

Review of Qualifications: applicants with EU rights.

Guidelines for Assessors and Applicants

Introduction

1. All osteopaths must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) in order to practise in the UK. The GOsC is the recognised competent authority for osteopathy in the UK.
2. These guidelines set out our registration process for applicants with 'EU rights'.

What are EU rights?

3. Under EU law, if an osteopath is fully qualified to practise in one relevant European state, there is a presumption that, in principle, they should be permitted to practise osteopathy in any other relevant European state. However, if there are substantial differences between the education and training and experience of the osteopath and the requirements for the practice of that profession in the host state, such as the UK, the applicant may be asked to undertake compensatory measures, including an aptitude test or a period of adaptation.
4. For this purpose, 'fully qualified' means that the applicant meets all of the requirements in order to practise in their home state, whatever they may be. If osteopathy is regulated in their home country, this may simply mean holding a qualification, and in others there may be a compulsory period of supervised training. In member states where osteopathy is not regulated, the applicant will need to prove that they are 'established' in that profession by having practised for at least one out of the last ten years.
5. In order to claim EU rights, applicants must demonstrate that they are a national of a relevant European state or have 'acquired rights' (for example through marriage to an EU national) and that they are entitled to practise as an osteopath in a relevant European state.
6. A relevant European state includes Switzerland or any of the member states of the European Economic Area (EEA) which are:

Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Liechtenstein*
Bulgaria	Lithuania
Cyprus	Luxembourg
Czech Republic	Malta*
Denmark	Netherlands
Estonia	Norway
Finland*	Poland
France*	Portugal*
Germany	Romania
Greece	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia
Iceland*	Spain
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland*

EU Qualification Guidance

DRAFT V4

28 January 2016

United Kingdom*

* means statutorily regulated. If osteopathy is statutorily regulated in another country, the applicant will normally be entitled to register at this point subject to any language checks, health and character checks and payment of a fee.

7. On receipt of an application for registration, we will tell applicants if they have EU rights.
8. Once it has been established the applicant has EU rights, they will be asked to demonstrate that their qualification, work experience and/or lifelong learning is equivalent to UK standards.

UK standards

9. In the UK, all osteopathy courses are mapped to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* and the award of a 'recognised qualification' (entitling students to apply for registration with us) is only made to students meeting the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
10. The *Osteopathic Practice Standards* are available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/osteopathic-practice-standards/osteopathic-practice-standards/>. We undertake a quality assurance process of all institutions offering UK osteopathy qualifications (Recognised qualifications).
11. There are also supplementary pieces of guidance which support delivery of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*:
 - The *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education and Training* (2015) available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/guidance-for-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/> describes the professional aspects of osteopathic pre-registration education and the outcomes that graduates are expected to demonstrate before graduation in order to show that they practise in accordance with the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
 - The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education *Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy* (2015) available at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Osteopathy-15.pdf> provides a flexible framework describing the nature and content of osteopathic pre-registration courses by the osteopathic academic community and is designed to encourage innovation and excellence in the delivery of osteopathic education. It builds on standards set by the statutory regulator, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).
12. Applicants who have gained an osteopathic qualification in an institution outside the United Kingdom (where the education is not, therefore, quality assured by the General Osteopathic Council) undertake an individual assessment process to demonstrate that they meet our requirements for registration.

The process of registration for internationally qualified applicants with EU rights

Stage 1: Assessment of qualification and knowledge, skills and competences acquired by the applicant in the course of his professional experience or through lifelong learning:

