

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

18/01/2021

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	UHU355
Course provider	University of Huddersfield
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	MSc Social Work MSci Social Work (integrated)
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/09/2021
Maximum student cohort	Click or tap here to enter text.
Review type	Course change
Review team	Bradley Allan (Lay Inspector) Louise Robson (Registrant Inspector)
Review team recommendation	Approval
Outcome	Approved

About the review

The proposed changes by the university include:

- A change to the programme specification in relation to Course Assessment Board structures in line with HESA requirements.
- A change to the structure of the final year of the course, to reduce the burden of assessment on students and improve the student experience. This involves removing an existing Literature Review Module and increasing the credits of the Practice Placement Module through the addition of a new assessment.
- An update to course documentation, such as programme specification, reflecting the change in the regulatory landscape. For example, removing reference to the HCPC.
- The introduction of a new non-credit bearing module to assess students' readiness for practice to help prepare them for practice-based learning. This has been introduced in anticipation of Social Work England's new education and training standards.

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 changes, firstly reflecting the change to the regulatory landscape, which has required the course provider to update course documentation and review their provision in preparation for the introduction of Social Work England's new education and training standards. For example, by ensuring that the course prepares students to understand and meet the professional standards.
- Secondly, the education provider has reviewed their existing provision to identify improvements that could be made to the structure of the course. In this case, taking steps to ensure that the assessment continues to meet the learning outcomes while also balancing the burden of assessment on students throughout the academic year. These amendments resulted from staff feedback, foreseeing that the existing course structure could put unnecessary pressure on students during their final placement.
- Inspectors focused their review on the removal of the Literature Review Module and the subsequent increase in credits and assessment within the Practice Placement Module. It was felt that this aspect of the course change could impact on how the education and training standards would be met, whereas other elements of the course

change could be considered to be administrative.

- Inspectors reviewed documentary evidence including mapping of the course learning outcomes against Social Work England's professional standards, in addition to the Practice Capabilities Framework (PCF). They were also able to review documents which included detail about the new course structure and assessment, such as module descriptors, information provided to Practice Educators and an indicative timetable outlining how students would be supported with their academic work during their final placement.
- From the documentary evidence provided inspectors did not feel that this change to the course's structure and assessment would impact the learning outcomes or the ability of students to meet the professional standards. Overall, the inspectors regarded the changes to be constructive.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending approval.

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	☒	☐	☐
3.10 Subject areas will be delivered by educators with relevant specialist knowledge and expertise.	☒	☐	☐
Course Design and Delivery	☒	☐	☐
4.1 The learning outcomes will ensure that students meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
4.2 The learning outcomes will ensure that students understand and are able to meet the expectations of professional behaviour.	☒	☐	☐
4.4 The curriculum will remain relevant to current practice.	☒	☐	☐
4.5 Integration of theory and practice will be central to the course.	☒	☐	☐
4.7 The delivery of the course will support and develop autonomous and reflective thinking.	☒	☐	☐
4.8 The delivery of the course will support and develop evidence-based practice.	☒	☐	☐
Assessment			
6.1 The assessment strategy and design will ensure that those who successfully complete the course meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
6.5 The assessment methods used will be appropriate to, and effective at, measuring the learning outcomes.	☒	☐	☐