

GENERAL CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE RECOGNITION VISIT BY THE GCC PANEL TO AECC 29 and 30 MARCH 2011

Panel:

Chris Stephens (Member of the GCC Education Committee – Chair)
Christina Cunliffe (Member of the GCC Education Committee)
David Byfield (Member of the GCC Education Committee)
Lindsay Mitchell (GCC Education Officer – in attendance)
Cliff Hancock (Quality Assurance in HE adviser to the GCC – Secretary)

Introduction

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) had received a submission from the Anglo-European College of Chiropractic (AECC) for recognition of a programme leading to a registerable qualification. The programme was formulated as a BSc (Hons) in Human Sciences (three years full time study) and an MSc in Chiropractic (two years full time study).

After receipt of documentation setting out how the programme would be delivered the GCC Education Committee assembled a panel for a visit and asked AECC to provide supplementary information prior to the recognition visit. On the basis of this full information the formal recognition visit took place on 29 and 30 March 2011.

The panel met with a wide range of staff, students and patients from AECC during the visit. There was also an opportunity to meet the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Head of Quality Assurance from Bournemouth University, the validating body for the programme. On the basis of its examination of the full documentation and the exploration of detail in a range of meetings held during the visit the Panel recommends to the GCC Education Committee that the programme of BSc (Hons) Human Sciences and MSc (Chiropractic) be recognised by the GCC. This recognition is subject to six conditions – set out below. The panel also made several commendations and recommendations to AECC. The details of how the GCC criteria for recognition were met or were made subject to a condition of recognition are set out in the Annex to this report.

Conclusion

At the end of the visit the Chair thanked all concerned at AECC for their hospitality, the huge amount of work they had put into the development of the programme and its documentation and their patience during the visit.

The panel made the following **commendations**:

1. The panel was impressed with the facilities – the new clinic, the ultrasound suite and the reconfiguration of the building.
2. The panel was impressed with the teamwork and the enthusiasm of the academic and clinic staff and their involvement in the development of the new programme.
3. The expansion of the clinical training phase of the programme to enhance experiential learning.

The panel recommends to the Education Committee recognition of the proposed AECC programme subject to the following **conditions**:

1. the AECC meets all of the conditions set out down in the report from Bournemouth University's Evaluation (validation) event held on Tuesday 8th February 2011 (GCC Degree Recognition Criterion 11)
2. modify the structure of the programmes in terms of:
 - a. student workload in relation to learning and assessment of the units across the five years of the programme so that it is consistent with Bournemouth University regulations (GCC Degree Recognition Criterion 11)
 - b. showing the balance between directed and independent learning across the programme to demonstrate how students develop to be self-directed learners (GCC Degree Recognition Criterion 13)
 - c. incorporating the case weeks into the modularised structure of the programme and ensure that they are assessed (GCC Degree Recognition Criteria 14 - 15)
3. produce policies and procedures for promoting equality of opportunity and encouraging students with disabilities consistent with current legislation (GCC Degree Recognition Criteria 35 – 36)
4. provide evidence of how the programme will involve patients and their carers in the teaching and assessment of students and in the review of the programme (GCC Degree Recognition Criteria 13, 14 and 23)
5. clarify the classification of the MSc degree (GCC Degree Recognition Criterion 15)
6. resubmit a finalised set of documents – one paper-based and one electronic – to the GCC encapsulating all of the conditions set out above. (GCC Degree Recognition Criteria – overall requirement for submission)

The panel made the following **recommendations**:

1. AECC should clarify how students with degrees entitled BSc (Hons) Human Sciences (from both the AECC and also elsewhere) can make the transition to the MSc Chiropractic, in particular how entrants to the MSc Chiropractic will be matched for both content and credit.
2. AECC should review the assessments in the dissertation unit to reduce the emphasis on group work; in particular consider reducing the 30% allocation to the dissertation element
3. AECC should review the course units to clarify where the technique skills set out in the GCC's guidance for Degree Recognition Programme Outcome 7(a) are taught in the programme.