

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	The University of Buckingham Medical School
Review period	July 2022 - July 2023 (Year 3 of cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
<p>From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that The University of Buckingham Medical School (UBMS) is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>.</p> <p>The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided good opportunities to observe how UBMS meets our standards in theme 1 (learning environment and culture) and theme 2 (educational governance and leadership).</p>

Quality Activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	03/10/2022	The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i> . The submission included a list of planned UBMS activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes.

			<p>We are satisfied that where further information and/or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.</p>
2	SAQ feedback meeting	05/12/2022	<p>This meeting was held to provide feedback to UBMS on its 2021/22 SAQ submission, and to seek clarification and additional information on the submission where required.</p> <p>We also discussed potential QA activities we could undertake in this annual cycle. These activities were not selected because of risks identified from the SAQ submission.</p> <p>We did not identify areas of risk during the SAQ meeting.</p> <p>Following this meeting, UBMS was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.</p>
3	Phase 2 assessment, learning and teaching meeting	09/02/2023	<p>This activity was listed on the SAQ by UBMS against theme 1 (learning environment and culture). For the purposes of this activity we focused on requirement R1.5 (organisations must demonstrate a culture that both seeks and responds to feedback from learners and educators on compliance with standards of patient safety and care, and on education and training).</p> <p>We conducted a virtual observation of a phase 2 assessment, learning and teaching (ALT) meeting to further our understanding of the types of issues raised and matters discussed. We also wanted to learn more about how the medical school reviews and processes feedback, and how it interacts with unit and block leads.</p> <p>We were pleased to observe a well-run, well-organised, inclusive meeting with good interaction and participation from a range of attendees from the medical school and trusts. We were also pleased to note that a student representative and the clinical skills lead from the Crewe campus were in attendance.</p> <p>The meeting was well-structured and covered all items on the agenda. UBMS provided updates on assessment, learning and teaching, with the use of PowerPoint slides to highlight key information. This demonstrated that attendees had carefully prepared for the meeting.</p> <p>A phase 2 deputy lead presented a case study on accessibility and managing a request for reasonable</p>

			<p>adjustments. This received positive feedback from meeting attendees.</p> <p>UBMS invited feedback from local education providers regarding the way the medical school manages phase 2, and the chair provided the opportunity for all attendees to participate and ask questions throughout the meeting.</p> <p>We believe that the ALT meeting is a good opportunity to enhance communication between the medical school, trusts and the student body. We were encouraged to note good engagement and communication throughout the meeting, and we observed live examples of collaboration and information-sharing.</p>
4	Board of studies meeting	17/05/2023	<p>This activity was listed on the SAQ by UBMS against theme 2: educational governance and leadership.</p> <p>We had previously observed a board of studies (BoS) meeting in an earlier proactive quality assurance (PQA) cycle, which had focused on annual reports. We therefore wanted to observe a BoS meeting in a business-as-usual format.</p> <p>The meeting took place virtually, via MS Teams, and was overseen by a lay chair. We were pleased to see faculty and student representatives from both the Buckingham and Crewe campuses in attendance, as well as representatives from local education providers.</p> <p>We were interested to hear both wider faculty updates as well as medical school-specific updates. We witnessed good engagement of attendees, with the chair encouraging questions and participation throughout.</p> <p>It was encouraging that a student update was an item on the agenda. We heard that students appreciate being invited to the BoS meetings, and these enhance their understanding of how the programme is run.</p> <p>We were also interested to learn, via a clear, helpful presentation, about the work undertaken to improve facilities at the Crewe campus. It was apparent that UBMS has undertaken a significant amount of work, in consultation with the students. A student representative from Crewe confirmed that student satisfaction has increased.</p>

			<p>It was interesting to hear details of the lessons learned from establishing a branch campus in Crewe, showing insight and reflection. Attendees also shared areas which had worked well.</p> <p>We were satisfied that the BoS fulfils its role of ensuring that the MBChB management structures are fit for purpose, and they deliver the curricula to the standards set out in Promoting Excellence.</p>
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Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisation when they identify that our standards are not being met in a training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	We will continue to work with UBMS to ensure our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Requirements

We set requirements where we have found that our standards are not being met. We will monitor each organisation's response and will expect evidence that progress is being made during the next QA cycle.

No.	Theme / Date Set	Requirement	Update
1	<p>Theme 2 – Educational Governance and Leadership (R2.3)</p> <p>Set 08/04/2022</p>	<p>We met with a wide representation of students and a number of issues were raised, including assessment information/feedback and the distinction between pastoral and academic support.</p> <p>We are pleased to see the school have mechanisms in place to allow the students to raise these concerns, for example via their student staff liaison committee which</p>	<p>We have received an update from UBMS regarding planned measures and steps already taken towards meeting this requirement. We are encouraged by the information provided,</p>

		<p>we observed. The school are aware of, and seeking to address, these concerns.</p> <p>However, the school must continue addressing these concerns and review how they communicate with students to improve their relationship with the student body.</p>	<p>and look forward to receiving further updates in the next PQA cycle.</p> <p>In the meantime, this requirement remains open.</p>
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Recommendations

We set recommendations where we have found areas for improvement related to our standards. They highlight areas an organisation should address to improve, in line with best practice.

No.	Theme / Date Set	Recommendation	Update
1	<p>Theme 1 – Learning Environment and Culture (R1.19)</p> <p>Set 08/04/2022</p>	<p>During our meeting with students, concerns were raised regarding the facilities at the Crewe campus. There appears to be a significant disparity between the Buckingham and Crewe campuses and we encourage the school to address this.</p>	<p>We have been encouraged by the updates provided by UBMS regarding the work undertaken to improve facilities at the Crewe campus. Updates include the information provided at the BoS meeting on 17/05/2023.</p> <p>UBMS undertook a survey of students at the Crewe campus, following the implementation of these improvements. When available, we have asked UBMS to share an analysis of the results for us to review.</p> <p>We are aware that further improvements are ongoing, and we look forward to</p>

			<p>receiving regular updates from UBMS.</p> <p>In the meantime, this recommendation remains open.</p>
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Next Steps

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The GMC's responses to the information submitted in the SAQ gives feedback on each theme to help UBMS complete the updates to the questionnaire in the next annual cycle. These include:

Theme 1:

LEC1-07 – We would like to receive updates about any further work planned or being undertaken to improve the facilities at the Crewe campus.

Theme 2:

EGL2-01 - An update about the implementation and use of the Sharepoint portal which was due to be implemented in early 2023.

EGL2-09 - We would be interested in receiving an update about the expansion of the guidance on raising concerns.

EGL3-01 - We would be interested in receiving an update on the outcome of the curriculum audit.

Theme 3:

SUL1-01 - An update about the mentorship system.

Further to this, we remain interested in attending a meeting of the Patient Safety Forum and a Concerns meeting, as well as observing part of the pre-clinical induction programme as possible quality activities. We will explore anticipated dates of these events with UBMS.

In order to triangulate our findings regarding improvements made to the Crewe campus, we are also interested in undertaking an in-person visit to this campus in the next cycle. This visit would encompass a GMC-led meeting with students.

Organisations response

The organisation has the right to reply to the AQAS; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisations response

We would like to thank the GMC team for the constructive feedback about the medical programme and working cooperatively with the school to ensure the standards set out in Promoting Excellence. We look forward to providing future updates about our programme in the next cycle.