

EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF CHIROPRACTIC GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMME (GEP) CONFERENCE 2012 CONSENSUS STATEMENTS

On 18th March, 2012, representatives of 17 European national chiropractic associations attended a conference in Frankfurt organised by the European Academy of Chiropractic. The purpose of the conference was to present and discuss the development and provision of postgraduate programmes for new graduates, known as Graduate Education Programmes, or GEPs.

This document sets out the consensus statements adopted by the conference delegates and is recommended for formal adoption by national chiropractic associations throughout Europe. They should form the basis of an ongoing commitment to the development and review of GEPs.

1. Professionalism is a key component of GEP. The core component of professionalism is a commitment to self monitor (reflect) and improve.
2. New graduates of chiropractic educational programmes face a range of challenges. While they will have completed their primary chiropractic education, there are distinct needs in moving from an educational to a professional environment.
3. New trainers and principals, although experienced chiropractors, also face challenges in becoming teachers and mentors to new graduates. There is an identified need to ensure that trainers are properly supported to mentor new graduates.
4. National associations represented at the GEP conference recognise the value of programmes that emphasise the importance of the transition to competent and expert chiropractor.
5. There is a need for a structured system of learning that can form the basis of a GEP throughout European member nations. This programme needs to be delivered in a way that recognises the individuality of each nation's legal and regulatory status. It is recognised that societal, cultural and individual needs will drive the structure and function of GEPs.
6. Graduate Education Programmes should be rewarding, both for Principals/Trainers and Graduates/Trainees. They should contain opportunities for a range of learning experiences, reflection, and regular trainer/trainee contact. Desired learning outcomes should be clearly defined.
7. The EAC framework for graduate education should facilitate the development of GEPs.
8. Successful completion of a GEP must equip graduates with attitudes to facilitate lifelong learning and continuing professional development.
9. European chiropractic national organisations are encouraged to make GEPs a mandatory requirement for full membership. This will help to set standards, protect patients and enhance quality assurance in the European chiropractic profession.