

LTC16D011

Title: Confirmation of the MB BS as a level 7 award
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Issue

Response of the Norwich Medical School to the recommendations of the Higher Education Review of 2015

Recommendation

To note.

Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Risk Implications

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

Not applicable.

Timing of decisions

Not applicable.

Further Information

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Background

Response to the Higher Education Review of 2015.

Discussion

Not applicable.

Level 7 on the MB BS

Prof Richard Holland, Course Director,
Prof Mary Jane Platt, Teaching Director
Catherine Butcher, School Manager

Response to HER:

Following UEA's Higher Education review it has become clear that we need to correct information around our MB BS A100/A104 courses. Our course profile states that we assess at Level 6, yet we award a Level 7 award. In reality, our course has always expected Level 7 competence by the end of year 4 of our course. At this point, students are making highly complex judgements, integrating knowledge and clinical skills with the clinical experience they have consolidated over the four years of their training to date. They need to do this in order to form diagnoses, and investigation and management plans for the wide range of patient presentations encountered in medicine. Students are expected to be able to respond appropriately to many different patient scenarios, both those seen at routine appointments and emergency scenarios. The latter includes communication of complex issues effectively to both patients, their relatives (i.e. non-specialist audiences) and healthcare professionals (specialist audiences).¹ Thus, students need to be able to cope with unpredictable events and patient situations and learn to respond competently and confidently to ensure the very best outcome for their patients.

In addition, we expect our medical students to reflect on their learning, the clinical experiences they encounter and are involved in, and their clinical and academic performance as a whole. They are expected to be able to identify their areas of strength and weakness and use that reflection to focus their learning in their clinical placements.

Their skills and abilities are then consolidated through our Final year, where students study the broad disciplines around emergency care (both in hospital and general practice) and undertake a student assistantship – shadowing and undertaking the work of a Foundation doctor under close supervision.

It should be noted that considering our MB BS qualification to be a Level 7 award is consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications publication of QAA, which states:

“First degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science comprise an integrated programme of study and professional practice spanning several levels. While the final outcomes of the qualifications themselves typically meet the expectations of the descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7, these qualifications may often retain, for historical reasons, titles of Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine or Bachelor of Veterinary Science, and are abbreviated to MBChB or BM BS, BDS, BVetMed and BVSc respectively.”¹

Wording to go in to the Programme Specification / Course Handbook/Course Profile should be as follows:

Our course exits students at Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework. Indeed, we expect Level 7 competence by the end of year 4 of our course. At this point, students are making highly complex judgements, integrating knowledge and clinical skills with the clinical experience they have consolidated over the four years of their training to date. They need to do this in order to form

diagnoses, and investigation and management plans for the wide range of patient presentations encountered in medicine. Students are expected to be able to respond appropriately to many different patient scenarios, both those seen at routine appointments and emergency scenarios, and communicate appropriately with both patients and other healthcare professionals. Thus, students need to be able to cope with unpredictable events and patient situations and learn to respond competently and confidently to ensure the very best outcome for their patients.

In addition, we expect them to reflect on their learning, the clinical experiences they encounter and are involved in, and their clinical and academic performance as a whole. They are expected to be able to identify their areas of strength and weakness and use that reflection to focus their learning in their clinical placements.

Their skills and abilities are then consolidated through our Final year, where students study the broad disciplines around emergency care (both in hospital and general practice) and undertake a student assistantship – shadowing and undertaking the work of a Foundation doctor under close supervision.

Thus, whilst we expect Level 7 working by the end of year 4, we explicitly state that our Year 5 modules are all at Level 7 and that our MB BS qualification is a Level 7 award.

Prospectus/Web page:

Our course provides a Level 7 qualification on graduation. Our graduates must be able to make complex judgements, integrating knowledge and clinical skills with the clinical experience they have consolidated over their training so as to perform as a highly competent F1 doctor.

References:

1. QAA: The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Aug 2008