

Education Visitors' Report

Recognition of a Satellite Programme

This form is to be completed by the panel secretary following an approval visit to an institution.

Name of institution	Health Sciences University (HSU) - London
Programme name	MSc Chiropractic Pre-registration programmes (part-time & full-time delivery)
Start date of programme	January 2025
Date of visit	3 October 2024

Panel Chair	Rabia Ahmed
Panel Members	Mark Webster
Observers	Penny Bance
Panel Secretary	Elizabeth Austin

Introduction
<p>After several discussions with the GCC during 2023, HSU submitted documentation in September 2024 for consideration through the GCC satellite recognition process.</p> <p>HSU completed the Stage 2 Outline Business Case template and the Stage 3 mapping document, focusing primarily on Section 2 of the Education Standards. The Approval Panel consisted of Rabia Ahmed and Mark Webster, who supported HSU with the implementation of the new Education Standards. They were familiar with the programme, having undertaken a comprehensive review of the programme in March 2024.</p> <p>Following a desk top analysis, a visit to the satellite campus in London was arranged for 3 October 2024 to tour facilities and meet with key staff and students.</p>

Staff members, groups, facilities and resources seen			
	Yes	No	N/A
Representative(s) from validating institution			✓
Senior management responsible for programme resources.	✓		
Programme Leader	✓		
Faculty staff	✓		
Students	✓		
Patients			✓
Clinic facilities	✓		
Learning Resources (e.g. IT, library facilities)	✓		
Other	Please specify		

How areas of concern were addressed

During the pre-meeting on 26 September, the Panel highlighted areas of interest that had been identified in the submission analysis that would be explored in further detail at the visit. During the event these were addressed through a series of meetings with senior staff and stakeholders.

Panel meeting with Senior Management Team (SMT)

The Panel met with four members of the SMT.

The Panel asked the SMT to provide an overview of the proposed programmes to be delivered at the London campus. The SMT explained that they intend to offer both full-time and part-time MSc Chiropractic (Pre-registration) programmes across the two sites (Bournemouth and London). The London campus delivery and part-time route delivery have the same units, ILOs and course level outcomes as the MSc Chiropractic (Pre-registration) programme, approved by the GCC in 2023.

Regarding staffing requirements, The SMT assured the Panel that there is sufficient staffing resource to operate a 'traveling faculty' model whilst the London campus becomes established without detriment to the existing chiropractic provision. This is possible as the MSc Chiropractic (Pre-registration) programme will be taught on opposite days, across the two campuses, to allow staff to travel when needed. A recent survey showed that most staff are open to supporting module delivery at both sites. To manage workload, maximum teaching hours have been set. Additionally, the business plan includes having chiropractic staff permanently based in London after the first semester.

The Panel was informed that the part-time route will follow the same units and delivery as provided for the full-time route, but with the units spread over a 3-year period rather than 2 years. The units that students will be expected to take in each year were shared with the Panel. The Panel was informed that students following the part time route will join the full-time students for the units that they are taking, so staffing or delivery of the course will not be affected.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) systems at University College of Osteopathy (UCO) and HSU are currently separate, but the plan is to merge these systems over the next 12-18 months. An IT support team will be based at the London campus to assist with this transition.

When asked about the rationale for establishing a London provision, SMT highlighted market research and growing demand. With LSBU having relocated to Croydon, there is now a gap in central London for this kind of programme, making it appealing to both commuter students and international applicants. The SMT hope its location will open up opportunities for the London campus to become a significant hub for international students. Although the campus at Bournemouth may appear to be a competitor, the SMT believe that the student cohorts differ, and they aim to grow this market in the long term.

The SMT shared plans with the Panel for future development of the London campus. Proposed student enrolments include 20 full-time and 12 part-time students, including six international students. The Panel was informed that staffing levels from Bournemouth are currently sufficient to support these numbers, but should demand

grow, new positions will be created. Multidisciplinary expertise will also be shared across other courses to enrich the programme, with plans to introduce leadership and management programmes through a Health Business School. Further programmes, including an MSc in Global Healthcare Management, are being recruited, with post-registration CPD and additional pre-registration courses under discussion.

The SMT shared that they expect a collaborative relationship between the two sites which will foster a shared educational experience, with opportunities for students and staff to learn from one another. The Panel also noted positive discussions with the osteopathy school, which may lead to further collaboration and interprofessional education activities. A strong professional identity for chiropractic students will be maintained through societies and events, with external speakers and online forums connecting both campuses. The SMT stressed the importance of professional identity while encouraging multidisciplinary learning, which is expected to produce more well-rounded practitioners.

