

College of Paramedics Pre-Registration Paramedic Programme Endorsement Frequently Asked Questions

I am thinking of seeking College endorsement.....

1. Why would I want my programme to be endorsed?

- a) To demonstrate a commitment to the paramedic profession beyond the 'threshold' required by the HCPC.
- b) To show potential applicants that your programme strives to go above and beyond the minimum requirements.

2. What do we actually get out of it?

- a) Your programme will be featured on the College of Paramedics' website as an endorsed programme. Only Endorsed programmes appear on the college website.
- b) You would be eligible to use the College's '*endorsed by*' logo on promotional material.
- c) You would be able to use the feedback comments of the College's Education Visitors in your publicity and promotional material.

3. How do we get endorsed?

- a) The process requires the completion of an application pack, including a mapping document.
- b) All endorsements of undergraduate programmes require a visit which is undertaken by two College Education Visitors.

4. That sounds like a lot of work- why don't you just accept the HCPC paperwork?

- a) The majority of paperwork that you would supply would mirror that which you would produce for internal validation and HCPC approval. The only significant difference is the mapping to the College's curriculum guidance.
- b) The mapping of your course against the College's curriculum guidance is a requirement of endorsement. The HCPC mapping is against the HCPC standards of proficiency and standards of education and training. Although there are similarities, the College's curriculum guidance is different.

5. What about the visit, why do you do that?

- a) Unlike the HCPC, the College does not give open-ended endorsement. This means that the College will re-visit every five years or every academic re-validation cycle, whichever is sooner.
- b) Your programme may already be validated and HCPC approved, but the College will still need to undertake a visit.

6. What happens at a visit?

- a) The College will send two experienced paramedic educationalists to assess your programme against the curriculum guidance.
- b) If you have an event planned with the HCPC, the College can join in the same meetings and run a concurrent endorsement/approval/validation event. This would usually follow the agenda set by the HCPC.
- c) When the College is visiting independently of any other organisations, the agenda can be abridged in some areas and may be expanded in others. This would be undertaken by negotiation with the education provider.

7. What happens after the visit?

- a) The education visitors will produce a report detailing any conditions that are required before endorsement is given.
- b) You then have an opportunity to meet these conditions by submitting further evidence.

Now that my programme is endorsed.....

8. Do I need to give annual updates?

- a) Unlike the HCPC, the College does not undertake annual monitoring.

9. Do I need to advise the College of major changes as I do with the HCPC?

- a) No. Education providers must provide to the HCPC notification of 'major changes', as well as annual monitoring. These processes enable the HCPC to maintain an overview of programmes which they do not, currently, periodically revisit. Because the College revisits programmes, the entire programme can be periodically reviewed 'in the round', rather than reviewing individual changes over an extended period of time.

10. My current programme is going through an internal periodic review/re-validation, what do I do?

- a) A periodic review should trigger a visit from the College. Please contact the College to arrange for them to undertake a visit concurrent with the re-validation/periodic review process.
- b) If the College cannot source Education Visitors to attend on the date of the event, then a separate event could be arranged.

11. My current programme endorsement runs out in June. I have a new programme planned for the following academic year which will be approved by the HCPC in October. What happens to my endorsement of the existing programme?

- a) In these circumstances, a bespoke agreement will be entered into. The format of such an agreement would seek to ensure that the existing programme continues to meet the curriculum guidance. This may be

evidenced by a brief submission detailing any major/minor changes and copies of annual monitoring submissions made to the HCPC.

- b) This evidence would be reviewed by the College's Education Visitors at the endorsement/approval/validation event for the newly proposed programme.
- c) If the visitors are happy with the evidence provided, the existing programme would continue to be shown on the College website as endorsed for the remainder of its term.
- d) The new programme would be endorsed for a period of five years from the date of the endorsement being awarded, or until the next re-validation/periodic review.
- e) The time between the June expiry of existing endorsement and the October visit for new endorsement would be covered by a temporary extension of the existing endorsement.
- f) This type of situation will be considered on an individual basis, with the time between expiry and new endorsement being a key factor in any negotiations; it would normally be expected that an extension would only be granted for a period not exceeding six months.

Vince Clarke
Head of Endorsements
College of Paramedics
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