

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Cardiff University
Name and titles of programme(s)	Dip HE Operating Department Practice
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	Fulltime
Date of Visit	20-22 March 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Stephen Oates, Clinical Educator, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust (Operating Department Practice) Susan Thompson, Lecturer, St John University (Occupational Therapy)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Chris Hipkins
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Penny Joyce, Principal Lecturer, University of Portsmouth (College of ODP) Nick Clark, Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University (College of ODP)

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	
Major change to existing programme	
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	\boxtimes		
Programme team	\boxtimes		
Placements providers and educators	\boxtimes		
Students (current or past as appropriate)	\boxtimes		

Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	\boxtimes		
IT facilities			
Specialist teaching accommodation	\boxtimes		

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			
2			
3			

Proposed student cohort intake number please state 50

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

CONDITIONS

2.2.2 The admission procedures must apply selection criteria, including criminal conviction checks

Condition: The University needs to make the self-declaration process for keeping CRB checks up to date more transparent.

Reason: The documentation does not currently make it clear that students are required to complete annual declarations to keep their CRB check up to date.

Suggested dates for submission to ETP: 5 July 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

- 3.12 The Resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.
- 3.13 The learning resources, including the stock of periodicals and subject books, IT facilities (including internet access), must be appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.

Recommendation: The University should take steps to ensure that all students have easy access to the Blackboard virtual learning environment.

Reason: Many learning resources are made available to students via Blackboard, however not all students have easy access to Blackboard at their practice placements.

SET 4. Curriculum Standards

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

Recommendation: The University should build upon its unique portfolio of programmes and setting by developing with some urgency an inter-professional learning programme for all four disciplines under review and within the University as a whole.

Reason: There is currently little evidence that inter-professional learning takes place, however the wide range of programmes offered and the unique physical location of all the programmes in the same building provide very good opportunities for this situation to change.

SET 5. Practice Placements

5.7.4 Students and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about and understanding of the assessment procedures including the implications of, and any action to be taken in the case of failure.

Condition: The documentation should be revised to make it clear who is responsible for which elements of the clinical assessment.

Reason: The documentation does not currently make this clear. The students and the practice placement providers would benefit from this being made more transparent.

Condition: The role of the logbook as a means of monitoring student progress on the practice placements could be made more explicit in the documentation.

Reason: The documentation does not currently make this clear. The students and the practice placement providers would benefit from this being made more transparent.

COMMENDATIONS

- The audit system for practice placements is a good example of best practice.
- The placements allow movement to maximise the learning experience for the student.
- The enthusiasm for the programme expressed by the students is a positive reflection on the commitment of the course team and placement providers.

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:

Stephen Oates

Susan Thompson

Date: 26 March 2007

