



Council
23 July 2014
Swansea University – Renewal of Recognition

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	Swansea University is seeking renewal of recognition for its Master of Osteopathy qualification. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) conducted a review which began in mid September 2013 and ended in a visit to the university between 19 and 21 February 2014. Their report was considered by the Education and Registration Standards Committee on 25 June and its recommendation is presented here for agreement.
Recommendation	To renew the recognition of the qualification Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2014 until 14 December 2019 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 8 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 arising from this paper.
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. Swansea University review specification B. QAA report from the Swansea University review
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¹ See S14(5) Osteopaths Act 1993.

Background

1. Section 14 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 (as amended) requires the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) to recognise osteopathy qualifications producing graduates that meet our standards (currently outlined in the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*). This will allow graduates with these qualifications to apply for registration with the GOsC. The Osteopaths Act 1993 also requires the Council to seek the advice of the Education Committee (now 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 Swansea University. Swansea University is one of ten educational institutions offering osteopathic courses which are recognised by the GOsC. It currently has the following qualification with RQ status:

Master of Osteopathy (MOst) – 15 December 2011 to 14 December 2014
3. The QAA was asked to conduct a review of the qualification based on the specification at Annex A. This commenced in mid September 2013 and concluded with a visit to the school between 19 and 21 February 2014. The final review report is at Annex B.
4. An earlier draft version of the QAA report was issued to Swansea for comment, in accordance with the requirements of the section 12(7) of the Osteopaths Act 1993.
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 with conditions'. These were drafted in conjunction with the GOsC Head of Regulation.
7. At its meeting on 25 June 2014, the Education and Registration Standards Committee recommended renewal of the recognised qualification and also approved an action plan developed by Swansea University to address the proposed conditions outlined.
8. The Education and Registration Standards Committee recommends that the recognition is renewed with 'specific' conditions and 'general' conditions which apply to all recognised qualifications as follows:

CONDITIONS	
a.	Swansea University should, by December 2014, develop, implement and evaluate a strategy for the development of osteopathic teaching staff in the

	<p>following domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. teaching and learning ii. assessment iii. scholarship and research
b.	<p>Swansea University 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.</p>
c.	<p>Swansea University 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. substantial changes in finance ii. substantial changes in management 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
d.	<p>Swansea University 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 Swansea University giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

9. As this is an established educational institution with an established course, it is recommended that the qualification is recognised from 15 December 2014 until 14 December 2019, following the expiry of the existing recognition on 14 December 2014.

Recommendation: to renew the recognition of the qualification Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2014 until 14 December 2019 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 8 and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.

Swansea University – Recognised Qualification review specification

Background

Swansea University currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 31 December 2014: Master of Osteopathy – 15 December 2011 to 14 December 2014

1. Swansea University 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 July 2011 is attached for information.
2. Copies of recent Education Committee papers relating to Swansea University are also attached to this specification.

QAA Review

3. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a review of the following qualification: Master of Osteopathy – 15 December 2011 to 14 December 2014
4. The format of the review will be based on the GOsC/QAA Handbook and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
5. In addition to the usual review format, the Education Committee would also like to follow up on the previous conditions which were:
 - a. A staff development strategy must be drawn up and be put in place by 31 July 2012, aimed at meeting the specific needs of associate clinic tutors and integrating them more closely into the academic community. The strategy is to include development of tutors:
 - i. approaches to osteopathic teaching, learning and assessment;
 - ii. development of critical appraisal and research skills; and
 - iii. raised awareness of, and engagement with, quality assurance procedures.Swansea University should report on the implementation of this strategy in its Annual Report to the GOsC for the duration of the recognition period.
 - b. The University must by 31 July 2012 develop and make explicit to staff, students and external examiners the assessment criteria employed in the evaluation of osteopathic skills modules and continuous clinical competency assessment processes.
 - c. The University must by 31 July 2012 develop a strategy and agree with the GOsC a timeline for the implementation of learning opportunities to support interprofessional collaboration and co-operation. Swansea University should report on the implementation of this strategy in its Annual Report to the GOsC for the duration of the recognition period.

6. The Education and Registration Standards Committee would also like the QAA Visitors to explore recent changes in staffing at Swansea University to ensure that staffing of the course remains appropriate.
7. The timetable for the Swansea University RQ review will be as follows:
 - May/June 2013 – Agreement to review specification
 - Winter 2013 – Approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates.
 - By 11 December 2013 – Submission of Self-evaluation document to the QAA
 - 19-21 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).
 - 25 June 2014 – Renewal of RQ considered by Education and Registration Committee
 - 23 July 2014 – Decision to Recognise RQ considered by Council
 - Summer/autumn 2014 – Approval of Council decision to recognise RQ by Privy Council.