range of placements must be appropriate to the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Reasons: The University states that 'there is no change in the learning outcomes for placement one'. However given the reason in 4.3 the visitors are not able to account for all the learning outcomes in the programme in terms of their delivery in the placement environment. Therefore a visit is required to meet the practice educators and programme team to discuss the new training programmes for

placement one, and as there was also no detail of the actual training received by the practice educators, to ascertain what training has / will be provided, and how and when the learning outcomes will be delivered in practice and in the academic setting.

Therefore, a visit is recommended to gather more evidence and if required place conditions on ongoing approval of the programme.

Sylvia Butson
Alison Nicholls

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The major change visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. The visitors' recommended outcome is that there is insufficient evidence to show how the standards of education and training are being met and it was not certain that those who complete the programme will continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency. An approval visit is required to collect more evidence and if necessary place conditions on the ongoing approval of the programme.

Introduction

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SET 5 Practice placements standards

Changes to placement structure and management relating to changes to curriculum guidance and changes to the Health Service in Northern Ireland which have affected the number and duration of placements.

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Changes to placement assessment relating to changes to curriculum guidance and changes to the Health Service in Northern Ireland which have affected the number and duration of placements.

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Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme have demonstrated an ability to meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that there is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme continues to meet the following standards of education and training:

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