

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	Lancaster Medical School
Review period	May 2022 – April 2023

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement

From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that Lancaster Medical School is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's *Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training*.

The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided good opportunities to observe how Lancaster Medical School meets our standards in themes one (learning environment and culture), two (educational governance and leadership), three (supporting learners) and five (developing and implementing curricula and assessments).

We have set requirements and recommendations where our standards are not being met and have identified areas working well or of notable practice. Of note, we have identified the Mobile Simulation Training Unit as an example of innovative practice at Lancaster Medical School against theme one (learning environment and culture), and five (developing and implementing curricula and assessments).

Quality Activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	30/06/2022	<p>The SAQ was submitted with an agreed changed deadline and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i>. The submission included a list of planned Lancaster Medical School activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes.</p> <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	08/09/2022	<p>This meeting was held to provide feedback to Lancaster Medical School on its 2022/23 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, Lancaster Medical School was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.</p>
4	Visit to Mobile Simulation Teaching Unit	26/04/23	<p>Innovative Practice One</p> <p>This activity was listed on the SAQ by Lancaster Medical School against Themes One and Three.</p> <p>The MSTU is based in an articulated lorry trailer, similar to those used to transport mobile MRI scanners that are used at many hospitals. It is located on the grounds of Lancaster Medical School in close proximity to where most of the teaching takes place. The MSTU has capacity for 24 learners at any one time. The space is fully accessible with lift access and is designed to run via electric and solar power ensuring that it can run in rural locations where power connection may be limited.</p>

			<p>The MSTU can be adapted to simulate a number of real-life medical scenarios, including, a clinic ward, an operating theatre and resus. The space allows students to practice skills that have already been taught in earlier parts of the programme in a simulated setting. The MSTU must be overseen by a member of staff for the safety of students and therefore access is currently limited.</p> <p>Overall, we feel this activity is a good demonstration of how Lancaster Medical School is meeting a number of our standards. We think that the MSTU is an excellent resource, and that Lancaster is committed to providing technology enhanced and simulation-based learning opportunities for all learners, particularly those in remote and rural areas (R1.20).</p> <p>We therefore believe that the MSTU is an example of innovative practice, and we will reflect this in the medical school's end of cycle Annual Quality Assurance Summary.</p>
5	Meeting with students	26/04/23	<p>This activity was selected to explore how Lancaster Medical School are meeting our standards in Themes One, Two, Three and Five of <i>Promoting Excellence</i> and triangulating information from other activities with students.</p> <p>The activity was a student Q&A session with Lancaster students, led by the GMC. This session took place in person at Lancaster medical school and last approximately 60 minutes. Seven students attended the session.</p> <p>Following our meetings with students we also met with the Director of Medical Studies and the Director of Quality Assurance at Lancaster to triangulate the feedback from students.</p> <p>Overall, we heard positive comments from students about their experience at Lancaster Medical School. Students spoke highly of the teaching experience they received at the school and at the majority of placement sites, and the facilities at the school. Students also spoke positively about the student support that is</p>

		<p>provided by the school, and of the early exposure to clinical skills they receive.</p> <p>We also heard of a disparity of experience from students when on placements, relating to a specific Trust. Students also spoke of receiving timetables at late notice and were unaware of the fitness to practice policies at the school.</p> <p>During our meeting with the Director of Medical Studies and the Director of Quality Assurance, it was evident that the school are aware of the majority of issues that students raised with us and are already addressing these.</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	<p>Lancaster Medical School have three open items on the QRS.</p> <p>Lancaster Medical School is engaged with the QRS system and continue to provide frequent and detailed updates. We are assured that our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.</p>

Excellence, innovation and notable practice

We note good practice where we have found exceptional or innovative examples of work or problem-solving related to our standards. These should be shared with others and/or developed further.

Number	Theme	Details of excellence, innovation and notable practice
1	Theme 1,2,3,5	We consider the MSTU an excellent resource and believe that Lancaster is committed to providing technology enhanced and simulation-based learning opportunities for all learners, particularly those in remote and rural areas (R1.20).

		We therefore believe that the MSTU is an example of innovative practice, and we will reflect this in the medical school's end of cycle Annual Quality Assurance Summary.
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Next steps

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

Theme one:

LEC1-01; We were pleased to meet the new Director of Quality Assurance in the meeting and were reassured by the school that previous mechanisms described are still in place at the moment, with the view to create new systems to streamline processes and improve efficiency in the future. In the next SAQ, we would like an update on how the review of processes is going.

LEC1-02; We would appreciate further information on the plan for bi-annual updates, how it has embedded and any reflections in the next SAQ.

LEC1-04; In the next SAQ we would like an update on how the planning/roll out of the IPL provision is progressing.

Theme two:

EGL1-01; Collecting and assessing evidence on learning environments. We would like an update on the review of these processes and documentation in the next SAQ.

EGL1-02; how risk and subsequent actions are determined. We would like an update on the review of these processes and documentation in the next SAQ. We would also appreciate an outline of how you periodically determine risk and subsequent action in the next SAQ.

EGL2-03; We would like an update in the next SAQ on the review of these processes, and how the school ensures equivalency of experience for students at placements.

EGL2-04; We would like an update in the next SAQ on progress of implementation of the curriculum review, and to learn more of patient involvement.

EGL2-07; We would like an update on the impact of the new Director of Quality.

EG2-09; We would be interested in an update on the review of the current process by the GMPC in the next SAQ submission.

EGL3-01; In the next SAQ, it would be good to hear more about the rollout of the reporting system for students in clinical placement.

Theme three:

SUL1-01; In the next SAQ, we would like to hear a bit more about how the wellbeing service is evaluated, and the reasoning behind the increase in student support provision.

SUL1-03; In the next SAQ, it would be good to get further detail of feedback from students and any evaluation the school has conducted.

SUL1-04; The school also advised that there are plans to develop the support and resources for educators to help improve the feedback they provide to students. We would welcome an update on this development in the next SAQ submission.

Theme five:

DCA1-03; In the next SAQ, could you please provide an update on the timeline for the decolonising work, along with any progress updates.

Further to this and based on our findings from the quality activities we have undertaken, in the next cycle we would like to learn more about placement feedback/quality monitoring, Multi professional learning, Any changes to signposting of the fitness to practice policies, and information about timetables in a timely manner and setting students expectations, as listed in the student feedback.

Organisation's response

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

Organisation's response