

Education Visitors' Report (Approval of a Programme)

Name of Educational Institution	AECC University College
Programme Name	MSc (Chiropractic) 2 Year Pre-Registration
Proposed Start Date of Programme	Autumn 2020
Date of Approval Meeting	19 March 2020

Panel Chair	Barry Mitchell
Panel Members	Duncan Holt
Observers	Penny Bance
Panel Secretary	Annemarie McNeely

Introduction
<p>AECC University College (AECC UC) made a programme submission to the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) in November 2019. A full programme analysis was undertaken by Education Visitors – one lay and one chiropractic and was considered by Education Committee on 24 January 2020.</p> <p>Following a review of the submission analysis and a full discussion with the Education Visitor chair, the Education Committee decided that a visit to AECC UC would not be necessary as the institution was a known provider and a visit to AECC UC had taken place two years previously so the GCC Education Committee is well aware of the facilities available. As an alternative, the Committee agreed that the areas highlighted for further exploration could be discussed via a meeting with the Head of the School of Chiropractic, members of the AECC UC team and education visitor approval Panel. The approval Panel met remotely with the AECC UC team on 19 March 2020.</p> <p>The institution advised that it was their intention for the proposed MSc (Chiropractic) 2 Year Pre-Registration to commence in autumn 2020.</p>

Staff members, groups, facilities and resources seen			
	Yes	No	N/A
Dean/ pro-vice-chancellor/deputy vice chancellor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Representative(s) from validating institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senior management responsible for programme resources.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme Leader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Patients	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clinic facilities **	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Learning Resources (e.g. IT, library facilities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	Please specify		

How areas of concern were addressed.
<p>During a pre-meeting on 9 March 2020, the Panel highlighted the areas of interest or concern identified in the analysis of the written submission which would be explored in further detail at the meeting with the AECC UC Head of School of Chiropractic and members of the faculty staff. A verbal summary of the discussion with AECC UC is noted below:</p> <p><u>Remote meeting with GCC Education Visitor Panel and AECC UC Head of School of Chiropractic and Faculty Staff</u></p> <p><i>Student intake and course:</i> The Panel noted the breadth of healthcare graduate disciplines eligible to apply for the course i.e. degree in a relevant health science-based subject and was concerned that some students may not have sufficient levels of understanding in some subjects which would make it more difficult for these students to get on similar or equal footing in terms of potentially successful study. AECC UC reported that the relevant health science based degrees had been an area of much discussion, however the breadth of student background/experiences was also viewed as a potentially counter balancing strength. All applications would be individually reviewed and considered on individual merit and where there was accreditation of prior learning identified this would be mapped against the programme standards and learning outcomes. The Panel suggested that a formal mapping of all student prior learning took place and that this exercise would assist staff and students in building useful learner profiles going forward.</p> <p>In terms of the programme design, the team reported that it lent itself to students identifying their own learning needs within the constraints of the award, both as individuals</p>

and as groups. All students would be invited to attend a summer school irrespective of their degree subject to help prepare for the course.

Summer school: The institution reported that the summer school would take place in early August for a duration of two weeks. It would be a non award bearing short course and attendance would be a condition of enrolment for some students, that said the institution would expect all students to attend. The programme for the summer school was in development, students would also be provided with a reading list in preparation for commencement of full studies beginning in September 2020. The cost of the summer school had not yet been decided but would be in the region of a few hundred pounds. Attending the summer school would not equate to a student committing to the full programme. The Panel noted that while the summer school was not within their remit it was still a matter of significant interest in support of the MSc (Chiropractic) programme.

Programme: The Panel noted that the institution was keen to promote tailored learning for students on the programme and was interested to learn what this would look like in practice. The institution advised that student learning needs would be identified and matched to the relevant undergraduate study units available within the institution.

Students would also be matched with other members of their own cohort who had corresponding knowledge/skills and there was an expectation that students would undertake their studies with a high degree of independent autonomous learning. Contact module hours would be in the region of between 15/17 hours per week.

