

Environmental Health Update 18 November 2022

Questions from the Chat, where response was not possible on the day:

Update on the new UWS Accredited Course

Does UWS take direct entry to 2nd year of programme if they have ,for example , an appropriate HND ?

Yes. This is assessed on a case by case basis.

<https://www.uws.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/undergraduate-course-search/environmental-health-with-professional-practice/#!/#entry-requirements>

Would the Masters be offered as a Distance Learning option?

The desire would be that, should any Masters programme be developed/identified, that it is available as a distance learning option.

Firstly, can REHIS look at improving the promotion of the profession/EH degree course amongst those applying for degree courses, to encourage greater uptake of the course. Secondly, what is the current situation with improving the resourcing of EH services in LA's as the situation is critical and will worsen over the short term. Is there an action plan to address the resourcing issue?

It is only since the practical training was incorporated into the University course, that the profession has been in a position to promote to new entrants, as prior to this, students were unable to gain the practical training and support through the professional examination. This first year of practical placements was while Covid was still presenting challenges. Now we are through the first year and restrictions relating to Covid have reduced, the intention would be to promote the profession and the University course.

The Institute and the University are unable to comment on the resourcing issue within Local Authorities. Representatives of the Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland have been working with the Scottish Government and CoSLA in this regard.

Surely LAs should be supporting enforcement staff/FSOs to complete Masters?

Many LAs did support technical staff through the Masters programme. Unfortunately Derby University changed the entry requirements for and the content of the programme and the revised course did not sufficiently meet the requirements essential for EHOs in Scotland.

Could UWS/LAs work with private industry to relieve some of the professional practice burden and support additional placements?

The provision of placements as an integral part of the University course was a new venture for the University, the Institute and the profession in Scotland. As this has proved successful there will be the opportunity to explore other ways that individuals could gain the practical training and this may involve liaising with private organisations.

Have you looked at apprenticeships that link into the degree that may allow other younger people opportunities they might not get otherwise?

It is understood that apprenticeships is another means for individuals to achieve a qualification. Development of such programmes takes a huge amount of resource and the profession simply does not have the numbers of individuals entering the profession to justify this. A lot of time and resource has been put in to developing the new University course and it was considered that this should be the focus of attention.

Can we employ a media company to do this?

Work is progressing in this area.

Comparing Qualification with Ireland

In Ireland, the University course includes work placements, portfolio and interviews and graduates from the Technological University Dublin (TUD) with the BSc (Hons) in Environmental Health are eligible to apply for jobs called 'Environmental Health Officers' within the Health Services Executive in Ireland.

In Scotland, graduates from a REHIS accredited degree (UWS BSc (Hons) in Environmental Health with Professional Practice) are eligible to sit the professional examination and to gain a professional qualification, the REHIS Diploma in Environmental Health. This entitles them to carry the professional title EHO.

There has been a (very) historical Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Department of Health and Ireland and the Institute. Both qualification routes have changed since that agreement was established and will be subject to review.

Community Training

Is it possible to have a list of the 12 languages that Elementary Food Hygiene is available in?

Language	Essentials of Health & Safety	Hygiene Sense Handbook	Elementary Handbook	REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene Exam Paper	REHIS Elementary Health & Safety Exam Paper
Arabic	*	*		*	
Bengali	*	*		*	*
Modern Chinese (Cantonese)	*	*	*	*	*
Czech		*			
French		*			
German		*	*		
Greek		*			
Gujerati			*		
Hindi		*	*	*	
Japaneses				*	
Kurdish	*	*			
Malayalam		*			
Polish	*	*	*	*	*
Portuguese		*			
Punjabi		*		*	*
Russian	*			*	*
Slovakian				*	
Spanish		*		*	
Swedish			*		
Thai		*		*	
Turkish		*			
Ukrainian				*	*
Urdu	*	*		*	*
Welsh			*		

Single Use Plastics

Was there not an agreement with enforcing authorities with businesses to use up stock?

This will be updated, when speaker offers response.

Can we look at FPNs for non compliance?

This will be updated, when speaker offers response.

Statutory Nuisance

Further session with focus on Human Rights Act and equalities would be good.

The Institute will explore the options for this.