

Health Professionals Council

Visitors report

Name of education provider	University of Hertfordshire
Name and titles of programme(s)	MA Art Therapy
Mode of Delivery FT/PT	FT/PT
Date of event	28.02.06 / 01.03.06
Proposed date of approval to commence	16 th March 2006
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Ms Teresa Boronska Art Therapist Ms Sue Strand Art Therapist
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Mr Ed Crowe Executive Officer Ms Abigail Creighton HPC Observer
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Mrs Julia Henderson (Associate Head of Paramedics & Radiography, Faculty of Health & Human Sciences) Ms Clare Hanly (Academic Quality Officer) Ms Joan Woddis (Art Therapists consultant)

Scope of visit (please tick)

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

1.1 Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	n/a
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme planning team	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students (current or past as appropriate)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No
Library learning centre	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

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. That the art therapy theoretical studies lecture series be included in future documentation for HPC periodic review.	X	<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	21
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

Conditions

SET 5. *Practice placements standards*

5.10 The education provider must ensure necessary information is supplied to practice placement providers.

Condition:

That placement supervisors receive documentation relating to the taught modules of the programme.

Reason:

For placement supervisors to have an awareness of parallel academic learning which should give a clearer idea of what stage students are at in their training.

Recommendations

SET 2 *Programme admissions*

The admission procedures must:

2.2 apply selection and entry criteria, including:

Recommendation:

We recommend that the programme team consider including a statement concerning the ethos and particular strengths of the course, so as to allow students to make an informed choice in deciding to take up an offer of a place on the MA Art Therapy programme.

Reason:

This will clarify the emphasis of theory and training on the course programme.

SET 4. *Curriculum Standards*

4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

4.3 The delivery of the programme must assist autonomous and reflective thinking, and evidence based practice.

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

Recommendation:

We recommend the continued development of teaching modules regarding research methodologies and evidence based practice.

Reason:

To fulfil the Standards of Proficiency - the programme team need to continue to integrate the teaching of a systemic and integrated approach to research and evidence based practice.

4.3 The curriculum must remain relevant to current practice.

Recommendation:

That the course programme develops a more expansive approach to teaching the theory and practice of art therapy in the field of child and adolescent mental health.

Reason:

There are approximately 50% of current placements for children and adolescents in different settings: special education, health, social services, child and adolescent mental health, fostering & adoption. Further seminars on child development in relation to attachment and trauma will support students within these different settings. This trend is also indicative of the growing number of qualified practitioners now working with children and adolescents.

SET 5. *Practice placements standards*

5.1 Practice placements must be integral to the programme.

5.8 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators:

- 5.8.1 have relevant qualification and experience;
- 5.8.2 are appropriately registered; and

Recommendation:

That the programme aims to have all placement supervisors registered art therapists. Where a placement does not have art therapists, then the placement should aim to pay for a sessional art therapist to supervise the student on a weekly basis.

Reason:

That each student receives the optimal experience of art therapy supervision across the board, with the aim of enabling the development of a professional identity and authority as an art therapist whilst in training.

5.8 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators:

- 5.8.3 undertake appropriate practice placement educator training.

Recommendation:

That training is provided for all new placement supervisors.

Reason:

To aid more effective placement supervisor practice, especially for those placements supervisors who are not art therapists.

Commendations

- 1) **Excellent placement and supervision handbook**
- 2) **The programme is well integrated and supported within the faculty.**
- 3) **Good quality of learning resources such as study net and use of dedicated information consultant.**
- 4) **Good quality documentation with regard to cross referencing with the HPC standards of Education and Training.**

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:

**Teresa Boronska
Sue Strand**

Date: 4th March 2006