Professional validation requirements

Introduction

This document sets out the requirements which must be met for a youth work degree to be professionally validated by the National Youth Agency (NYA) through the Education and Training Standards Committee. It is the responsibility of the Higher Education Provider to supply evidence for how each requirement is to be met. The requirements must continue to be met for the duration of the validation period and any additional teaching-out period.

Higher Education Providers wishing to seek validation for a new degree programme should read this document in partnership with the Information Sheet [link] and then complete the Expression of Interest [link].

Higher Education Providers seeking revalidation of their current degree programme should read this document and complete the Expression of Interest [link].

Staffing requirements

- The individual who holds oversight for programme development and quality assurance must themselves be professionally qualified youth worker.
- At least 50% of teaching, learning and marking in each cohort must be delivered by a minimum of two members of staff who are themselves professionally qualified youth workers.

Curriculum requirements

- The programme must be aligned at every level to the Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work.
- Graduates are expected to achieve the academic standards of the QAA Subject Benchmarks for Youth and Community Work.
- At least 50% of the programme curriculum must relate directly to youth work.
- Include module specifications with proposed name module leads.
- A diverse range of modern and traditional texts should be used to enhance students' learning. You may want to provide reading lists.
- Explain how Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used ethically to support digital development of students.
- Explain how the use of technology will enhance the programme delivery.

Method of delivery requirements

- Explain how the chosen method of delivery will ensure the best outcomes for students.
- Consider the expected barriers and challenges of the delivery method and how will these be mitigated.

Assessed professional practice requirements

- All programmes have 800 hours of assessed professional practice of which a minimum of 50% of this must be contact work with young people (ages 11 – 18, up to 25 in some circumstances).
- Across the duration of study students must be able to experience a breadth of assessed professional practice across diverse ages, contexts, settings, and youth work activity.
- For postgraduate programmes, up to 400 hours of youth work practice can be recognised prior to starting the programme This must be signed off by a professionally qualified youth worker and must be within 24 months of the programme starting.
- Assessed professional practice must be credit bearing with a minimum of 10% of the programme.
- At least 5% of the assessed professional practice time must be supervision with a professionally qualified youth worker.
- Assessment of professional practice must be marked against the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work.
- There must be a process that monitors a student's progression and competency in practice across the duration of study that includes feedback from the professionally qualified supervisor.
- Professional practice must be assessed by staff who are professionally qualified youth workers.

Programme development and quality assurance requirements

- The Higher Education Provider must appoint at least one external examiner who, in addition to organisation requirements
    - is a professionally qualified youth worker
    - holds a degree qualification
    - has practice experience

- The Higher Education Provider must have a process to quality assure placement providers and employers who will host learners.
- The Higher Education Provider must uphold and maintain the standards expected of the profession.
- The Higher Education Provider must demonstrate engagement with local and regional stakeholders in the development of the programme and have a plan for ongoing communication with local and regional stakeholders.
- Annual monitoring is a requirement of every validated programme. Each year the Higher Education Provider will be expected to provide a range of data on student intake, progression, and completion. An example of the annual monitoring survey will be provided as part of the validation process.
- The programme title must include the term youth work.
- Graduates must receive evidence of their status as a professionally qualified youth worker.
- The NYA must be informed of any changes to programme staff who are professionally qualified youth workers.

- Graduates must receive a statement acknowledging that their degree is validated by the NYA and confers status as a professionally recognised youth worker. This can be on their degree certificate, transcript, or a letter. An NYA logo can be provided.

Recognition of Prior Learning

- The Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work sets the *learning baselines* from Level 1 to Level 6 which programmes must align to for endorsed. A learner who has completed part of an endorsed programme of study and received credits can be considered for any future programmes aligned to the Standard Qualification Framework (Commonly known as Accredited Prior Learning).
- Recognition of Prior Learning, either from practice or study is at the discretion of the Higher Education Provider.