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| **Question** | **P4-Y3** | **P5-Y3** | **P6-Y3** |
| Explain briefly your understanding of the acupuncture programme. | Acupuncture is just a medical therapy like any other you know of which aims to alleviate, mitigate, modify, and prevent diseases. | The Acupuncture programme is a course structured to equip its students with all the basic, practical and clinical theories used in Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (CMA) treatment. The first two years of the programme are structured to make the student competent in the basic theory and diagnostic theory of acupuncture. The last two years are focused on applying the learned theory to clinical practice. These years focus on teaching the student how to think and approach clinical encounters. Above the academic side of the programme, the CMA programme also educates the student about Chinese history and culture, which adds an appreciation and deeper understanding of the medical practice. | Acupuncture is an alternative medicine where we learn how to insert needles into some certain points on the body to cure some diseases. There are other methods that we use as well such as moxibustion and cupping. We also learn how to take cases from patients, and diagnose and choose the best acupuncture treatment for them. |
| Explain why you choose to study the acupuncture programme. | I chose to study acupuncture because it is different from conventional medicine with respect to the approach of healing. It focuses on alleviating the cause and convectional medicine is palliative, so the difference made me to study what was going to be better for my patients and that is acupuncture. | In 2016 I was diagnosed with a condition called chondromalacia which affected my ability to walk, and play sports and left me in a large amount of pain daily. After going to a biokineticist for 5 months and being cleared to play sports again, I was still in an excruciating amount of pain after my sports matches. It was at this point I decided to look at other alternatives, which is when I found an acupuncturist. After only 3 sessions at the acupuncturist, I found myself relieved of the pain and functioning very well in matches. I was in awe of the consultation technique, the questions asked, the use of the needling and the TCM medicines prescribed to me after treatment. I knew immediately that this was a profession I must pursue. | I needed to know and learn a lot more about acupuncture as I find it interesting and be able to apply the knowledge in future as a professional |
| Indicate which year of study you are in. For example year 2, year 3 or year 4. | YEAR 3 |  |  |
| Briefly describe your experiences of the acupuncture programme? | I had difficulties in the first year because I did not understand the theory properly and also adjusting to online learning hindered me to get better grades. | At first, I felt a bit confused by the relations of the theory we are learning, however, by the second year I understood the bigger picture. This Is when the course became increasingly more interesting. I found the second-year disorganized in terms of testing content, dates and preparation of the tests. I also felt I didn't have enough needling practice during my second year. I feel the students would benefit of more regular needling classes. Overall, I find acupuncture is my favourite course in the Complementary Medicine degree. | Acupuncture has got a lot of information and a lot of work basically. It is easy to understand when you give yourself some more time to study it. I found it a little bit easier in the second year than in the first year because everything was just straightforward and easy to understand and capture at the same time |
| Section B1: TEACHING |  |  |  |
| 1. Describe your experiences of the teaching of the acupuncture programme. | The way we have been taught previous two years was good as everything was provided for us to learn and understand the theory | As said previously I found the second year very disorganized in terms of communication regarding tests as well as communication with the students overall. I felt very unprepared before tests and unsure about my level of competency before being assessed or needling. I also found the lecturing schedule very disorganized, at times we were being assessed on the content we haven’t covered in class and then being taught the content the week after the assessment. I felt as if our questions and concerns weren’t being dealt with in the second year. The teaching in the first year and third year (so far) is very satisfactory. | Acupuncture becomes easier when the lecture teaches us and explains more to give better 8nderstanding of it.\_ |
| 2. Describe how the teaching of the acupuncture programme has improved your understanding of the acupuncture programme. | It was in the second year where I only knew how we need to properly answer the questions. So now I can say I understand it a bit and I am working on improving myself to know the content properly. | The lectures are constructed in such a way that theory and practical aspects are very well integrated. Lots of clinical notes are also included in the lectures. I feel including the practical and clinical aspects alongside the theory is a very beneficial way of teaching CMA. It allows the student to see the whole picture as well as assists in cementing the theory in the student’s mind. I also think using the first and second year to teach the basic theory and more advanced theory is very well structured as in third year when the practical aspect of the subject becomes more prominent, it is much easier for the student to integrate all the knowledge easily. | Both the lecture slides and the recorded lectures plus having some practicals did a great job in improving my understanding for acupuncture. My grades have improved in the second year and they were better compared to the first year because we had a chance for more practicals |
