

Education Standards & Quality Assurance Review

Frequently Asked Questions

Reviewing our education standards

1) What did the scoping review in 2021 encompass?

The GCC conducted a review of its existing Education Standards, published in 2017, to determine whether these remain fully fit for purpose, or whether further high-level development or revisions were needed.

The scoping review followed a process of research and consultation that was determined by the Education Standards Review Steering Group. This included mapping to standards, practice frameworks and quality assurance frameworks from other healthcare and higher education regulators, professional and chartered bodies

Advice, feedback and opinion were also sought from key stakeholder groups through focus group interviews. These included all the current providers of approved programmes, the GCC's Education Visitors, the Royal College of Chiropractors, employers and patients and the public. Internal sources of data included research previously conducted and published by the GCC, as well as inputs from the GCC, its executive and its Education Committee.

The data gathered suggested that the existing ES is broadly fit for purpose in meeting requirements of the Code, with a key exception being that the interests of patients are currently under-represented.

Following this conclusion, the Education Committee decided a full review of the Education Standards and Quality Assurance Handbook would take place in 2022.

2) Who is the GCC working with on the review?

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) has established a steering group, comprising lay and registrant members of the Education Committee and an external expert to oversee the project and make recommendations to the full Education Committee.

As per our communications plan, the GCC provides regular updates to key stakeholders to inform and seek feedback on the progress of the review.

From July to September 2022 the GCC will be holding an online public consultation on the draft standards.

In September, steering group members will conduct focus group interviews with stakeholders including patients, employers, and education providers. Their views and responses will help shape the new standards

3) How will our proposals improve our Education Standards?

In line with the first of the GCC's 2022-24 strategic aims, a central focus in the revised Education Standards will be placed on patients and their care.

Further revisions will align with the strategic aim of promoting chiropractic best practices, professionalism and value within the health and social care system.

4) What are the key domains in our draft Education Standards?

The proposed key domains identified for Section One: Standards Related to Learning Outcomes, are:

- Patient Care
- Professionalism
- Safety & quality
- Clinical approaches
- Collaborative healthcare

The proposed key domains identified for Section Two: Standards Related to Programme Quality and Delivery, are:

- The Programme
- Resources
- Teaching, learning & assessment
- Patients
- Learners

Throughout these key domains we have three embedded themes that run through all aspects:

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Patient focus
- Critical appraisal & underpinning practice with research

5) How will our new Education Standards help to protect the public?

The GCC works to maintain high standards in order to protect the health and safety of patients. Through our quality assurance (QA) processes we check that education programmes meet our standards, and our new standards will put patients at the core, with patient safety running throughout.

6) What will the new Education Standards mean for programme providers/universities?

Our approved programme providers will design and develop their curricula in line with our new standards. It is proposed, that from January 2023 we will begin working with each provider of GCC-approved qualifications to understand at what pace providers will wish to adapt their existing qualifications or develop new qualifications to meet the new Education Standards.

We anticipate most providers will work towards admitting students to approved qualifications that meet the standards from the 2024/25 academic year. Some providers may, in consultation with the GCC, agree on a later start date. We will work with each of our education providers to agree on a transition plan and timeline. This work will involve our team of Education Visitors.

Providers of currently approved qualifications will have two options in adapting their existing qualifications or developing new qualifications to meet the Education Standards:

- Adapt an existing approved qualification and seek approval (as a course change) to a timescale agreed with the GCC
- 'Teach out' an existing approved qualification to a timescale agreed with us, alongside developing, seeking approval for and recruiting to a 'new' qualification

7) How will we engage with different groups during the consultation?

A communications plan has been developed to ensure we engage with a wide range of stakeholders on a regular basis throughout the process.

We will hold an eight-week online consultation period and would like to hear from a wide range of people including the public, patients, educators, students and employers. The consultation period will be publicised in our newsletter and on our website to attract as many responses as possible.

We will also host a series of meetings in September 2022 to engage with a variety of groups and capture their opinions on the draft standards.

8) What will happen when the consultation closes?

Once the consultation closes, all responses will be analysed and evaluated. The Education Steering Group will consider these findings and make indicative revisions to the draft standards where required. Once final revisions are agreed upon, the standards will be presented to the full Education Committee in November 2022 and Council in December 2022 for approval and implementation.

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