

ACCREDITATION VISIT MAIN FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Name of Provider: The Japan Royal Academy of Homeopathy
Date of visit: 15th and 16th October 2008
Number of students enrolled on date of visit: 15 full time, 7 part time.

The provision in context

The Japan Royal Academy of Homeopathy (JRAH) was established in 1997, it is located in north west London. The academy also offers training at six college locations in various parts of Japan. The academy provides full and part time training for adult Japanese students wishing to study homeopathy in the UK. All full time students are recruited in Japan, where they are interviewed and tested to ensure they have the attributes required to complete the course. All students pay for their two year course in advance and find their own accommodation in London. Following graduation, students return to Japan to practice as homeopathic consultants. A lecturing team of over 40 experienced homeopathic practitioners provide the training. Most training sessions are digitally recorded and used to support learning and in the UK and Japan, some lectures are broadcast live to other academies in the group, in various cities in Japan.

Overall judgement

Provision is satisfactory and can be approved for accreditation for a UKBA Sponsors Licence. In accordance with the UKBA Statement of Intent for Students Tier 4 of the Points Based System, continued approval is subject to satisfactory external validation of a qualification to level 3 within twelve months of the date of this letter.

Feedback

This feedback contains the findings from the accreditation visit brought together under the three main aspects of the Common Inspection Framework. The findings also focus on the five key questions of the Common Inspection Framework and the requirements of the student entry Points Based System (PBS) operated by United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) for private education providers.

Achievement and standards

A very high percentage of students achieve successful outcomes in terms of the objectives of the programme. Ninety percent of those students who began the

programme in 2006 completed the programme. All 15 students who started the programme since 2006 have been successfully retained on programme.

Student progress is good, they broaden their skills and knowledge of homeopathy through appropriate activities which enable them to prepare for their future roles. Students on the full time programme develop and improve their English language skills and their knowledge and understanding of English culture. The programme does not yet currently lead to an appropriate level 3 qualification.

Quality of education and training

Courses exceed UKBA minimum attendance requirements with 18 hours of taught sessions each week. Attendance is effectively monitored, and students are regarded as absent if they arrive more than thirty minutes after the start of sessions. An 80% attendance rate is required for successful graduation. Tutors are very experienced and highly qualified practitioners. Few tutors are qualified teachers, or undertaking teacher training. Interpreters provide simultaneous translations from English to Japanese during the lessons. Most sessions are tutor led with a very high information and knowledge content. Peer support amongst students is strong. Resources are used effectively to support learning and develop students' understanding. Practical clinical activities are used to help students apply their knowledge effectively in individual consultation situations, which are recorded on video and used effectively for training purposes.

The programme is well-designed to meet the personal and intellectual needs of students and provides carefully structured opportunities to improve students' practical and theoretical understanding of homeopathy. The training prepares students to become practitioners, particularly in their home country of Japan, having gained valuable insights into British culture and the English language. Students are highly motivated and are self funded throughout the two year programme. Students are suitably focussed on their own achievement and receive individual reviews following a range of comprehensive assessments.

Students receive satisfactory support on arrival and throughout the programme. Students are offered appropriate accommodation on arrival in the UK and are later encouraged to integrate into the wider community by renting their own accommodation which further develops their English language skills. Students benefit from some appropriate organised cultural enrichment activities.

Leadership and management

Leaders and managers have a very clear strategy and purpose to train and produce more homeopaths to work in Japan. The programme is managed well. Frequent reviews of the quality of provision are informed by student feedback. JRAH has clear policies,

procedures and guidance in place, which includes individual student agreements, attendance requirements and codes of conduct. However, equality and diversity policies and complaints procedures are not fully centred towards the organisation. Resources are generally good with good use of ILT, through videoconferencing with Japan and the recording of all taught sessions.

To date, it has not been necessary to report student non arrival or non attendance during the programme. Whilst the JRAH understands what should be done there is no written policy or procedure to support this. There is not a formal process for teacher observations, however informal monitoring does take place particularly for new teachers. Formalised safeguarding arrangements are not yet established. Health and safety information and guidance in case of fire is minimal with no assembly points identified on public notices.