The Panel was supportive of the planned approach but had concerns about the added pressure on some students, given that they would also need to follow the main body of the new programme. The institution reported that while the plan had not yet been modelled, there was experience of physiotherapy programmes elsewhere and it was noted from these, that students had been very receptive and picked up skills very quickly. The institution was clear that this would be a very intensive programme and all aspects of the programme were aimed at bringing students up to speed in all aspects of chiropractic as rapidly as was possible, but also assured the Panel that the programme would offer the same chiropractic techniques and knowledge as the MChiro.

The institution recognised that some students may require more support than others and an academic support structure, which would include a personal tutor would be in place. Student engagement and personal learning would be monitored and concerns would be managed through this structure. In addition, AECC UC reported that they operated an open-door policy for students and expected that the new cohort would be active in accessing assistance as needed.

The institution reported that they hoped the first cohort would be twelve students, who would initially be split into groups of three and therefore did not envisage any issues with regard to space occupancy in terms of practical skills laboratories, clinic etc. In addition, it was reported that over the summer a campus refurbishment would take place resulting in additional practice skills space and that plans were in place to develop online screening for lectures, which would result in more lectures being available via the VLE.

In regards to research, the institution recognised that some students may have differing levels of experience and some may also have been out of education for a significant period, all would be supported through the institution's four research centres.

Student Clinic and patient mix: The institution advised that the student clinic welcomed around 50,000 patients per annum ranging from new-borns to centenarians and therefore

students would be exposed to a wide and varied patient mix. The institution was also considering external placements with chiropractic clinics in the community.

The clinic electronic operating system allowed for tracking of every patient, treatment and reassessment etcetera. Students would use anonymised clinic data as part of their portfolio which could also be used to identify any gaps in knowledge for discussion with mentors. This was the same approach used for the undergraduate programme.

Account of verbal summary recommendation given to the institution

The GCC Education Visitor Approval Panel informed the AECC UC Head of School of Chiropractic and faculty team that following the discussion and further information provided by the team that it was minded to recommend approval of the proposed programme to the Education Committee with one condition, three recommendations and one commendation - details of which are provided below.

The Panel also advised that the proposed condition, recommendations and commendation could be subject to change by the Education Committee. In addition, there was an expectation that an update on recommendations be provided to the Education Committee.

The AECC UC team was thanked for their participation.

Recommendation to Education Committee

1. Approve <u>without</u> conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Approve <u>with</u> conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. No approval (insufficient evidence due to serious deficiencies)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conditions for the institution with reasons and timeframe in which they must be met. (Recommendation 2)

* Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for ongoing approval. If conditions are placed upon the programme by the GCC, the institution must disclose this decision to prospective and current students.

1. **The GCC will conduct annual monitoring visits/meetings until the first graduating cohort has been achieved to ensure that it is satisfied that the programme meets all of the requirements set out in the GCC's Education Standards.**
 - The first of the visits/meetings will take place in spring/summer 2021.

Recommendations for the institution and reasons

* Recommendations do not need to be met before the programme is granted ongoing approval. Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme.

The Approval Panel has recommended the following:

1. The University to produce a clear and structured policy with regard to assessment of student accredited prior learning and its fit to the programme.

2. The University to undertake an evaluation of the summer school particularly in terms of subsequent achievement and progression of students joining the MSc (Chiropractic) 2 Year Pre-Registration programme.
3. The University to undertake a full evaluation of the fast track manual skills development of student training.

The Panel would review the recommendations with the institution as part of annual monitoring visits or meetings in spring/summer 2021 and 2022. A report on these areas would be expected prior to visits/meetings.

Commendations to the institution

The Approval Panel commended AECC UC on the innovative and contemporary nature of the proposed programme and the manner in which it supports the development of the profession within the UK and abroad

Further Evidence Required

N/A

Conclusion

The Approval Panel concluded that the programme's content adequately met the GCC's Education Standards. The Panel was impressed with the hard work of the team who devised the programme, its contemporary and innovative nature

As a new programme, and to provide assurance to the Education Committee that the GCC Education Standards continue to be met throughout, the programme will be subject to annual monitoring which may take the form of a Panel visit or meeting. This would continue until the first cohort had graduated.

Signed: *Barry Mitchell*

Panel Chair: Barry Mitchell

Date: 24 April 2020