



Education Visitors' Report (Approval of a Programme)

Name of Educational Institution	London South Bank University
Programme Name	Integrated Masters of Chiropractic (MChiro)
Proposed Start Date of Programme	September 2018
Date of Visit	27 th February 2018

Panel Chair	Grahame Pope
Panel Members	Caroline Hadlow, Daniel Heritage, Mark Webster
Observers	Penny Bance
Panel Secretary	Anouska Annan

Introduction

London South Bank University (LSBU) made a submission to the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) to be considered by the Education Committee at its November 2017 meeting for its proposed Integrated Masters of Chiropractic (MChiro), due to commence in autumn 2018.

The programme submission was analysed by one chiropractic and one lay Education Visitor. At this point, the Education Committee was notified that a chiropractic member of staff had not yet been appointed to a senior position in the school. The Education Committee was concerned over this issue due to the programme not initially meeting the GCC's requirement to have such a member of staff in place. LSBU informed the GCC that it was unable to appoint this member of staff until the course had been validated, and, that a condition of validation was GCC approval. The Education Committee agreed that a visit should go ahead and LSBU asked that the visit be combined with their internal validation event.

The Education Committee decided that the Approval Panel for this visit would be made up of two chiropractic and two lay visitors as it was felt that due to this being a new programme at an institution new to the GCC, the visit would require a panel with a wide range and high level of knowledge and expertise.

The Approval Panel met on the evening of 26th February 2018 to discuss areas that had been highlighted as needing further exploration in the analysis of the programme submission.

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

*The students who took part in the visit were from other degree programmes from the faculty and not chiropractic students.

How areas of concern were addressed.

During the pre-meeting on 26th February, the Panel highlighted areas of interest or concern that had previously been identified in the submission analysis that would be explored in further detail at the visit. During the event these were addressed through a series of meetings with senior staff and stakeholders.

The areas of interest or concern included the following:

Leadership and governance and the staffing strategy.

- The main concern prior to the visit was the fact that the programme did not currently have any appointed chiropractic staff. The institution stated that although there was a great deal of shared learning with other disciplines, it was planned for units that were specific to chiropractic to be lead by chiropractors. The senior team confirmed that the recruitment process for these members of staff had begun and that interviews would take place during the week beginning 26th February. The institution explained that it would appoint chiropractic senior academics that would be responsible for the operational oversight of the course and that this staff would be in place by the end of May 2018.

The clinical aspect of the programme including external placements.

- An aspect of the course that was an area of interest was the institution's plans to use external chiropractic clinics as placements for students. The institution clarified that clinical experience for all students would begin in the internal clinic where the students would need to have achieved particular learning outcomes before being permitted to go on an external placement; this would comprise 100 hours of the course. The institution was asked whether it had a contingency plan for the possibility of not being able to acquire clinics for external placements, the institution confirmed that it would be able to accommodate students in the in-house clinic if need be, however was confident that it would not be a problem to acquire external clinics through contracting with their stakeholders. The panel was informed that the faculty's policy for external placements was that students would be placed at clinics at a location within a two hour journey of their home and that any travel costs that were in excess of how much it would cost a student to travel to the university would be reimbursed.

The assessment strategy

- The Panel was concerned that some of the assessments for a number of the modules were not necessarily fit for purpose for assessing the learning outcomes and that these might need to be reconsidered in order to ensure full coverage.
- Some of the more practical modules appeared to be assessed through written assignments which the panel felt may need to be reviewed so that students are assessed on the practical elements of the course as well as theoretical.

Meeting with students

- The visit also included a meeting with students from the faculty. The purpose of this meeting was for the panel to be able to evaluate the mechanisms that the institution had in place for student support. The students spoke very highly of the services that were available to them on their programmes which included being allocated personal tutors early on in the programme, having the lead lecturer for their programmes available for contacting and having weekly sessions with the rest of the cohort for support from their peers. It was noted that there were both formal and informal mechanisms in place for students to give their feedback to the institution.

As part of the University's internal validation process, the senior team was questioned on each of the programme modules. During this section of the meeting the GCC panel sought clarification on some queries that has arisen in respect to particular modules. The majority of areas of concern in relation to particular modules were addressed; however there was still some concern over the assessment methods for some modules as mentioned later in this report.

Account of verbal summary given to the institution

Both the internal validation panel and the GCC's Approval Panel gave a verbal summary to the Health and Social Care (HSC) senior team.

The GCC Panel informed the senior team that it would recommend approval with a number of conditions. The HSC team were thanked for all of their time and work put in to the approval process.

There was a total of four conditions imposed with a further four recommendations and three commendations. Details of this are listed further on in this document.

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"/>

Commendations to the institution

The Approval Panel commended LSBU on the following:

1. The inclusion of public health within the syllabus.
2. The high level of interdisciplinary learning throughout the course.
3. The stakeholder involvement throughout the process of developing the programme.

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 until the first graduating cohort has been achieved to ensure it is satisfied that the programme is meeting all of the requirements set out in the GCC's Education Standards.**
 - The first of these visits will take place in October 2018 after the programme has commenced.
- 2. The institution must recruit appropriately qualified chiropractic staff who must take up post by the end of June 2018.**
 - The institution must send copies of the individuals' CVs to the GCC when the appointment of these staff members has been confirmed.
- 3. The institution must review the appropriateness of assessments for particular units in years 2, 3 and 4 and provide evidence at the GCC's autumn 2018 monitoring visit.**
 - This is to ensure that all learning outcomes are appropriately assessed and achieved prior to progression and graduation. These units include:
 - Year 2- Level 5
 - Anatomy of the Head Neck and Neuroanatomy
 - Clinical Imaging – Pathological Radiographic Anatomy
 - Year 3- Level 6
 - Clinical Nutrition and Public Health (in particular ensuring both nutrition and public health knowledge is assessed)
 - Rehabilitation and Functional Management
 - Chiropractic III
 - Contemporary issues in chiropractic practice (the length of the exam, whether there was adequate time to complete the proposed summative tasks.)
 - Year 4 - Level 7
 - Clinical Practice and Placement
 - Following the review, the institution must either provide the GCC with a justification for the assessment for each unit, or, details of the changes made to the assessments. The institution must provide evidence that assures the GCC that

standards have been met. The institution must conduct this review by the first GCC monitoring visit in October 2018.

- 4. Introduce an element of shadowing or observation of chiropractic practice within the first two years of the programme to promote professional identity.**
- An indicative plan of how this will be put in place must be produced by October 2018.

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 institution should revisit the content of the course modules with the aim to be more specific on the use of pharmacological agents.
2. The institution should ensure that the programme is more specific on the subject of ceasing care.
3. The institution should ensure that the programme is more specific on the subject of referring to other health care professionals.
4. The reading list should be reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate and reflects the learning outcomes of the course modules.

Further Evidence Required (Recommendation 3)

N/A

Conclusion

The Approval Panel concluded that the programme content adequately met the GCC's Education Standards. The Panel was impressed by the inclusion of interdisciplinary learning throughout the course along with the large amount of stakeholder involvement and support as well as the focus on public health.

The Panel recognised that this being a brand new programme delivered by an institution new to the GCC, meant that it would need more rigorous monitoring than an experienced provider of chiropractic degrees to ensure that the GCC standards continue to be met. The Panel was satisfied that conducting annual monitoring visits would achieve this.

Signed: 

Panel Chair: Grahame Pope

Date: 19th March 2018