



**General  
Osteopathic  
Council**

## **Consultation**

### **Student Fitness to Practise: Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions**

**Xx March to xx June 2016**

### **About the General Osteopathic Council**

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the regulator for the osteopathic profession in the UK. Our role is to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy which we do by setting standards of education, training, conduct and competence and keeping a register of those who have qualified and met those standards.

### **Student fitness to practise guidance**

We currently issue guidance on student fitness to practise for students, prospective students and osteopathic educational institutions in the following documents:

- a. *Student Fitness to Practise: Guidance about professional behaviours and fitness to practise for osteopathic students*
- b. *Student Fitness to Practise: Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions*

The aim of the guidance is to assist applicants, students and osteopathic educational institutions with issues relating to professional behaviours and fitness to practise, including processes for managing these within educational institutions. This can help students, and those considering becoming students of osteopathy, understand the expectations of them regarding professional behaviours, and issues which might lead to concern. Detailed guidance regarding the management of professional behaviours and fitness to practise issues is provided to aid osteopathic educational institutions, and to enhance the understanding of students in this respect.

### **Reviewing the student fitness to practise guidance**

Published in 2012, this current fitness to practise guidance was written before the publication of the Francis Report<sup>1</sup> and issues around duty of candour<sup>2</sup> became prominent within healthcare. They are therefore being reviewed in the light of developments within osteopathy, osteopathic education, and healthcare regulation generally over the last five years.

A review has been conducted of similar guidance on fitness to practise and professional behaviours, issued by other healthcare regulators, to gauge current developments and activity within the sector. A number of the regulators have recently, or are currently conducting their own reviews.

As part of the initial review process, all UK osteopathic educational institutions were contacted with a set of questions regarding their experience in utilising the guidance documentation. Where practicable, face-to-face meetings were held with representatives of The educational institutions to explore their views and experiences in more depth.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.midstaffpublicinquiry.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/standards/osteopathic-practice/duty-of-candour/>

### **Proposed changes in the draft guidance**

We considered whether there was value in maintaining separate documentation aimed at students and educational institutions respectively, or whether the guidance would be better combined. The educational institutions generally prefer having separate documents aimed at different audiences. Where regulators have combined documentation, the general trend is to revise these and create separate documents for students and educators. We have, therefore, maintained separate documents in each case for students and potential students, and for educational institutions.

We have attempted to provide more detailed guidance to students on professional behaviours, and the expectations on them, giving specific examples of the types of activities or behaviours which might call their fitness to practise into question. We have developed more case examples to aid with this.

The outcomes of the Francis report and the duty of candour have been incorporated into the new proposed guidance.

Some guidance has been included regarding boundaries. This includes boundaries between students in the context of practising osteopathic techniques on each other, and relationship boundaries between teaching staff and students.

We are now seeking wider views on this draft guidance for osteopathic educational institutions on student fitness to practise.

### How to respond

You can send us your views by responding to our online consultation at:

[Insert link]

by emailing us at: [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk) or by post to:

Student Fitness to Practise consultation  
General Osteopathic Council  
Osteopathy House  
176 Tower Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 3LU

Copies of the draft guidance about professional behaviours and fitness to practise for osteopathic educational institutions, and this consultation response form, are also available on request in other formats by contacting the GOsC via email at: [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk) or 020 7357 6655 x??.

We are asking some specific questions that we would like responses to, but you are welcome to offer any comments you wish. All feedback will be taken into consideration.

We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your response not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **xx June 2016**.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Thank you.

**Student Fitness to Practise: Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions**

**Consultation Questions:**

1. Name of individual or organisation (optional)

2. Are you happy for the GOSc to publish your response to this consultation?

Happy for the GOSc to publish my response

I would prefer my response to be published in a non-attributable form

3. Do you think the draft guidance is clear?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

4. Is the case example given useful to help contextualise the guidance? (more case examples are contained in the student fitness to practise guidance)

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

5. Is the more detailed guidance on professional behaviours for students helpful in identifying where problems might arise?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

6. Is the guidance given on speaking up and the duty of candour sufficient?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

7. Is more detail required on the issue of boundaries in relation to students working with each other, and in the context of relationships between educational staff and students?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

8. Is the guidance on fitness to practise processes and procedures helpful?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

9. Do you think that any aspect of this draft guidance may adversely impact on anyone because of their gender, race, disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any other aspect of equality?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

10. Please provide us with any other comments you may have.

**Thank you for your response to this consultation.**

We would also like to ask some questions about you. Completing the diversity questionnaire [[insert link](#)] is optional, but we would welcome information about our respondents.

The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of analysing the consultation responses.