

A) Mission Statement

Degrees in the Health Studies field are expected to promote an understanding of the importance of the scientific method and an evidence-base to underpin therapeutic interventions and of research to expand that base. To promote and require the critical evaluation of the practices, doctrines, beliefs, theories and hypotheses that underly the taught therapeutic measures of the discipline.

B) Guidance on acceptability of vocational health studies disciplines for Validation.

1. Acceptable:

- (i) Schemes of study for which the UW already has created a precedent *i.e. Chiropractic; Herbal Medicine; Osteopathy; Osteopathic Studies; Phytotherapy; Traditional Chinese Medicine;*
- (ii) Schemes of study addressing disciplines which received favourable comment in the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, Sixth Report (printed 21/11/2000 HMSO)
- (iii) Schemes of study leading to professional qualifications that are regulated by National Governments: *UK examples: Osteopathy; Chiropractic*
- (iv) Schemes of study leading to professional qualifications that are close to becoming regulated by National Governments: *e.g. Herbal Medicine, Acupuncture*
- (v) Schemes of study based on Long-established and traditional disciplines. *e.g. Anthroposophical medicine; Ayurvedic Medicine; Chinese Herbal Medicine; Eastern Medicine (Tibb); Naturopathy; Traditional Chinese Medicine.*

2. Not Acceptable

- (i) Schemes of study leading to a BSc in Homeopathy.

Homeopathy is of some 150 years standing in the UK and is the subject of the Faculty of Homeopathy Act which allows its use by GPs and referrals within the NHS to Registered Homeopaths. However, homeopathic medication is based on two doctrines/beliefs ('like to treat like' and 'increasing potency parallels increasing dilution'), which are incompatible with current accepted scientific wisdom and for which there is no unequivocal scientific evidence.

- (ii) Schemes leading to single subject degrees, where the subject involved lacks depth and /or breadth and/or lacks a substantive evidential basis.

Such subjects may, however form part of a general embracing discipline such as Naturopathy. Such subjects include:- Homeopathy; Alexander technique; Aromatherapy; Bach (and other)flower remedies; Body work therapies, including massage; Counselling stress therapy; Crystal therapy; Dowsing; Hypnotherapy; Iridology; Kinesiology; Meditation; Radionics; Reflexology; Shiatsu; Healing; Maharishi Ayurvedic Medicine; Nutritional Medicine; Yoga.

C) Relationship between Degree Title and the Clinical Components of Health Studies BSc degrees.

1. In a country where a Profession is regulated, UW precedence is to validate an undergraduate scheme, the award of which entitles the holder to register as a practitioner of that particular regulated profession in that country. Implicit in this is assurance of the clinical competence of the graduate. The scheme would be for (*e.g.*) a BSc Osteopathy.
2. In a country where a Profession is not regulated, the UW would validate a scheme which would ensure the clinical competence of its graduates. In such a scheme, the clinical component of the scheme would closely match that in 1. above, and would be for (*e.g.*) a BSc Osteopathy.
3. In Germany, the Heilpraktika qualification allows the holder to practise any complementary medicine on patients, irrespective of the extent to which they have trained in the discipline. UW precedence is allow validation of a scheme which ensures the technical competence of the graduate in the discipline, but to grant the award only when the candidate also holds the Heilpraktiker or medical award , thereby assuring compliance with the regulations regarding clinical practice of the discipline. In this case the scheme would be for (*e.g.*) a BSc Osteopathic Studies.
4. The term ‘Clinical’ is used exclusively to denote student work involving direct contact with patients. This term may be contrasted with that of ‘Practical’, which is used to denote the use of fellow students as substitutes for patients.
5. The use of the term ‘Studies’ appended to the title of a degree is used where the taught scheme does not result in an award which automatically permits the holder to apply for registration to practice within a regulated profession. Such a scheme would have a substantial ‘Practical’ component to ensure technical competency with technique, but would not involve ‘Clinical’ work (*i.e.* with patients).
6. The regulation of the Complementary Professions in Europe and elsewhere is variable and it is necessary to evaluate carefully the full legal framework in the country concerned in order to arrive at the most appropriate options for schemes and their titles. It may be appropriate to offer more than one scheme to accommodate the needs and requirements of the institution, the students, the profession, the country, and the UW.
7. An appropriate exit award for a candidate who satisfies the credit requirements of the UW but fails to meet the clinical competency requirements would be a BSc in Health Studies, an award which would not mislead a member of the public into believing that the holder was a complementary medicine practitioner.
8. Clinical components of schemes should be fully credit rated, but not necessarily included in the assessments which contribute to the determination of the class of Honours to be awarded to candidates.
9. The Health Studies Committee will review the standing of the different complementary medicine disciplines (included in these guidelines) to ensure a UW is properly informed of the current position.