



Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)

10 October 2017

**London School of Osteopathy – Recognised Qualification review
specification and appointment of Visitors**

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| Classification | Private |
| Purpose | For decision |
| Issue | <p>Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualifications review at the London School of Osteopathy commencing in spring 2019.</p> <p>The appointment of the Visitors for the London School of Osteopathy Recognised Qualification Review.</p> |
| Recommendations | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the review specification for the London School of Osteopathy renewal of RQ review.2. To agree to appoint Brian Anderton, Sarah Wallace and Simeon London as Visitors for the Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) qualifications offered by the London School of Osteopathy. |
| Financial and resourcing implications | The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2018-19 financial year. |
| Equality and diversity implications | None |
| Communications implications | The review specification will be shared with the QAA and School and will be publicly available. |
| Annex | Draft London School of Osteopathy review specification |
| Author | Angela Albornoz |

Background

1. The London School of Osteopathy currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 August 2019:
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) 5 years part time or 3.5 years full time
 - b. Master of Osteopathy 6 years part time or 4 years full time.
2. The qualifications continue to be validated by the Anglia Ruskin University.
3. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in spring 2018. Before the review is scheduled, we also need to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors, drawn from the pool recruited and trained by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the GOsC and agree suitable dates with the LSO, taking account of the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.
4. This paper asks the Committee to agree the review specification and to appoint the Education Visitor team.

Discussion

Review Specification

5. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on a review specification. An initial draft of the review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.
6. There are no specific conditions attached to these courses.
7. The specification takes into account a recent discussion of the following area at the previous Committee meeting in March 2017, which the Committee wished to follow up as part of the next GOsC Review, ensuring that delivery of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* continues to be maintained:
 - An update on the implementation of the new assessment strategy and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate this as part of the next year's annual report due in December 2017.

Next steps

8. This review specification may be subject to change due to changing circumstances prior to the review. Any changes to the specification will be notified to the Committee.

Appointment of Visitors

9. Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'The Education Committee may appoint Visitors to ... report to the Education Committee on the nature and quality of instruction and such other matters as he was required to report on by the Committee.'
10. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of the LSO qualifications as outlined in the RQ Review Specification at the Annex.
11. The visit is scheduled to take place during April 2018 at the LSO. The proposed Visit Team is:
 - Brian Anderton, Lay Visitor and independent (formerly Birmingham University)
 - Sarah Wallace, Osteopath
 - Simeon London, Osteopath.
12. The Visit Team comprises a mixture of existing and new Education Visitors in GOsC/QAA reviews. These recommended Visitors are members of the QAA / GOsC Visitors pool (comprising lay people and osteopaths) administered by the QAA who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all Visitors on our behalf. All new Visitors were appointed through a rigorous process and have participated in training within the last 12 months.
13. We have checked that the osteopaths are currently registered. We have also checked the Visit Team with the LSO which has confirmed that they are not aware of any conflicts. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflicts in undertaking the review of the LSO. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these Visitors.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the review specification for the London School of Osteopathy renewal of RQ review.
2. To agree to appoint Brian Anderton, Sarah Wallace and Simeon London as Visitors for the Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) qualifications offered by the London School of Osteopathy.

Draft Review Specification for the London School of Osteopathy – Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualifications

Draft as at 22 September 2017

Background

1. The London School of Osteopathy (LSO) currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 August 2019.
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) 5 years part time or 3.5 years full time
 - b. Master of Osteopathy 6 years part time or 4 years full time.
2. The LSO wishes to renew both of these qualifications. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher School information.
3. Copies of Committee papers relating to the LSO are attached to this specification for information.

QAA Review

4. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined renewal of recognition review of the following qualifications:
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
 - b. Master of Osteopathy.
5. The aim of the GOsC Quality Assurance process is to:
 - Put patient safety and public protection at the heart of all activities
 - Ensure that graduates meet the standards outlined in the *Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)*
 - Make sure graduates meet the outcomes of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (2015)* and the *Quality Assurance Subject benchmark statement: Osteopathy (2015)*
 - Identify good practice and innovation to improve the student and patient experience
 - Identify concerns at an early stage and help to resolve them effectively without compromising patient safety or having a detrimental effect on student education
 - Identify areas for development or any specific conditions to be imposed upon the course providers to ensure standards continue to be met
 - Promote equality and diversity in osteopathic education.

6. The format of the review will be based on the GOsC/QAA Handbook (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/how-we-review-higher-education/general-osteopathic-council-review> and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/standards/>). Associated guidance will also include the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* (2015) (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/becoming-an-osteopath/guidance-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/>).
7. In addition to the usual review format, the Committee would like to ensure that the following area is explored:
 - a. An update on the implementation of the new assessment strategy and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate this.
8. The provisional timetable for the London School of Osteopathy RQ review will be as follows:
 - October 2017 – Committee agreement of review specification
 - By March 2018 – Committee approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates
 - March 2018 – Submission of Self-evaluation document
 - Visit in April 2018 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students).
 - May 2018 – Draft Report sent to LSO for comments (report needs to be finalised by September 2018) – statutory period.
 - June/July 2018 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
 - October 2018 – Recommendation from the Committee to Council to recognise the qualifications.
 - February 2019 – Recognition of Qualification from the General Osteopathic Council.
 - July 2019 – Approval from the Privy Council.

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the LSO, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.