
UK Medical Schools Annual Return 2009/10: QABME

Belfast

The QABME Annual Return Process

Every year, each medical school must provide a return to the GMC that:

- a. Identifies significant changes to curricula, assessments or staffing.
- b. Highlights risks or issues of concern, proposed solutions and corrective actions taken.
- c. Identifies examples of innovation and good practice.
- d. Responds to issues of interest and debate in medical education, including promoting equality and valuing diversity.
- e. Identifies progress on any requirements or recommendations arising from the QABME visit process.

In April 2009 we signalled that we would be requesting an enhanced annual return. It has been expanded to include a request for self-assessment of progress on the implementation of *Tomorrow's Doctors 2009*. This is to ensure a continuing oversight of undergraduate medical education and to begin benchmarking all schools against the revised standards. The full enhanced annual return from Schools will not be published, however we intend to publish a summary report or reports of key issues and challenges and to share practice that might be of use to other schools.

The data returns for Section A on action on requirements and recommendations from previous QABME reports are published on the GMC website.

Basic Information

Name of Medical School:	Queen's University Belfast Medical School	
Name of Dean/Head of School	Professor Patrick Johnston	Contact tel: 028 9097 2764 Contact email: p.johnston@qub.ac.uk
Name of QABME contact	Professor Maurice Savage	Contact tel: 028 9097 3283 Contact email: m.savage@qub.ac.uk

Section A - Response to previous QABME requirements and recommendations

For all schools except those reviewed in 2008/09

Since submission of the School's previous Annual Return at http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/undergraduate_ga/medical_school_reports.asp, please answer the following questions:

1. For any requirements, state those that have been fully completed or not been fully implemented providing an explanation indicating how they have been addressed.

If the School did not have any requirements in its last report or the requirements were fully met and reported in a previous annual return please check the box

Tomorrow's doctors 2003 area	Requirement	Action taken – If none, explain why	Contact	Supporting documents list	Timeline

2. For any recommendations, state those that have been fully completed or not been fully implemented providing an explanation and indicating how they have been addressed.

If the School did not have any recommendations in its last report please check the box

Tomorrow's doctors 2003 area	Recommendation	Action taken – If none, explain why	Contact	Supporting documents list	Timeline

3. Please identify any planned changes or improvements as part of the School's continuous improvement and quality management regarding any aspect of the School's undergraduate degree/s **that are not** part of the School's response to *Tomorrow's Doctors* 2009.

Recent Developments in School Structure

During the past two years the School has undergone a major re-structuring. The School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, the largest School in the University, was established on 1 August 2008, with the merger of the existing Schools of Medicine & Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences.

The goals of the School are:

- To create a dynamic School (top 10) led by international leadership and underpinned by a culture of innovation, high-quality education and research;
- To develop a School that serves as a magnet to attract high-quality clinicians, researchers and key disciplines to Queen's and also drives partnerships throughout the world;
- To further enhance educational programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level;
- To provide an environment that encourages our brightest graduates to seek a future career in clinical leadership and in the medical and biomedical sciences.
- To be recognised as a key partner with the NHS, working in collaboration and with full engagement, in the undergraduate training and professional development of our doctors, dentists and biomedical scientists.

Education

Undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes are delivered through our three Education Centres which provide quality professional training in medicine, dentistry and biomedical science and an enhanced experience for our students (1700 undergraduate and over 600 postgraduate).

[Centre for Medical Education](#)

[Centre for Dental Education](#)

The Centre for Medical Education

The Centre for Medical Education is the largest education centre in the school comprising 41 members of academic staff supported by a team of 27 administrative and clerical staff.

The Centre has overall responsibility for the strategic management of the undergraduate medical programme. The Academic Plan for the centre sets out the Centre's strategic vision for 2009-2012.

During the past year the School in association with the Northern Ireland Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) embarked on two strategic initiatives designed to strengthen and enhance the structures underpinning the delivery of education. A review of the Supplement for Undergraduate Medical and Dental Education (SUMDE) has strengthened the transparency and accountability mechanisms associated with this funding.

In January 2010 the University secured an agreement with the DHSSPS to establish a Sub Deanery Structure in Hospital Trusts throughout Northern Ireland. This initiative will be implemented in 2011.

As part of the Centre's ongoing commitment to delivering a high quality educational experience it is planned to undertake a strategic review of the undergraduate medical programme during 2009. Professor Ed Peile may be invited to act as External Consultant for this review. A major focus of this review will be the alignment between the medical curriculum at QUB and Tomorrow's Doctors 2009.