

Historical First - Professional Registration for Educational Audiologists

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Introduction

The first-ever professional registration for Educational Audiologists opened in the UK this year with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) whose focus is on enforcing high standards of practice in clinical physiology competencies and maintaining a public database of registrants for six disciplines. The voluntary registration highlights the remit of the Educational Audiologist relative to audiology.



This process was an excellent example of the collaboration between 2 different, but related professional bodies and highlights the importance of linking between professional bodies to benefit development of each profession. Endorsement was followed successfully by RCCP accreditation in April 2018 and graduates of the course in November 2018 will be the first cohort who are automatically eligible to register, and others can apply via an equivalency process.

Results and Discussion

Professional registration is timely news because of the threat of budget cuts to essential support services most often provided by the nonmandatory Educational Audiology role.

Background

The British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) are extremely pleased about this achievement because of the benefits for children and young people who are deaf and their families. Professional registration will improve joined-up working between Health and Education, and promote public recognition of the need for these links and the educational audiology role that fulfils it in many authorities. These issues have been evidenced empirically (2017 BATOD* conference presentation cited in 2017 Department for Education *Future of the Sector* report) and anecdotally (BAEA case studies, and MESH** knowledge management Guides); and were presented internationally at the Hearing Across the Lifespan conference in 2018, and in a British Society of Audiology (BSA) CPD module.



Enabling Audiologists to fulfil their with clinical registration benefit young are deaf and families. working Health and will be enhanced due to registration which can help raise awareness and recognition of the need for these links.



Educational to continue bridging role audiology, will further children and people who their Joined-up between Education

Process

The creation of the register came about in tandem with a memorandum of agreement between the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) and the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) who provided oversight for RCCP accreditation of the Educational Audiology postgraduate course. Since the 1990's, Educational Audiologists have been trained at Mary Hare, now affiliated University of Hertfordshire. Association for Audiologists met with the Academy of Audiology (BAA) and Registration Council of Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) in November 2014 to discuss possible accreditation and registration routes for Educational Audiologists. That conversation started a process that reviewed the options for BAEA to start on the registration journey, and BAA Endorsement by the BAA Accreditation of Academic Education Committee (AAEC) in February 2017 was the first step. The purpose of endorsement was to consider the content, delivery and academic level of the MSc/PGDip Educational Studies (Educational Audiology) course with a view to award BAA Endorsement and identify steps to be taken to move towards accreditation that includes clinical competencies.



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Resources

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- Rosenberg J (2016) Adding Value: Becoming an Educational Audiologist *British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Magazine*, May Issue.

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www.herts.ac.uk/apply/schools-of-study/education/partnerships-in-education/uk-education-partners
<https://www.rccp.co.uk/articles/50/The-Process-of-Application-to-the-Register>

