



Ofsted – Education inspection framework 2019: Inspecting the substance of education consultation

Council of Deans of Health written submission – April 2019

The Council of Deans of Health welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this consultation. The Council represents the 85 UK university faculties engaged in education and research for nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions.

Key messages

1. Healthcare education is regulated by both professional healthcare regulation and higher education regulation. There is a need to ensure that regulation is not duplicative and overburdensome, but also that regulatory gaps do not occur if regulators were to simultaneously retreat from regulating necessary education and training functions.
2. The regulation of healthcare professional education should be outcome-focused and risk-based.
3. Regulators should work collaboratively with education providers to enable flexibility and innovation in education and training, which enables student choice, enhances career pathways, allows individuals to meet the requirements of professional registration and upholds patient safety.
4. There is unnecessary duplication between the role of Ofsted and the Office for Students (OfS) regarding apprenticeships at levels four and five where providers are registered with the OfS. The Council recommends that the OfS should replace Ofsted as the regulator of these programmes where providers are OfS registrants, for example for nursing associate programmes. This would reduce the burden of regulation whilst ensuring patient and service user protection.

For more information contact:

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