| 3. Explain ways in which you would like the acupuncture programme to be taught. | I have no idea | The only addition I would think would benefit the students is including more needling lessons in the second year, as well as more cupping and moxibustion practice. I found as a student I felt nervous to needle points not being covered in class at home at the risk of injury or making a mistake without supervision. Hence, students would benefit from needling a wider range of points more regularly. This would also assist in consolidating the point location and indications. This could be used as an informal testing system to help the students identify their weak areas. I feel the way the programme is structured at current is very beneficial to the students learning. | I prefer the same old ways that we use, having lecture videos and also attending our classes and practicals works better for me |
| 4. Describe your views on the list of modules in the acupuncture programme. (The outline of the BHsCM programme will be provided.) | We have a lot of theoretical and practical modules for this year and this makes this year the most difficult than the previous two years. | I personally enjoy all the modules offered. I have no negative comments. |  |
| 5. Describe your experience of the use of technologies for the teaching of the acupuncture programme. | Technology has really helped us learn when we were severely hit by the virus. If it was not because of it, perhaps even today we would have been at home or something. | I found the use of uploading the lectures on YouTube very beneficial to the student as it allows you to move as fast as you want to through the content, as well as being able to pause the lecture and takedown better-detailed notes and make sense of the content while the lecture is being taught. I think the lectures should always be uploaded as youtube videos as much as possible. | In my first year, we only relied on online classes because we could not have contact classes due to the covid pandemic. I found it very difficult to understand and grasp the work because the other reason was that I was not even that familiar with studying online |
| Section B2: LEARNING |  |  |  |
| 1. Explain your experiences in the learning of the acupuncture programme. | First-year I struggled because I did not understand much of the theory but in my second year because I slightly understood how questions need to be answered it has helped me to improve. I hope I keep on improving even this year. | I found the volume of content very intimidating and demanding to get through in the allocated amount of time, however I found the content manageable to learn alone. Weekly contact sessions would be beneficial to be able to ask the lecturer questions regarding the content covered. Provided the student has a strong work ethic and motivation to learn the content, it is achievable. | Acupuncture becomes more interesting and makes more sense when we do practicals in class with the lecturer |
| 2. Describe how the learning of the acupuncture programme has prepared you for the practical skills. | The theoretical part of the work has really given me an idea of how to do things practically in TCM. | Within the lecture content, there are constant referrals to clinical cases and practical hints and tips. The structure of the programme, including lots of practical lessons alongside the theory, makes it much easier to learn the content and improve clinical skills simultaneously. | Learning all the theories and principles of acupuncture has prepared me for my practical |
| 3. How would you prefer to develop your knowledge and skills of the acupuncture programme? | Memorising the theory and getting more patients with different cases for experience. | Personally, I feel practical lessons assist me in learning the most in the acupuncture programme. | For me would be by having more practicals that help not to forget what I did and also enjoy what I am doing. |
| 4. Describe how technologies have helped you to learn the content of acupuncture programme during COVID-19. | It made me to self isolated at home while studying. So basically technology saved me from getting infected by the virus. | The youtube videos have assisted greatly in being able to make sense and learn the content quickly. | Technology gave us access to communicate with our lecture and to access the lecture notes and videos even though it was a bit difficult as I was not that familiar with the whole online teachings and everything. |
| 5. Explain ways in which you can be supported to develop a positive attitude towards the acupuncture programme | A tutor who will check up on us every week, who really knows the content very well. | I found small regular informal tests improve the students testing confidence, as well as assisting in identifying areas of the work we don't know very well, which is very hard to identify with remote learning. `I also find more practical lessons motivate the student to learn. | Only by being given attention during the practicals. |
