

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

27/11/2020

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	UWL
Course provider	University of West London
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	BSc(Hons) Social Work
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	05/10/2020
Maximum student cohort	50
Review type	Course change
Review team	Nigel Westwood – Lay Inspector Sue Taplin – Registrant Inspector
Review team recommendation	Approval with a recommendation.
Outcome	Approval with a recommendation.

About the review

The proposed change by the university is an increase from a maximum student intake of 40 students to 50 students. This is to accommodate the transfer of students onto the course, at level 5 and level 6, who are not able to continue their studies with another social work education provider. The university has provided evidence in support of this change request which has been reviewed by the allocated inspectors.

Findings

The inspectors have reviewed the documentary evidence and consider;

- There is a clear rationale for the change which arose from extraordinary circumstances, as the students transferring to the University of West London were not able to continue their studies with their prior social work education provider. The transition included joint meetings and conversations between Social Work England, the University of West London, The Office for Students and the student's prior education provider.
- Inspectors were provided with an overview of the information provided to and engagement undertaken with transferring students by the course team, to enable students to make an informed choice about whether to continue their studies with the University of West London. This included meetings with students. Inspectors were also able to review induction materials, in addition to the university's policy and guidance for students on the recognition of prior learning.
- The University of West London provided documentary evidence that they have established a new working relationship with Oxford City Council and Activate Learning, in order to provide practice-based learning opportunities for students based in Oxford. Steps have also been taken to engage with, and provide training to, new placement providers and practice educators on the university's policies and processes. The inspectors are recommending that this engagement and support continues to ensure that new partners have the information and resources available to support the wellbeing and learning needs of the transferring students, throughout their practice-based learning.
- Inspectors were able to review documentation that outlined the appointment of a new member academic staff to support the transferring students. This will include supporting teaching and learning, in addition to pastoral support and liaison with placement providers based in Oxford. For the first few months this will be a part-time, hourly paid role, but the education provider has indicated that the position will become permanent from January 2021.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending approval, with a recommendation against standard 3.13 'There will be effective and accessible arrangements in place to support the wellbeing and learning needs of students in all settings'.

This recommendation reflects that the transferring students may require additional, ongoing support to ensure that they integrate into the new education environment and adapt to new policies, procedures and structures.

Furthermore, as the University of West London establishes new relationships with placement providers in the Oxfordshire region, these providers will require support to ensure that they are able to provide a quality practice-based learning experience, including information and guidance to practice educators and students.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Admissions			
2.1 The admissions process will give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a course.	☒	☐	☐
Course Governance, Management and Leadership	☒	☐	☐
3.6 There will be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice-based learning for all students.	☒	☐	☐
3.9 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective course.	☒	☐	☐
3.13 There will be effective and accessible arrangements in place to support the wellbeing and learning needs of students in all settings.	☐	☐	☒
Practice Based Learning	☒	☐	☐
5.5 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff involved in practice-based learning.	☒	☐	☐
5.6 Practice educators will have relevant knowledge, skills and experience to support safe and effective learning and, unless other arrangements are appropriate, will be on the register.	☒	☐	☐
5.7 Practice educators will undertake regular training, which is appropriate to their role, students' needs and the delivery of the learning outcomes of the course.	☒	☐	☐