

Mary Hare and Oxford Brookes foundation degree approved by Hearing Aid Council as first graduates join register

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The Hearing Aid Council (HAC) is pleased to announce that it has today (21 July) approved a foundation degree in hearing aid audiology to be delivered jointly by Mary Hare and Oxford Brookes University. The approval comes as the first student graduates from an HAC approved foundation degree at De Montfort University.

The HAC approved its first foundation degree at Aston University in March 2008. Since then, the HAC has approved three more foundation degrees. Students graduating with an approved degree are eligible to join the HAC's register of hearing aid dispensers.

At a ceremony at De Montfort University on July 16th, Kirstin Jackson, 37, from Worksop, Nottingham, became the first student to graduate from the Leicester university's approved foundation degree. Sandra Verkuyten OBE, HAC Chief Executive, attended Kirstin's graduation ceremony and commented:

"I am delighted for Kirstin and really pleased to be able to congratulate her in person. Kirstin's achievement is a tremendous reward not just for her but for all those involved in making the foundation degree a success. The businesses, universities and students who have all swung behind our foundation degree recognise how much it improves the quality of training and customer care. The foundation degree is a real leap forward for the profession".

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Notes:

1. The Hearing Aid Council is the UK statutory registration and regulation body for hearing aid dispensers and their employers. The Council was founded following the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 (as amended). It is illegal for someone to act as a dispenser of hearing aids in the UK unless that person is registered with the Council or in training to become registered. The Council has around 1500 registered dispensers and 300 registered employers.
2. The Hearing Aid Council has a statutory duty to publish standards of education and training for individuals wishing to be registered. It also has a duty to set standards of professional conduct and to consider complaints made against dispensers and their employers.

3. In 2008, the Health and Social Care Act included provision for the dissolution of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of its regulatory function to the Health Professions Council. The Health Professions Council is the UK statutory registration and regulation body that regulates thirteen healthcare professions, including speech and language therapists, physiotherapists and radiographers. The transfer is due to be completed by 31st March 2010. Degree programmes approved by the HAC at the time of the transfer will be automatically approved by the HPC.


4. The HAC has approved foundation degrees in hearing aid audiology at Anglia Ruskin University, Aston University, De Montfort University and Mary Hare/Oxford Brookes University. The HAC has also approved six BSc degrees and two Msc degrees. To read more about our approved degree programme, please click here:

<http://thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk/potential-registrants/approved-degrees/>

5. For more information please contact Stuart Holland:

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