

HCPC approval process report

Education provider	University of Exeter
Name of programme(s)	Practice Certificate in Independent/Supplementary Prescribing, Part time
Approval visit date	20 January 2021
Case reference	CAS-16170-W0M3P7

Contents

Section 1: Our regulatory approach.....	2
Section 2: Programme details.....	3
Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment.....	3
Section 4: Outcome from first review.....	4
Section 5: Visitors’ recommendation.....	5

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 approval process undertaken by the HCPC to ensure that programme(s) detailed in this report meet our standards for prescribing (for education providers) (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). Education providers have the right of reply to the recommendation of the visitors, inclusive of conditions and recommendations. If an education provider wishes to, they can supply 'observations' as part of the process.

The ETC make decisions about the approval and ongoing approval of programmes. In order to do this, they consider recommendations detailed in process reports, and any observations from education providers (if submitted). 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:

Alaster Rutherford	Independent Prescribing
Christine Hirsch	Independent Prescribing
Temilolu Odunaike	HCPC executive

Other groups involved in the virtual approval visit

There were other groups involved with the approval process as follows. Although we engage in collaborative scrutiny of programmes, we come to our decisions independently.

Catherine Gallop	Independent chair (supplied by the education provider)	University of Exeter
Olivia Divall	Secretary (supplied by the education provider)	University of Exeter
Elaine Squires	Approved Education Institution (AEI) Panel	University of Exeter
Julie Mills	AEI Panel	University of Exeter
Simeon Paskell	AEI Panel	University of Exeter

Anne-Marie Russell	AEI Panel	University of Exeter
Kristen Hamilton	AEI Panel	University of Exeter
Faye Doris	AEI Panel - Service User/Carer Representative	University of Exeter
Richard Lowe	External Subject Specialist	University of Plymouth
Mike Kitching	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Panel member	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Patricia Hibberd	NMC Observer	Nursing and Midwifery Council

Section 2: Programme details

Programme name	Practice Certificate in Independent/Supplementary Prescribing
Mode of study	PT (Part time)
Entitlement	Supplementary prescribing
Entitlement	Independent prescribing
Proposed First intake	01 October 2021
Maximum learner cohort	Up to 24
Intakes per year	1
Assessment reference	APP02269

We undertook this assessment of a new programme proposed by the education provider via the approval process. This involved consideration of documentary evidence and a virtual approval visit, to consider whether the programme meet our standards for the first time.

Section 3: Requirements to commence assessment

In order for us to progress with approval and monitoring assessments, we ask for 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.

Type of evidence	Submitted	Comments
Completed education standards mapping document	Yes	
Information about the programme, including relevant policies and procedures, and contractual agreements	Yes	
Descriptions of how the programme delivers and assesses learning	Yes	

Proficiency standards mapping	Yes	RPS Competency framework mapping
Information provided to applicants and learners	Yes	
Information for those involved with practice-based learning	Yes	
Information that shows how staff resources are sufficient for the delivery of the programme	Yes	
Internal quality monitoring documentation	Yes	Programme is new and has not run yet.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the education provider decided to move this event to a virtual (or remote) approval visit. In the table below, we have noted the meeting held, along with reasons for not meeting certain groups (where applicable):

Group	Met	Comments
Learners	Yes	
Service users and carers (and / or their representatives)	Yes	
Facilities and resources	Not Required	As this was a virtual visit and, because the visitors did not have areas to address with this group, we decided that it was unnecessary to meet with them.
Senior staff	Yes	
Practice educators	Yes	
Programme team	Yes	

Section 4: Outcome from first review

Recommendation of the visitors

In considering the evidence provided by the education provider as part of the initial submission and at the virtual approval visit, the visitors' recommend that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that our standards are met at this time, but that the programme(s) should be approved subject to the conditions noted below being met.

Conditions

Conditions are requirements that must be met before programmes can be approved. We set conditions when there is insufficient evidence that standards are met. The visitors were satisfied that a number of the standards are met at this stage. However, the visitors were not satisfied that there is evidence that demonstrates that the following standards are met, for the reasons detailed below.

We expect education providers to review the issues identified in this report, decide on any changes that they wish to make to programmes, and then provide any further evidence to demonstrate how they meet the conditions. We set a deadline for responding to the conditions of 24 February 2021.

B.3 The education provider must ensure that the person holding overall professional responsibility for the programme is appropriately qualified and

experienced and, unless other arrangements are appropriate, on the register of their statutory regulator.

Condition: The education provider must demonstrate how they will ensure that the person(s) with overall professional responsibility for the programme are appropriately qualified and experienced and, unless other arrangements are appropriate, on the register of their statutory regulator.

Reason: The visitors were able to review the programme leaders' curricula vitae as well as their roles and responsibilities, as evidence for this standard. The visitors were also provided with an organisational chart which showed the lines of responsibility for the programme. However, the visitors noted that none of the documents submitted demonstrated the education provider's process of appointing a suitable person(s) to lead the programme. The visitors noted there was no evidence which articulates the requirements for fulfilling this role, or what the appointment process for the role would be. For example, the visitors noted there was no job description nor person specification for the role.

At the visit, the visitors heard that recruitment to this role is usually done internally, however, if unsuccessful, the education provider would then advertise for the role externally.

As the visitors did not see any information that demonstrates there is an effective process in place to identify the current programme lead or secure a suitable replacement if it becomes necessary to do so in the future, they could therefore not determine that this standard was met. The education provider must provide further evidence to demonstrate the policies and procedures in place which ensure that the person with overall professional responsibility for the programme is appropriately qualified, experienced and, from the register of their statutory regulator, unless other arrangements are appropriate.

Section 5: Visitors' recommendation

Considering the education provider's response to the conditions set out in section 4, the visitors are satisfied that the conditions are met and recommend that the programme(s) are approved.

This report, including the recommendation of the visitors, will be considered at the 16 March 2021 meeting of the ETC. Following this meeting, this report should be read alongside the ETC's decision notice, which are available [on our website](#).