

Subject: RE: Query concerning regulation of therapy training

From: "Grace Simpson (HEFCE)" <g.simpson@hefce.ac.uk>

Date: 07.06.16 13:33

To: John Pihlaja <john.pihlaja@hpi.fi>

CC: "Sarah Gutteridge (HEFCE)" <s.gutteridge@hefce.ac.uk>, "Victoria Holbrook (HEFCE)" <v.holbrook@hefce.ac.uk>, Tommi Niemi <tommi.niemi@businesslaw.fi>

Dear John,

As the lead regulator for higher education in England, HEFCE can confirm that UWE Bristol is a publicly funded Higher Education Institution with degree-awarding powers. As such, UWE Bristol can award both taught and research degrees. This includes degrees geared to the pursuit of specific professions.

Further details on UWE's powers as a publicly funded Higher Education Institution can be found on the HEFCE Register of Providers (<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/register/search/Provider/10007164>) or on the Government's recognised body order (<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>). Further details of UWE's legal status can be found at <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/aboutus/structureandgovernance/legalstatus.aspx>.

Post Graduate diplomas are included with the UK Regulatory Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and such this would be used to set the academic standards for the Postgraduate Diploma in Solution Focused Therapy.

The UWE underwent a successful review by the QAA in October 2015. This confirmed that the setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards at UWE meets UK expectations. <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/provider?UKPRN=10007164#.VyMXjG9wZD8>

As the Postgraduate Diploma in Solution Focused Therapy is a validated course of the UWE, and UWE were successful in their audit, this means that the Postgraduate Diploma in Solution Focused Therapy at UWE:

- meets the academic standards and quality expectations of the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>), which is part of the wider UK Regulatory Framework (<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/of/buildblock/>)
- meets the additional academic standards and quality expectations of the QAA master's level Subject benchmark statements for Counselling and Psychotherapy appropriate to a Postgraduate Diploma: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/masters-degree-subjects>

HEFCE does not answer questions relating to providers' individual degree courses. These questions should be directed to the degree awarding body – in this case UWE Bristol as the competent authority, as the term is used in the Professional Qualifications Directive.

Kind regards,

Grace

Grace Simpson

Higher Education Policy Adviser
Midlands and South Institutional Team

0117 931 7380

HEFCE
Nicholson House
Lime Kiln Close
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8SR

From: John Pihlaja [mailto:john.pihlaja@hpi.fi]

Sent: 07 June 2016 09:33

To: Grace Simpson [7380] <g.simpson@hefce.ac.uk>

Cc: Sarah Gutteridge [7312] <s.gutteridge@hefce.ac.uk>; Victoria Holbrook [7254] <v.holbrook@hefce.ac.uk>;

Tommi Niemi <tommi.niemi@businesslaw.fi>

Subject: Query concerning regulation of therapy training

Dear Grace Simpson,

As the lead regulator for higher education in England, HEFCE has previously confirmed that the "Postgraduate Diploma in Solution Focused Therapy", offered by UWE Bristol is included with the UK Regulatory Framework.

We have a further query relating to the Professional Qualifications Directive. "Psychotherapist" is not regulated as a profession in the UK. For situations in which the profession itself is not regulated, the PQD in Article 3, paragraph e) defines the content requirement for regulation of the training itself as "any training which is specifically geared to the pursuit of a given profession". Our query concerns "regulation" as defined in the PDQ, which may differ from UK Higher Education usage.

According to the UWE Programme Specification, Educational Aims of the Programme "*This programme is intended to provide a thorough training in Solution Focused Therapy (SFT) for people wishing to enter the therapeutic profession and practice in this modality.*"

<https://info.uwe.ac.uk/programmes/displayentry.asp?code=C84B42&rp=listEntry.asp>

It has been established that the training in question is regulated. Since it is obvious that the training is specifically geared to the pursuit of the profession of psychotherapy can HEFCE, or some other competent authority, please further confirm that the UWE Bristol "Postgraduate Diploma in Solution Focused Therapy" can be deemed "regulated education and training" as defined in Article 3 (e)?

Best regards,

John Pihlaja

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John Pihlaja

MSc Solution Focused Therapy, MSc Social Psychology

Chartered Psychologist, CPsychol, AFBPsS

CEO, Senior Trainer

Helsinki Psychotherapy Institute

Elimäenkatu 9A, 00510 Helsinki

+358-40-5678000, john.pihlaja@hpi.fi

skype: john.pihlaja

www.psykoterapiakoulutus.fi