

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

03/03/2022

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	UE818
Course provider	University of Essex
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	BA (Hons) Social Work
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	03/10/2022
Maximum student cohort	25
Review type	Course change
Review team	Lay Inspector: Mohammed Jeewa Registrant Inspector: Anne Mackay Quality Assurance Officer: Daisy Bragadini
Review team recommendation	Approval
Outcome	Approval

About the review

University of Essex are proposing to run their BA (Hons) Social Work course at their Colchester campus. The course also currently runs from their Southend campus. They propose no changes to the course content or mode of delivery. They currently run their MA Social Work course from the Colchester campus and want to meet demand for those students who want to study their BA (Hons) course there too. They propose that the minimum entry target for student numbers at the Southend campus for the BA course is reduced from 55 to 45 to take into consideration regional placement capacity. The minimum entry target for the BA (Hons) course at Colchester will be set at 25.

Findings

The university identified 4 standards that would be impacted by the changes they wanted to implement. After reviewing the evidence submitted, the inspectors identified the following:

1. For all standards, with the exception of standards 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.6; 3.8; and 5.1 the university showed there was a continuation of their ability to meet the education and training standards.
2. Standards 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.6; 3.8; and 5.1 were directly impacted by the proposed change and required evidence to satisfy the Inspectors that the university would continue to meet the standards. They related to provision of practice education, course governance and student support.

Supporting evidence was submitted for standards 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.6; 3.8; and 5.1 to show how the university will manage the course on the new campus and the increase in numbers of students. The evidence submitted and how it relates to each of the standards impacted is explained below:

Standard 2.1: Ensure that students spend at least 200 days (including up to 30 skills days) gaining different experiences and learning in practice settings.

Standard 2.2: Provide practice learning opportunities that enable students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and meet the professional standards

The inspectors were provided with a list of statutory and non-statutory placement providers for both the BA course and the MA and PG Dip course and a document outlining the details of how the increase in demand for practice placements will be met. Memorandum of Cooperation documents also reviewed by the inspectors provided evidence of effective working relationships with placement providers, both statutory and non-statutory. The inspectors were satisfied that this provided enough information to recommend that these standards are met.

Standard 3.1: Ensure courses are supported by a management and governance plan that includes the roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability of individuals and governing groups in the delivery, resourcing and quality management of the course.

The inspectors reviewed a new site approval document outlining the proposal, rationale and site overview. The inspectors were satisfied that this evidence illustrated how resources and student support would be provided and it also included approval for the course to run at the Colchester campus, from the School of Health and Social Care. The inspectors also reviewed a new site delivery costings document from the Faculty of Science and Health. The inspectors were satisfied that this provided enough information to recommend that this standard is met.

Standard 3.6: Ensure that the number of students admitted is aligned to a clear strategy, which includes consideration of local/regional placement capacity.

The inspectors reviewed a document which outlines the development of internal placement opportunities through the university's new Institute of Public Health and Wellbeing, Memorandum of Cooperation documents and plans for strategic planning for placement provision. This evidence included a document which outlined the recruitment of a new lecturer

and the work they will undertake to develop, grow and support practice placement capacity. The inspectors were satisfied that this evidence was enough to recommend that this standard is met.

Standard 3.8: Ensure that there is an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff, with relevant specialist subject knowledge and expertise, to deliver an effective course.

The inspectors reviewed the costings document which provides details of an increase of staff, including administrative staff. The new site approval document outlined the recruitment lead-in time which the inspectors felt provided sufficient time for additional work to be carried out. The inspectors were satisfied that this evidence was enough to recommend that this standard is met.

Standard 5.1: Ensure that students have access to resources to support their health and wellbeing including:

- confidential counselling services;
- careers advice and support; and
- occupational health services.

The inspectors were provided with a document which outlines the provision of student services at the Colchester campus, including information about the personal tutor. The inspectors also reviewed evidence outlining the increase in staffing provision which would also support individual tutor capacity. The inspectors were satisfied that this evidence was enough to recommend that this standard is met.

The inspectors are satisfied that there is adequate provision for the additional placements needed, resourcing and additional staff, student support services and availability of practice educators.

Therefore, the inspectors are satisfied that the proposed changes continue to meet Social Work England's Education and Training Standards and recommend that the changes be approved.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending approval.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Learning Environment			
2.1 Ensure that students spend at least 200 days (including up to 30 skills days) gaining different experiences and learning in practice settings.	☒	☐	☐
2.2 Provide practice learning opportunities that enable students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and meet the professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
Course governance, management and quality			
3.1 Ensure courses are supported by a management and governance plan that includes the roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability of individuals and governing groups in the delivery, resourcing and quality management of the course.	☒	☐	☐
3.6 Ensure that the number of students admitted is aligned to a clear strategy, which includes consideration of local/regional placement capacity.	☒	☐	☐
3.8 Ensure that there is an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff, with relevant specialist subject knowledge and expertise, to deliver an effective course.	☒	☐	☐
Supporting students			
5.1 Ensure that students have access to resources to support their health and wellbeing including:	☒	☐	☐

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
- confidential counselling services; - careers advice and support; and - occupational health services			