

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Plymouth
Name and titles of programme(s)	BSc (Hons) Dietetics
Mode of delivery (FT/PT)	Full time
Date of visit	1 st June 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Alexa Scott - (Clinician, Dietician) Jennifer Caldwell - (Educationalist, Occupational Therapist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Tracey Samuel-Smith
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Dr David Harwood - (Chair), Director of the Institute of Science Education, Faculty of Science Lisa Lamb - (Secretary), Senior Administration Officer Quality Claire McMann - (Secretary: shadowing), Administration Officer Quality Bernard Haas - Deputy Head of School, Health Professions

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major change to existing programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Profession	<input 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"/>
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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 New premises which have not been visited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Staffing compliment and relevant qualifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Appropriately registered External Examiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	45
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PROGRAMME APPROVED: ALL CONDITIONS MET

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

CONDITIONS

SET 2 Programme admissions

The admission procedures must:

2.1 give both the applicant 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 programme

Condition: The programme team must redraft and resubmit the programme documentation to clarify the relationship between holding the qualification and entry to the HPC register.

Reason: Currently the programme documentation states that students are eligible to register with the HPC upon graduation. To provide full and clear information about the programme, the Visitors felt the programme documentation must be amended to state that upon graduation, students are eligible to apply for registration with the HPC.

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.7 The resources to support student learning in all settings which must be used effectively.

Condition: The programme team must redraft and resubmit the programme handbook to clarify the statement under section 3.6 e) – Assessment of practice education.

Reason: Currently the programme handbook states 'Students are aware of the assessment criteria for practice education, which are (defined by the Health Professions Council)'. The Visitors appreciate this is an attempt to refer students to HPC's standards of proficiency but feel the statement must be clarified to remove any misunderstanding.

3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The programme team must submit an update, including action plans, which addresses student concerns about the inter-site transport.

Reason: From discussions with students and the programme team, the Visitors noted that negotiations had commenced in an attempt to solve the perceived problems with the free, inter-site transport. To determine the ongoing commitment of the programme team to resolving these issues, the Visitors must be provided with an update on progress.

3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition: The programme team must submit the IT strategy for the 2007/2008 intake, taking into account the planned library refurbishment and growth of student numbers within the Peninsula Allied Health Collaboration.

Reason: From discussions with the library staff and programme team, the Visitors learnt of plans to introduce additional University of Plymouth networked computers in the library and that Occupational Therapy and Midwifery programmes will be moving to PAHC in September 2007. While the Visitors felt the IT facilities at PAHC adequately support the current set up, they must be assured this will continue in the refurbished library and with increased numbers of students within the Faculty.

Deadline for conditions to be met: 11th July 2007

Expected date visitors' report submitted to Panel for approval: 2nd August 2007

Expected date programme submitted to Panel for approval: 2nd August 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be used effectively.

Recommendation: The programme team should consider redrafting the programme handbook to clarify the statement under section 3.7.1 – attendance at interactive sessions.

Reason: Currently the programme handbook could be mis-interpreted. To avoid ambiguity, the visitors felt the handbook should be updated to clarify that HPC's standards of proficiency do not stipulate attendance policies which the university must implement.

COMMENDATIONS

- The Visitors would like to commend the programme team on their innovative approach to the interdisciplinary use of the facilities, such as the treadmill and kitchen; **their strategy to address the lack of placements**; and the multi-disciplinary approach to ensuring parity across all placements within the Faculty.

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:

xxx:

yyy:

Date:

PROGRAMME APPROVED: ALL CONDITIONS MET

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2007-06-06	c	EDU	RPT	Uni of Plymouth, visitors' report, Dietetics	Draft DD: None	Public RD: None