Tour of the Campus

The Panel toured both the teaching and clinic buildings and the course team shared plans for upcoming changes to the teaching facilities. The team commented that the London campus is already fully equipped with the necessary estate and teaching infrastructure to support both full-time and part-time formats of the programme. The Panel observed multiple seminar rooms, clinical technique and treatment rooms, a large lecture theatre, a library, quiet study areas, and a dedicated student space that includes a bar and recreational facilities. Faculty and administrative offices include a large open-plan staff office, private meeting rooms, and individual offices for confidential student consultations.

The Panel was informed that the London campus is integrated into HSU's digital infrastructure, enabling all staff and students to communicate via email and Teams. MSc Chiropractic (pre-registration) students will use Moodle as their Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), accessible from any location.

In addition to its on-campus resources, the London library is linked with the Bournemouth campus, ensuring that students have access to the same online resources. The Library and Learning Services Team has also made provisions for physical books to be added to the London campus collection where e-books are unavailable.

The Panel noted that the chiropractic teaching clinic is scheduled to launch at the London campus in January 2026 and toured the osteopathic clinic, which will house the new chiropractic clinic. Currently, the osteopathic clinic has 34 treatment rooms, and the Panel discussed plans to develop a rehabilitation area. Chiropractic staff will be employed to oversee the chiropractic students on-site, with the Chiropractic Clinical Lead providing oversight from Bournemouth and traveling to London as needed. Final year students will complete their year-long clinical placement at this facility, ensuring they gain practical experience in line with the Bournemouth clinic, though adapted to local patient demographics.

The Clinical Lead explained that chiropractic students will work alongside osteopathy students in a supervised setting, which will foster interprofessional learning and collaboration. As additional healthcare services are introduced at the London campus, chiropractic students will have further opportunities to engage with and learn from other healthcare professionals, enriching their educational experience.

Meeting with the Course Delivery Team

The Panel met with four members of the course delivery team.

The course team provided an overview of the logistics for part-time and full-time provision. The part-time programme will extend over three years, with the content from the programme's first year spread across two academic years. Year three of the programme will align with the full-time programme's second year.

The team confirmed that there would be no difference in resourcing, as teaching and assessments will fit within the current framework. The London campus will be subject to the same QA processes as those at the Bournemouth campus. Practical skills sessions are planned for Mondays and Tuesdays in Bournemouth and Thursdays and Fridays in London. All lecture material will be recorded on the VLE, and while seminars will initially be face-to-face, there is potential for these to move online.

To accommodate the six-week summer placement, plans are in place to establish a London-based equivalent placement. If students are required to attend some or all of this placement in Bournemouth, during the first year, clear communication regarding the funding will be provided at enrolment.

When asked about student access to simulation, the team explained that the London campus currently lacks high-fidelity simulation learning. As a result, students may travel to Bournemouth for two days of block simulation training, equivalent to what Bournemouth students receive. Alternatively, mobile simulation equipment could be relocated to London if needed.

The Panel was also informed that the Bournemouth campus has a pro-section facility and an Anatomage table, whilst the London campus has a VR anatomy suite and the option for pro-section at Kings College (Guys Campus). Both sites are therefore able to offer anatomy learning with an equivalent learning experience.

Imaging, including MRI and radiography, will also be integrated into the programme, with pre-recorded lectures and live seminars connecting students across campuses. The team emphasised the importance of maintaining parity between the two locations, with the same teaching staff and content.

When asked by the Panel how a sense of community and parity will be developed for the students across both campuses, it was noted that the chiropractic society in Bournemouth will extend its presence to London, offering both in-person and online events to foster a sense of community across the campuses. Additionally, collaborative teaching with external speakers will be made available through online platforms.

Meeting with the clinic team

The Panel met with two members of the clinic team.

When asked about the potential for students at the London campus to see a diverse range of patients, the clinic team explained that there is a strong likelihood of students encountering patients from diverse demographics. This is due to a steady stream of patients already attending the osteopathic clinic, with significant potential for expansion through marketing and health initiatives. The team also plans to replicate the initiatives currently running in Bournemouth, such as outreach to local communities.

The Panel noted that the clinic will open within the first year of the course. A six-week internal placement focusing on patient interaction, triage, and case histories, is scheduled for June & July 2025, followed by the substantive placement which commences January 2026. Leading up to this, staff clinics will be established to create a footfall into the clinic ready for the substantive placement commencing.

