



Council
4 February 2015
Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education

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| Classification | Public |
| Purpose | For decision |
| Issue | Publication of <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i> and next steps. |
| Recommendations | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i>.2. To ask the Education and Registration Standards Committee to consider further the recommendations of the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group about implementation. |
| Financial and resourcing implications | The <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i> consultation was undertaken in-house. Expert advice on equality and diversity matters was commissioned. The total costs were less than £1,000. Costs of designing the Guidance are incorporated into the Professional Standards budget. |
| Equality and diversity implications | Equality and diversity issues were explored in the consultation, specific advice has been sought from people declaring a disability and from an equality and diversity consultant to assess the impact of the proposals and inform post consultation re-drafting. |
| Communications implications | None at this stage. |
| Annexes | <ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Consultation Analysis considered by the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Working Group at their meeting on 27 November 2014.B. Minutes of the Working Group meeting on 27 November 2014.C. Draft <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i> |
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Background

1. The Corporate Plan 2013 to 2016 states that we will ‘... promote public and patient safety through proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity.’ As part of this, we have committed to ‘ensure that initial education and training is of high-quality and fit for purpose in an evolving healthcare and higher education environment.’ One of the ways in which we will contribute to this goal is to ‘produce *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*, developed with a wide variety of stakeholder input, publishing proposals, consulting and implementing changes in partnership with the osteopathic profession, patients and others.’
2. The 2014-15 Business Plan states that we will:
 - Complete a consultation on the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*, analyse the results and consider it in the context of the current landscape (e.g. revised QAA Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, work on values underpinning practice, joint regulatory work on candour), and publish new guidance (FR).
 - Identify any further steps that need to be taken in relation to *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration education*
 - Develop and undertake an implementation and awareness strategy.
3. The terms of reference for this work were originally agreed in March 2012 by Council establishing a Working Group reporting to the Education and Registration Standards Committee. The terms of reference are available on request from Fiona Browne at fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk. At that time, the Council noted that the development of undergraduate guidance for osteopathic educational institutions was a new area. The Working Group was, amongst other things, charged with:
 - Developing educational guidance to support anticipated developments in contemporary healthcare practice.
 - Developing learning outcomes for osteopathic qualifications to support the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards
 - Advising on any other relevant matters relating to the development of the Guidance about osteopathic pre-registration education and learning outcomes
4. The Working Group was chaired by the Chair of the Education and Registration Standards Committee or his nominated representative. Membership comprised patients and the public, members nominated by the osteopathic educational institutions, students and lay people (at its last meeting, members were also nominated by the Institute of Osteopathy and the Osteopathic Alliance).

5. The Working Group met on three occasions before the publication of the consultation on 8 November 2012, 7 May 2013 and 11 September 2013. The group also corresponded electronically. During their meetings the Working Group considered the context for the development of the work and key publications and research from other regulators and bodies (both national and international) to inform their thinking, developed draft guidance, key questions for consultation and provided advice on a consultation strategy.
6. In January 2014, the Council agreed to publish the draft *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* for consultation and agreed the consultation strategy.
7. In February 2014, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) held its first meeting of a working group to revise its *Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy*. The QAA working group also included members of the General Osteopathic Council to ensure a 'fit' between the two documents. Further detail about this is provided below.
8. This paper provides Council with an update following the consultation and the development of the *Guidance* post consultation. Council is asked to agree the *Guidance* and to ask the Education and Registration Standards Committee to consider the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to measurability and the potential need for more explicit standards for delivery of education and particularly, assessment.

Discussion

The consultation process

9. The consultation on the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* took place from February to May 2014. The consultation analysis considered by the Working Group is attached at Annex A. Paragraphs 3 to 6 of Annex A show that the consultation was widely publicised to all stakeholder groups throughout the consultation and a variety of methods were used to encourage responses. Although 26 responses were received – the responses were from all stakeholder groups including patients and the public, osteopaths, students, osteopathic organisations, osteopathic educational institutions and inter-professional organisations suggesting that we can be confident that the responses represent a broad range of diverse views. We also commissioned an equality and diversity consultant to provide advice and guidance about the draft *Guidance* to inform the draft considered post consultation.
10. On 25 June 2014, the Education and Registration Standards Committee considered an emerging analysis of that consultation. In light of the responses to the consultation, the Committee asked the Working Group to invite nominees of the Institute of Osteopathy and the Osteopathic Alliance to join it to consider the responses and to finalise the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*.

11. On 27 November 2014, the Working Group reconvened including representation from the Osteopathic Alliance and the Institute of Osteopathy to consider the consultation responses and the analysis and to take these into account as it finalised the *Guidance*. The minutes of this Working Group meeting are attached at Annex B and demonstrate its considered response to the matters highlighted in the consultation analysis attached at Annex A.
12. A draft equality impact assessment has informed the development of the consultation strategy, the consultation and the draft *Guidance* (this is available from Fiona Browne at fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk). Once Council has approved the *Guidance*, we will ask our equality and diversity consultant to review the final *Guidance* and the Equality Impact Assessment before publication.
13. The draft *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* is attached at Annex C.

The relationship between the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy

14. It is worth highlighting at this stage, the development of the *subject benchmark statement: osteopathy* – a QAA document and its relationship to the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*. At its meeting in October 2014, the Education and Registration Standards Committee considered this relationship in detail and responded to the QAA *draft subject benchmark statement: osteopathy 2014 consultation*. As part of this, the Committee considered in detail, the distinction between those two documents. This distinction is made clear in the draft *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* in the introduction which provide that the QAA Benchmark statement is a reference point for the academic community. A copy of the response from the Education and Registration Standards Committee to the QAA consultation is available from Fiona Browne at fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk

Next steps

15. The publication of *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* will mark an important moment in osteopathic regulation and education. While the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* remain, in law, the standard for entry onto the register (and the exit point of a recognised qualification for UK trained graduates), the *Guidance* enables us to set out for the first time, more explicitly, the outcomes and experience expected to deliver the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
16. However, in order to be effective, the *Guidance* should be put into practice. Further, the Working Group recommended that the issue of measurability highlighted by some consultation responses should be kept under review. They noted that more explicit standards for delivery of education and particularly, assessment, may be required. It is important to highlight the collaborative nature of the development of this *Guidance* which could not have been

developed without the input and careful guidance of the osteopathic educational community.

17. The academic community of osteopaths are currently developing their own QAA *Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy* which is due for publication in the summer 2014. When this is published we will explore further with the osteopathic educational institutions how best to implement and evaluate the *Guidance* and the question of whether further guidance about standards for delivery and assessment may be required.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*.
2. To ask the Education and Registration Standards Committee to consider further the recommendations of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group* about implementation.