13. Assessment of qualification, professional experience and lifelong learning formally validated by a relevant body¹ – Applicants are invited to demonstrate that their qualifications and professional experience or lifelong learning are sufficient to demonstrate that there is no substantial difference between their training and experience and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* by completing the form attached at Appendix 2 of this Guidance.
14. It is in an applicant's interest to provide as much information as possible to the assessors to demonstrate that there are no substantial differences between the applicant's qualification, professional experience and lifelong learning and that required of UK qualified registrants. In order to do this, applicants are asked to provide an academic transcript, a certified copy of their academic transcript and a certified translation of their academic transcript (in English), which outlines the results achieved for each module studied and a course guideline/handbook which outlines the modules studied. Applicants are also invited to complete a form showing how their qualifications, professional experience (and the scope of their duties) along with information about their CPD demonstrates that there is no substantial difference between that and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* by completing the form at Appendix 1 of this Guidance. The professional experience and CPD or lifelong learning must be verified by a professional organisation or a professional referee.
15. If, taking into account the principle of proportionality², the documentation still shows substantial differences³ between the applicant's qualification, professional experience and lifelong learning and that required in the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*, the applicant will be offered the opportunity to undertake either a period of adaptation or an aptitude test.
16. The General Osteopathic Council will provide feedback about:
 - The level of the qualification assessed
 - The verified professional experience and lifelong learning taken into account
 - Information about the 'substantial differences' found and the options with regarding to a period of adaptation and an aptitude test.

Substantial differences

17. Please note that assessors will determine substantial differences by reference to your application and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. However, it is recommended that you clearly show communication, consent and clinical reasoning in your supplementary information

¹ See Article 14(5) and(6)(b) of the European Directive 2005/36/EU as amended by European Directive 2013/55/EU

² See Article 14(5) of the European Directive 2005/36 as amended by 2013/55/EU

³ Substantial different matters' are defined in Article 14(4) as 'matters in respect of which knowledge, skills and competences acquired are essential for pursuing the profession and with regard to which the training received by the migrant shows significant differences in terms of content from the training required by the host member states.' In the case of the UK, 'substantial difference' means substantially different to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.

as it is the assessors experience, that these areas often feature in 'substantial differences' which need to be remedied.

18. Some applicants find it helpful to seek advice from a UK osteopathic educational institution before applying for registration to help their application.

Stage 2: Aptitude Test or Period of Adaptation

19. If a 'substantial difference' is identified, the applicant is able to choose either an aptitude test or a period of adaptation in order to meet the requirements identified.

i. Aptitude Test

20. The aptitude test comprises two parts:

- a. Completion of a written questionnaire – the Further Evidence of Practice Questionnaire. (See Further Evidence of Practice Questionnaire: Guidelines for assessors available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/registration/further-evidence-of-practice-questionnaire-guidelines-for/> for further information.
- b. Assessment of Clinical Performance – The Assessment of Clinical Performance: Guidelines for Applicants and Assessors are available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/registration/assessment-of-clinical-performance-guidelines-for-assessors-and/>

Details of when and where the Assessments of Clinical Performance take place are available on our website at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/how-to-register-with-the-gosc/qualified-outside-the-uk>

21. Together, parts a. and b. of the aptitude test assess most of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* as outlined in the OPS Master Checklist available at: xxx.
22. Applicants are entitled to apply for registration as soon as there is no substantial difference. Applicants who pass the Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP) will be able to register immediately on completion of other registration requirements, such as health and character checks and payment of a fee.

ii. Period of Adaptation

23. If 'substantial differences' are identified, the applicant may choose to undertake a period of adaptation under with a UK supervisor. The applicant will receive a letter setting out the areas of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* that still need to be demonstrated. The applicant would then seek to undertake bespoke compensatory measures through a period of adaptation by contacting an osteopathic educational institution (OEI).
24. A period of adaptation is a period of supervised practice and/or academic training which can last up to three years and is intended to make up for significant differences which have been identified in an application. These are in areas where, in the opinion of the assessors, the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* have not been met.
25. The Period of Adaptation is completed when an institution is satisfied that the applicant has met the requirements of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. Further information is provided in our *Period of Adaptation Guidance* available at: xxx.

Further information

EU Qualification Guidance

DRAFT V4

28 January 2016

26. More information for applicants applying for registration with the General Osteopathic Council is contained on our website at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/how-to-register-with-the-gosc/>

DRAFT