



Council
23 July 2014

London College of Osteopathic Medicine – Renewal of Recognition

Classification Public

Purpose For decision

Issues The London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM) is seeking renewal of recognition for its Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine (MLCOM) qualification. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) conducted a review which began in November 2013 and ended in a Visit to the LCOM between 14 and 16 March 2014. Their report was considered by the Education and Registration Standards Committee on 25 June 2014 and its recommendation is presented here for agreement.

Recommendation To renew the recognition of the qualification Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded by the LCOM from January 2015 until 31 December 2020 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 7 and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.

Financial and resourcing implications The Recognised Qualification review is undertaken as part of our contract with the QAA.

Equality and diversity implications None

Communications implications We are required to 'maintain and publish a list of the qualifications which are for the time being recognised'¹ in order to ensure sufficient information is available to students, patients and others about Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) awarding 'Recognised Qualifications' that are quality assured by us.

Annexes

- A. LCOM review specification
- B. QAA report from the LCOM review

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¹ See S14(5) Osteopaths Act 1993.

Background

1. The Osteopaths Act 1993 (amended) requires that the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) seeks the advice of the Education and Registration Standards Committee before deciding whether or not to recognise a qualification.
2. This paper considers the request to renew the Recognised Qualification (RQ) status for the current qualification provided by the London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM). LCOM is one of ten educational institutions offering osteopathic courses which are recognised by the GOsC. It currently has the following qualification with RQ status: Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014
3. The QAA was asked to conduct a review of the qualification based on the specification at Annex A. This commenced in November 2013 and concluded with a visit to the school between 14 and 16 March 2014. The review report is at Annex B.
4. An earlier draft version of the QAA report was issued to LCOM for comment, in accordance with the requirements of the section 12(7) of the Osteopaths Act 1993, and their response was received in May 2014.
5. All comments were sent to the QAA and the final version of the report at Annex B incorporates the appropriate changes.
6. The recommendation of the QAA review visitors is 'approval without conditions'.
7. The Education and Registration Standards Committee considered the QAA report at its meeting of 25 June 2014 and agreed to recommend to Council that the recognition of the qualification is renewed from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2020 without specific conditions, but subject to the following general conditions which apply to all recognised qualifications as follows:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM) must submit an Annual Report, within a three month period of the date the request was first made, to the Education Committee of the General Council.
b.	LCOM must inform the Education Committee of the General Council as soon as practicable, of any change or proposed substantial change likely to influence the quality of the course leading to the qualification and its delivery, including but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. substantial changes in finance ii. substantial changes in management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. changes to the title of the qualification iv. changes to the level of the qualification v. changes to franchise agreements vi. changes to validation agreements vii. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery viii. substantial changes in clinical provision ix. changes in teaching personnel x. changes in assessment xi. changes in student entry requirements xii. changes in student numbers (an increase or decline of 20 per cent or more in the number of students admitted to the course relative to the previous academic year should be reported) xiii. changes in patient numbers passing through the student clinic (an increase or decline of 20 per cent in the number of patients passing through the clinic relative to the previous academic year should be reported) xiv. changes in teaching accommodation xv. changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision
c.	<p>LCOM must comply with the General Council's requirements for the assessment of the osteopathic clinical performance of students and its requirements for monitoring the quality and ensuring the standards of this assessment. These are outlined in the publication: ISBN 978 1 84482 734 3 <i>Subject benchmark statement for Osteopathy, 2007</i>, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. The participation of real patients in a real clinical setting must be included in this assessment. Any changes in these requirements will be communicated in writing to the LCOM giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

8. The Committee considered the financial position of LCOM and agreed that that the financial viability should continue to be monitored and kept under review.

Recommendation: to renew the recognition of the qualification Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded by the London College of Osteopathic Medicine from January 2015 until 31 December 2020 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 7 and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.

London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM) – review specification

Background

1. The LCOM currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 31 December 2014: Member of London College of Osteopathic Medicine – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014
2. LCOM wishes to renew this qualification. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review report of December 2009 for the LCOM is attached for information.
3. Copies of recent Education Committee papers relating to the LCOM are also attached to this specification.

QAA Review

4. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a review of the following qualification: Member of London College of Osteopathic Medicine – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014
5. The format of the review will be based on the GOsC/QAA Handbook and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
6. In addition to the usual review format, the Education Committee would also like to explore the following areas:
 - a. Ensuring that the London College of Osteopathic Medicine has formally documented its policies and procedures for strategic planning, risk assessment and the monitoring of operational policies and procedures, and ensure that all staff are provided with clear guidance on the policies and structures which underpin the College's approach to quality assurance.
 - b. Ensuring that intended learning outcomes and curricula are clearly documented and competencies, including those assessed as met on entry to the programme, are fully mapped to all elements of Osteopathic Practice Standards.
 - c. That the LCOM demonstrates how it has incorporated the GOsC Student Fitness to Practise Guidance into its course, including documentation of Student Fitness to Practise procedures and making this understood by LCOM staff.
 - d. Finance and stability of the institution. To ensure that a stable and robust financial strategy is in place to enable the course to continue to be delivered during the course of the next RQ.

7. The provisional timetable for the LCOM RQ review will be as follows:
- February 2013 – Agreement to review specification
 - Spring 2013 – Approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates.
 - November 2013 – Submission of Self-evaluation document
 - January/February 2014 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
 - Spring 2014 – Submission of draft report and statutory 28 days for comment on the report.
 - Spring 2014 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
 - Spring/summer 2014 – Renewal of RQ considered by Education Committee
 - Summer 2014 – Decision to Recognise RQ considered by Council
 - Autumn 2014 – Approval of Council decision to recognise RQ by Privy Council.

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