

BSHAA responses to HAC, HPC consultations

HAC, HPC consultation on standards of proficiency and the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Hearing Aid Audiologist/Dispensers part of the register.

BSHAA response to consultation questions

1. Do you think the standards are at a threshold level for safe and effective practice?
Yes, although 2bi requires “ability to use....research skills”, which are not taught until Masters level.

2. Do you think any additional standards are necessary?

No

3. Do you think there are any standards which should be reworded?

No

4. Do you agree that the threshold level of qualification for entry to the hearing aid audiologists’ part of the HPC Register should be set at a foundation degree?

Yes, subject to making it clear that the qualification entry route is untried. No graduates have yet completed these programmes to enable assessment of their fitness to practice.

HPC consultation on an amendment to the Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees Rules Order of Council 2003

BSHAA response: To support this amendment; to hope that transfer from HAC to HPC registered will be achieved speedily and efficiently; as early in 2009/10 as possible in order to avoid further HAC costs and the potential fees for dispenser fees to be applied for part 2009/10

HPC consultation on Standards of Education and Training and SETs guidance

BSHAA response: to consultation questions

1. Are the alterations to the SETs and SETs guidance appropriate?

Yes, particularly 3.13 and the recognition that fitness for practice is a key SET, along with fitness for award and fitness for registration.

2. Are additional SETs required?

No

3. Is more guidance required?

See 5

4. Is the guidance clear?

Yes

5. Do any standards or parts of the guidance need to be amended to ensure they are applicable to future professions?

The threshold level of entry for Hearing Aid Audiology is FD – an “earn as you learn” partnership between HEI, employer and student. SETs guidance needs to ensure that this partnership works effectively to give the student the right balance of academic and workplace learning and the skills and knowledge to be fit for practice.

SETs also need to ensure that students receive the necessary business knowledge and skills to complement their clinical practice in private hearing care.

6. In addition, do you have any comments on how our standards and guidance might better support service user involvement and input into the development and delivery of approved programmes?

Current SETs describe the role of professional bodies in developing learning and curriculum frameworks for their profession. BSHAA would be keen to have SETs guidance on working with HEI FD and BSc degree providers to ensure that courses can be accredited by the professional body as producing students who are fit for practice, and that those courses are constantly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest practice and technology.

For the audiology degree course to be a safe route to practice as a within the Hearing Aid Audiologist Scope of Practice, SETs needs to ensure that the course content and particularly the practical training of students, is geared to producing competent, specialist practitioners in hearing aid/care

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