

A Collaboration between the University of Strathclyde and Prosthetic & Orthotic Practice Educators for Improved Practice Educator Training

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Introduction

In line with Quality Standards for Practice Learning (NES, 2021), the BSc(Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics Programme at University of Strathclyde (UoS) provides profession specific practice educator (PE) training for Prosthetists and Orthotists (P&O). The profession specific session details an overview of the UG programme, provides guidance on student assessment, explains the forms and paperwork used for assessment. The training also provides some generic feedback for practice educators about student experience on placement. During Covid, the training sessions were moved online and delivered via Zoom, which improved accessibility of the training.

Feedback collated during the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) P&O scoping review carried out in 2022, and NES Allied Health Professional (AHP) PE survey, demonstrated that P&O Practice Educator training was one of the most important factors for clinicians when supporting student practice-based learning (PrBL). In response to this, P&O PEs and UoS agreed to collaborate to review and improve current content and materials.

Aim

- To seek views on content, materials and methods used in PE training;
- Implement changes designed to improve the current uni-professional training;
- Evaluate the redesigned PE training.

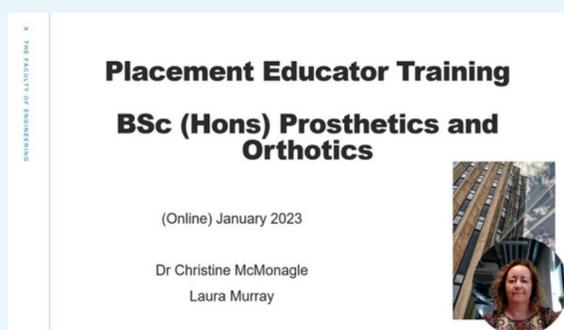
Method

An online survey was developed using MS teams, to capture opinion and feedback relating to content and materials of UoS P&O PE training. One of the questions in the survey asked participants to indicate if they would be interested to take part in a collaborative review of the training. From the respondents (n=32) to the initial survey, 11 P&O PEs volunteered.

Based on the findings, revision of content and materials took place over two collaborative meetings on Teams, utilising Google Jamboard. Participants who were not able to attend these sessions were invited to contribute to the Jamboard. The agreed revised UoS P&O PE Training was piloted in January 2023 and delivered via Zoom (See Figure 1). Twenty seven PEs took part.

FIGURE 1:

Delivery of revised PE Training on Zoom



Following the training, a second survey was sent to the participants who attended the PE training to obtain their views on the current and new content and materials.

Results

As well as modifying the content of the information already provided, some new key information was added to the training including:

- an activity on placement report writing;
- an overview of alternative models of practice-based learning;
- information about student pre-placement learning;
- signposting to PE support networks;
- advice on managing student mental health and well-being.

Eight P&O PEs completed the MS Forms feedback following the pilot training. The follow-up survey results were compared to the initial survey, focusing on the percentage rating of 'somewhat helpful' and 'very helpful' for different aspects of the training. The results demonstrated widespread improvements across all areas (Figure 2). Over 80% of new materials were rated as 'somewhat helpful' and 'very helpful' (Figure 3). *PBAs = Procedural Based Assessments

FIGURE 2:

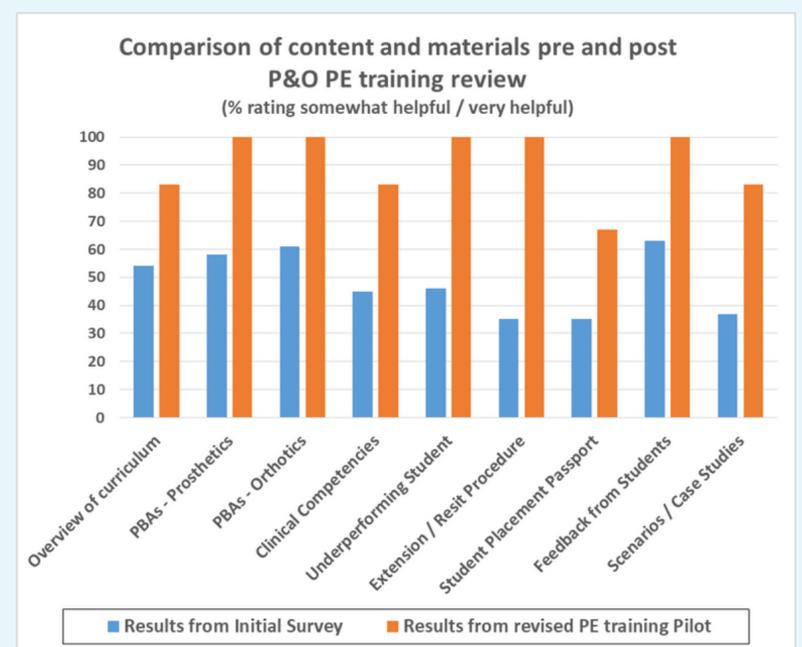
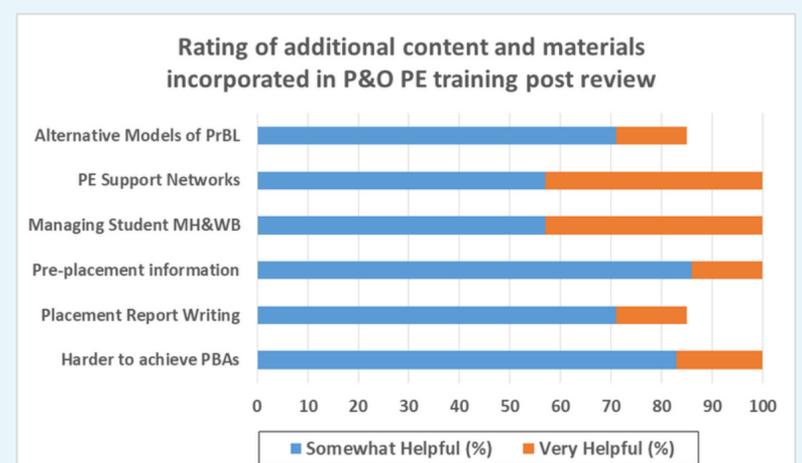


FIGURE 3:



Discussion and Conclusion

This project met its aim of improving the content of P&O specific PE training, with results highlighting an increased % of participants agreeing that revised and new content was somewhat or very helpful, and high level of agreement that the new content was helpful. The collaboration also benefited the HEI in providing a greater understanding of the challenges faced by PEs whilst PEs gained valuable insights into the HEI's considerations when providing Practice Educator training. All parties reflected that the collaboration was beneficial, increased PE engagement and interest in PrBL, with the HEI valuing the role of PEs, beyond supporting students. This project has resulted in improved relationships and communication for those involved which would be recommended to others involved in PE training.

References

NES (2021) Quality Standards for Practice Learning (QSPL) Available at: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/our-work/quality-standards-for-practice-learning-qspl/> (accessed 20/03/23)

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