



General  
Osteopathic  
Council

## **Background to the Position Statement on the relationship between Recognised Qualifications and Registration**

### **Introduction**

This statement sets out the current position of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) with regard to registering applicants who have a Recognised Qualification (RQ).

### **Background**

- The award of an RQ by an Osteopathic Educational Institution (OEI) means that the student has reached the GOsC Standard of Proficiency (see Section 14 of the [Osteopaths Act 1993](#) (amended))
- The award of an RQ also confirms that the student has demonstrated a commitment to abide by ethical and other standards stated in the published [Code of Practice](#) (see paragraph H4 of the [GOsC Standard of Proficiency](#)).
- The GOsC must register an applicant with an RQ if they are satisfied that the applicant is of good character and in good health, both physically and mentally. In accordance with recent legislation and good practice, the GOsC will only consider health issues that relate to competence and conduct standards as set out in the GOsC Standard of Proficiency and the Code of Practice.
- The award of the RQ should confirm that the applicant is able to practise, without supervision, to the standards expected in the GOsC Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.

### **Extracts from relevant legislation and guidance**

#### Registration with the General Osteopathic Council for an applicant holding an RQ.

Section 3 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 sets out the conditions required for someone holding a 'Recognised Qualification' to be registered with the General Osteopathic Council. It provides as follows:

3. (1) – Subject to the provisions of this Act, any person who satisfies the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) shall be entitled to be registered as a fully registered osteopath.

(2) – The conditions are that the application is to be made in the prescribed form and manner and that the applicant –

- (a) has paid the prescribed fee;
- (b) satisfies the Registrar that he is of good character;
- (c) satisfies the Registrar that he is in good health, both physically and mentally; and
- (d) has a recognised qualification

### Recognition of RQs

Section 14 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 sets out the legislative requirements for recognition of an RQ. In particular, that the Council is satisfied that the qualification granted or proposed to be granted is or will be evidence that the required Standard of Proficiency has been reached. Section 14 provides as follows:

14. (1) For the purposes of this Act, a qualification is a “recognised qualification” if it is recognised by the General Council under this section.
- (2) Where the General Council is satisfied that—
- (a) a qualification granted by an institution in the United Kingdom is evidence of having reached the required standard of proficiency, or
  - (b) a qualification which such an institution proposes to grant will be evidence of having reached that standard, it may, with the approval of the Privy Council, recognise that qualification for the purposes of this Act.

### Extracts from the Standard of Proficiency

The Council publishes a Standard of Proficiency pursuant to Section 13 of the Osteopaths Act 1993. The Standard of Proficiency currently in force is the [Standard 2000](#). Relevant extracts from the Standard are set out below:

Paragraph 3 states: “The osteopath must also be able to enter into a negotiated and professional relationship with a patient to ensure that all actions and interventions are conducted in accord with the Code of Practice *Pursuing Excellence*.”

Paragraph C5 states that the osteopath should be able to demonstrate "a strong commitment to maintaining patient confidentiality and to act only with the informed consent of the patient in compliance with the Code of Practice *Pursuing Excellence*."

Paragraph 18 states: "Osteopaths must appreciate the role of professional self-evaluation and development in maintaining standards of care in accord with the Code of Practice *Pursuing Excellence*."

Paragraph H4 states that the osteopath should be able to demonstrate "a commitment to abide by the ethical and other standards stated in the published Code of Practice *Pursuing Excellence*."