



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

EXECUTIVE REPORT

INSPECTION UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN'S GRADUATE ENTRY TO MEDICINE PROGRAMME (UCD GEM) 27TH AND 28TH JANUARY 2011

- A. COUNCIL'S DECISION**
- B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**
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A. COUNCIL'S DECISION

(Made by the Council at its meeting on 14th April 2011)

1. The University College Dublin's Graduate Entry to Medical Programme should be approved with one condition under the terms of Section 88(2)(a)(i)(I) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. This recommendation is made on the grounds that the programme adheres to the rules, criteria, guidelines and standards approved by Council, as specified in Section 88(2)(a) and 88(2)(d) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The condition is that the programme successfully completes its full first cycle (in 2012).
2. The University College Dublin should be approved under Section 88(2)(a)(II) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 as the body which may deliver that programme. This recommendation is made on the grounds of the University College Dublin's ongoing compliance with the rules, criteria, guidelines and standards approved by Council as specified in Section 88(2)(a)(i)(II) and 88(2)(e) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The condition is that University College Dublin successfully delivers one full cycle of the programme.

B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. The programme

The University College Dublin has established a four year programme leading to the award of an MB BCh BAO. It is at undergraduate (basic in the terminology of World Federation for Medical Education) level with an exclusively graduate entry. UCD currently delivers a direct entry medical programme of five years duration which leads to the award of the same degree. The two "streams" merge at the start of the Graduate Entry to Medicine students' third year, and the direct entry students' fourth year, and spend the following two years gaining clinical experience. The UCD's Graduate Entry to Medicine is derived from a common template devised by the Irish Universities Medical Consortium, which is in turn informed by the *Scottish Doctor* model. The Medical Council has agreed that the World Federation for Medical Education's Global Standards will continue to be used as the Medical Council's standards for the purposes of this RCSI accreditation.

2. Purpose of visits

The purpose of the accreditation visit by the Medical Council Team that took place on 27th and 28th January 2011 was to assess the programme and to formulate a recommendation on accreditation to the Medical Council's Professional Development Committee.

A Team representing the Medical Council previously undertook an initial visit on 25th November 2008. Its remit was to assess the programme and to formulate a recommendation on accreditation to the Medical Council's Professional Development Committee.

From 16th March 2009 (when Part 10 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 was commenced), Section 88(2) of the Act applies.

3. Appreciation

The Medical Council thanks UCD's Team, led by Dr Jason Last, Associate Dean of Programme and Educational Innovation, for their co-operation and hospitality. The Team appreciated that academic, clinical and administrative staff took time away from their busy schedules to participate in the process. In addition, the Medical Council wishes to thank the students who met the Team, and whose feedback is most helpful in informing the views of the Team.

Special mention must be made the contribution to the Medical Council's work of the external assessors on the Team.

C. SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENDATIONS

Major recommendations

1. The University College Dublin's graduate entry medical programme should be approved with one condition. The condition is that the programme successfully completes its full first cycle
2. The University College Dublin should be approved with one condition as the body which may deliver that programme. The condition is that UCD successfully delivers the full first cycle of the programme.

The Medical Council should undertake a further accreditation visit in Spring 2012, as the first cohort of the UCD GEM Programme nears graduation, to assess the programme in its totality against the Medical Council's criteria, guidelines, and standards. A monitoring visit may be undertaken before that, i.e. in Autumn 2011.

Major commendations

It is apparent that UCD have been very active in addressing the issues previously identified by Council. UCD is commended for:

- 1) A student-centred programme.
- 2) Early clinical exposure, clinical skills, and laboratory facilities.
- 3) The general practice, the medicine in the community and the professional completion modules.
- 4) Students' impressions of the programme, which are generally very positive.
- 5) Student involvement in decision making.
- 6) The evidence that shows that the GEP students are not at a disadvantage to the five year programme students, and are well prepared to embark on the final two years of the programme.
- 7) 'White Coat Ceremony' marking the transition to the clinical years.
- 8) The profile of professionalism, communication skills and the Medical Council's 'Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice' in the programme.
- 9) The 'Breakfast with the Dean' initiative.
- 10) The Medical Student Mentorship Scheme and student support services.