



**Renewal of Plymouth Marjon University's Recognised Qualification
Council
9 July 2020**

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	Plymouth Marjon University (Marjon) is seeking renewal of its Recognised Qualification (RQ) for the Master of Osteopathic Medicine programme (full time and part time).
Recommendation(s)	To renew the recognition of the Master of Osteopathic Medicine programme (full and part-time) award by Plymouth Marjon University subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 11, from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026, 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 quality assurance contract. This planned 'recognised qualification' review was included in our 2018-19 financial schedule and budget, with a budget of £20,476.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity issues are looked at as part of the RQ review and reflected in the visitors' report (para 70 of Annex B).
Communications implications	We are required to 'maintain and publish' a list of the qualifications which are recognised in order to ensure sufficient information is available to students, patients and others about osteopathic educational institutions awarding 'Recognised Qualifications'.
Annex(es)	Annex A - Plymouth Marjon University Review Specification Annex B - Plymouth Marjon University RQ Visit Report
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Introduction

1. Section 14(2) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'where the Council is satisfied that (a) a qualification granted by an institution in the United Kingdom is evidence of having a required standard of proficiency, it may, with the approval of the Privy Council, recognise that qualification for the purposes of this Act.'
2. Section 15(4) provides that 'The General Council may, in recognising a qualification under section 14, direct that the qualification is to remain a recognised qualification only so long as such conditions as the General Council sees fit to impose are complied with in relation to the qualification.'
3. Section 14(6) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'Before deciding whether or not to recognise a qualification under this section, the General Council shall consult the Education Committee.'
4. This paper considers the advice of the Education Committee. The GOsC Policy and Education Committee undertakes the functions of the statutory Education Committee and this Committee is referred to as 'the Committee' in the remainder of this paper.
5. This paper describes the Committee's recommendation that Council renew the Recognised Qualification (RQ status) for the current qualifications awarded by Plymouth Marjon University. Plymouth Marjon University is one of the nine educational institutions offering osteopathic courses recognised by the GOsC.

Discussion

6. The Committee agreed the RQ specification for Plymouth Marjon University on 13 March 2019.
7. On 12 June 2019, the Committee appointed a team of three Education Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 to undertake the review in accordance with the review specification. The review specification is attached at Annex A. The visit component of the review took place in January 2020.
8. The visit report was drafted and sent to Plymouth Marjon on 6 March 2020 for a period of no less than one month in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 1993. Marjon responded with a comment on 3 April 2020, and this was considered by the Education Visitors and incorporated into the final report.
9. The Visitors submitted their final report on 22 May 2020, and this is attached at Annex B. The report outlines the visitor's conclusions, including specific conditions, strengths, areas of good practice and areas for development. The recommendation of the Visitors for the programme is approval with conditions.
10. The Committee considered the visitors' report at its meeting on 10 June 2020. Council members will note that in relation to conditions regarding the marketing strategy) and the resource and development plan (these are the fourth and fifth

bullet points in the report on pages 3 and 4), that the visitors, in their report, originally proposed a deadline of August 2020.

11. In relation to the marketing plan condition, it was felt that as clinics were currently closed, that the August deadline be removed – this is something that the Committee wish to monitor on an ongoing basis for the time being, considering the fulfilment of this condition regularly over time. Similarly, with the condition regarding the resource and development plan, the suggested August deadline was also removed to allow the Committee to review the fulfilment of this condition regularly. In other respects, the conditions remain unchanged.
12. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathic Medicine (full-time and part-time) programme, subject to the specific and general conditions outlined from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026. Those conditions are:

CONDITIONS	
a.	Undertake, by June 2020, further systematic embedding of the new Osteopathic Practice Standards (2019) and the revised Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy (2019), and ensure their requirements are fully integrated throughout the programme, and that all staff teaching on the programme understand their requirements
b.	Review, by June 2020, all outward-facing information regarding taught osteopathic techniques to ensure it is accurate and complete and reflects current course delivery (paragraph 27 and 28).
c.	Undertake, by June 2020, a more effective and systematic process for the ongoing review and evaluation of the programme, to include the analysis of data, the recording of meetings, action planning, and regular monitoring of actions; to allow for informed decisions to be made about the future planning, development and to manage risk.
d.	Implement a revised marketing strategy for the recruitment of students and patients and ensure that an appropriate range and diversity of patient presentations are available to meet students' learning needs, consistent with the expectations of the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy and the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education.
e.	Implement a revised five-year clinic resource and development plan to respond to the planned increase in student numbers, and the treatment of patients from specialist populations
f.	Introduce a revised structure for external examining of the programme to ensure that, by September 2020, an additional

	examiner is appointed, so that two examiners are in post for the first graduating student cohort, and that in future at least one examiner is a registered osteopath
g.	Plymouth Marjon 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.
h.	<p>Plymouth Marjon 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
i.	Plymouth Marjon University must comply with the General Council's requirements for the assessment of the osteopathic clinical

<p>performance of students and its requirements for monitoring the quality and ensuring the standards of this assessment. These are outlined in the publication: <i>Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, 2019</i>, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education, 2015</i>, General Osteopathic Council. 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 Plymouth Marjon University giving not less than 9 months' notice.</p>

13. For established osteopathic educational institutions seeking recognition of a course, the general policy is to recognise for five years unless there are any serious concerns. In this case, the Committee have recommended that the Master of Osteopathy qualification (full-time and part-time) awarded by Plymouth Marjon University for a five-year period from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026.

Recommendation: To renew the recognition of the Master of Osteopathic Medicine programme (full and part-time) award by Plymouth Marjon University subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 11, from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2026, and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.