| Section B3: ASSESSMENT |  |  |  |
| 1. Describe your experiences in the assessment of the acupuncture programme. | I already explained above | Assessment experiences are positive. I would request a more prepared approach to assessments with regard to the content and sufficient notice before a test. I feel as though students would do better in tests if provided with more opportunities to discover areas of the work they are not proficient in.  However, in my second year, In many occasions as well, the testing content has not been covered or revised or tested in class before being added to a much larger test. This makes the students feel extremely anxious as we have never covered the content in class (only on online lecture videos) but are being assessed on it for a large percentage of our year mark. Learning the content once via online lecture videos is not enough engagement with the content. Earlier in the year, we would write weekly spot tests on the content, which the students felt helped them a lot, however, the spot test was discontinued as “we do not have enough time”. Resulting in the assessed content never being spoken about in class. We also only locate the points in practicals after writing a test on the meridians, this does not assist the students in test preparation at all, leaving the students feeling very unsettled and unprepared when writing the test. | As I mentioned before that acupuncture has a lot of work but how the set our tests make it easier for us to pass, and sometimes the more we have assessments the more we get to realise how far we are left behind. |
| 2. Explain how the assessment has helped you to strengthen your knowledge in the acupuncture programme. | The theory we have been given has played a role in me knowing much about the acupuncture programme | It has helped me identify areas of the content I do not know as well as I thought I did. I also found I learned clinical knowledge from the assessments as they required the student to apply the content they have learnt so far. I find assessments in this subject very helpful as a growth factor for the student. | Each time when I have an assessment it helps to test my knowledge and see how far I’m still left behind in covering my work. |
| 3. Explain how you would prefer to be assessed in the acupuncture programme. | I have no idea | I feel smaller more regular assessments are much more beneficial to have before the larger summative assessments. ] | Have an assessment for each term and with the normal format that we are used to. |
| 4. Describe how technologies have helped to assess your knowledge in the acupuncture programme. | I explained above. | N/A | Having to watch lecture videos and other acupuncture videos on you tube has helped to gain some knowledge of acupuncture. |
| Section B4: PRACTICES |  |  |  |
| 1. Explain your experiences (advantages and disadvantages of practicals) in the acupuncture programme. | I explained above | The practicals are very beneficial in the programme, they assist the student with clinical skills as well as consolidating the theory. I don't see disadvantages as yet. | Advantages of the practicals are that all that theory that we did starts to make sense and this enhances our better understanding, and with this, I don’t seem to find any disadvantages |
| 2. Describe how the teaching, learning and assessment have prepared you for practicals (focus on the acupuncture skills). | I now know how to insert needles, manipulate it and other techniques in TCM ( moxibustion and cupping) | Each of these aspects has assisted in consolidating the theory learnt in the first and second year, and improved the students’ clinical skills. They assist in helping the student identify their weaker areas in the programme.  However, there are many errors we make in practical classes that are only corrected by Dr Y when he supervises the class. Before that, we have been practising while making critical errors which are not corrected in class, therefore we learn the mistakes not knowing it is an incorrect practice. For example, we were never told to not touch the patient when needling, or not leave the dirt or needles on the plinth before Dr Y corrected us in class. | We need all that theory that we have been taught in order to apply in our practicals, the assessment also serves as a proof of how far I am with the knowledge of acupuncture. |
| 3. Explain how you can be supported to improve your acupuncture practical skills. | A tutor who knows his/her stuff | I only request more practical sessions in class. | When we do practicals in smaller groups so that the lecture can also be able to give each one of us attention and help us where we don’t understand. |
| 4. Explain how the use of technologies have benefited or not benefited your practical skills. | Made me to study online and pass my first year and second year but has denied me the opportunity to have more practicals on campus. | I don't feel technologies have benefitted or not benefitted my practical skills. | I have not been benefitting a lot with learning through technology, for it is just not the same as the usual contact classes where you get to ask more questions and concentrate. |