The Panel was informed that future plans for the clinic include offering rehabilitation, ultrasound services, and massage therapy, with a focus on fostering multidisciplinary collaboration with osteopaths and chiropractors. External placements will also be organised by the school, with students encouraged to find their own regulated placements. The Panel also noted that while patient fees will contribute to clinic income, it is not expected to cover costs during the initial years.

The team shared that the clinic will provide face-to-face multidisciplinary teaching, with some sessions streamed to ensure all students can access the content. The goal is to provide equivalent clinical experiences for both part-time and full-time students, with matched levels of clinic supervision across both campuses.

In response to how patients will be involved in the programme, the Panel was informed that the Patient and Public involvement group, already established in Bournemouth, comprises members with a range of interests, including clinical, education, research, and interviewing. The University College of Osteopathy (UCO) has a similar group, and there are plans to merge these initiatives to create a unified approach across both the London and Bournemouth campuses. Utilising the expertise and involvement of the patient group will be crucial in successfully integrating patient involvement into the course at both locations.

Meeting with students

The Panel met with five students from the London and Bournemouth campuses.

The students responded positively to the idea of part-time study, with some expressing that they would have chosen this path if it had been available to them. They saw part-time study as a valuable option for those looking to balance work with their studies, although they acknowledged the intensity of the course content.

When asked to comment on the availability of support services at both campuses, students highlighted the smooth process of accessing support for dyslexia and ADHD in both locations. Students at the London campus highlighted the additional services

introduced since the merger, and the facilities – such as the library, VR resources, and treatment rooms, were praised for their accessibility and quality.

While the osteopathy students expressed some initial concerns about maintaining UCO's identity following the merger, they noted that the transition had been smooth, with efforts to preserve the distinct identities of both institutions. Students were particularly excited about the opportunity to work with chiropractic students, as they believe this multidisciplinary collaboration will be beneficial to their future practice.

Meeting with staff responsible for student support / academic administration

The Panel met with four members of the student support/ academic administration team.

The student support team outlined the services available to students. Support is offered online, via phone, or face-to-face, with advertising through the student portal. Students also have access to the Bournemouth support team. Initial triage sessions are conducted to determine the level of support needed, with follow-up sessions available if required. The Students' Union also provides pastoral care, and the Learning Hub and Library are often the first point of contact for students seeking help.

While there are different staffing ratios between the two campuses, the team is actively recruiting additional staff, with funding secured for further roles. The Head of the library visits the London campus once a week, and the study skills tutor is available to support part-time students on weekends.

Feedback mechanisms, including student engagement surveys and roundtables, are being used to gauge student satisfaction. Plans for larger student numbers are in place, with additional support roles already budgeted. Weekly sessions are held in the Learning Hub to provide students with direct access to support services, ensuring parity between the two campuses.

Account of verbal summary given to the institution

During the final meeting with the Senior Management Team, the Panel Chair stated that its indicative recommendation to the Education Committee is to:

- recommend approval of the London campus programmes (part-time & full-time) with one condition
- recommend approval of the part-time programme at the Bournemouth campus

It was agreed that the approval report would be shared with HSU for fact checking by 25 October 2024 for return to the GCC by 11 November 2024. The report will be presented to the Education Committee at its November meeting. If it is agreed that the programme meets all the Education Standards, the Committee will recommend to the Council of the GCC that the programmes should be approved.

The Council of the GCC considers and decides whether to accept the recommendation of the Education Committee.

The Panel Chair concluded that subject to approval, the Panel looks forward to returning to the campus once the chiropractic clinic has been established.

Recommendation to Education Committee

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Approve without conditions | |
| 2. Approve with conditions | ✓ |
| 3. No approval (insufficient evidence due to serious deficiencies) | |

Conditions for the institution with reasons and timeframes in which they are to be met.

- Develop the London clinic ahead of the January 2026 start date for pre-clinical and clinical training

Recommendations for the institution

- To review staffing and expand as need or demand require.
- Review the budget, and provide an updated projection.
- Develop resources to run and deliver the programme (including library) appropriately as the cohort grows.

Commendations to the institution

The panel would like to commend:

- The management of the transition through the merger.
- Planning for student support services
- Considerations for parity of the student experience at both campuses, as well as the academic provision.
- Widening access to the chiropractic profession through the provision of a part time programme.

Signed

Rabia Ahmed

Panel Chair

Date: 22/10/24