



General  
Osteopathic  
Council

## **Annex D to 12**

### **Consultation**

**Guidance for Applicants and Students  
with a Disability or Health Condition**

**Students with a disability or health  
condition: guidance for Educational  
providers**

Date

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### About the General Osteopathic Council

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the regulator for the osteopathic profession in the UK. Our role is to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy which we do by setting standards of education, training, conduct and competence and keeping a Register of those who have qualified and met those standards. By law, osteopaths must be registered with us in order to practise in the UK; there are currently around 5,400 osteopaths.

Another key aspect of our work is the quality assurance of osteopathic pre-registration education. By pre-registration, we mean education programmes that lead to graduates being eligible to apply to join the register and practise as osteopaths in the UK. It is important that graduates are able to meet the [Osteopathic Practice Standards](#) at the point of graduation. We publish [Graduate Outcomes](#) which set out the outcomes graduates are expected to achieve in order to meet the standards.

### Studying osteopathy with a disability or health condition

Many people with a disability or health condition enjoy successful careers within healthcare with or without adjustments to support their practice. It is important that prospective applicants have the right information to make an informed decision as to whether osteopathic education and training is right for them. Osteopathic students who have or develop a disability or health condition, this guide should highlight issues to be aware of and support measures available throughout their studies. In 2016 we published guidance on this:

- [Guidance for Applicants and Students with a Disability or Health Condition](#)
- [Students with a Disability or Health Condition – Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions](#)

We have now reviewed these guidance documents with initial input from students, educators, and a consultant in equality and diversity issues. We are now looking for feedback on these revised versions.

Taking on board this initial feedback, we have made the following changes:

- We have reviewed the language throughout
- Unless there is a purpose to gender being referenced in case studies, we have made these gender neutral
- We have been more explicit about the disabilities and health conditions applicants and students may suffer from or develop
- Diverse needs are more explicitly referenced.
- We have ensured that the guidance cites the current version of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
- We have developed Easy Read versions of each document to ensure these are widely accessible.

### The consultation

In this consultation, we are inviting views on our draft guidance, about Studying Osteopathy with a Disability or Health condition. Our current guidance for students and educational institutions was published as two documents in 2016 and we have plans for this to remain as two documents:

- Students with a Disability or Health Condition: Guidance for Osteopathic Education Providers
- Guidance for Applicants and Students with a Disability or Health Condition

Although the focus of each document is different – that is, for applicants/students and for educational providers, they are likely to be helpful for all stakeholders and are cross referenced.

### Easy Read versions

Taking on board the feedback from students, we have developed Easy Read versions which we are also inviting views on. Utilising Easy Read will allow us to make the written information easier to understand with short, simple sentences and pictures.

### The Welsh Language

As part of this consultation, and in line with the Welsh Language Standards, we are seeking views on the possible effects that our draft Guidance in relation to students with a disability or health condition may have on opportunities for those in Wales to use the Welsh language. To support this process, we have outlined below the approach we have taken to considering the possible effects of this guidance on opportunities to use Welsh.

In our assessment, we have considered the following aspects:

- The number of students studying osteopathy in Wales, their expectations and experiences of accessing osteopathic education and guidance in Welsh
- Whether using the guidance as it is intended might prevent a Welsh speaker from accessing or using the Welsh language while studying or teaching osteopathy.
- Whether it is relevant or possible for the guidance to explicitly enable a Welsh speaker to access or be able to use the Welsh language while studying or teaching osteopathy.
- The relevant Welsh language services GOsC provides and whether these are made clear within the guidance.

There are currently approximately 160 osteopathic students in Wales, all studying at Swansea University which is the only osteopathic education provider in Wales. As part of our assessment we consulted with faculty at Swansea University. Osteopathy is not currently offered to students in Welsh.

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Once finalised, our guidance will be made available in Welsh on the GOsC website, including links to Welsh publications and services such as the Welsh version of the Osteopathic Practice Standards. Students can choose to apply for their registration in Welsh and this will be linked in the Welsh guidance.

We consider that this guidance will not affect the ability of osteopathy educators in Wales to provide opportunities to use the Welsh language. Also, due to the subject matter of the guidance, we consider that it cannot be changed to have a more positive impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language within the context of students with a health condition or disability, as these are largely within the control of osteopathy educators in Wales.

This guidance does not change our approach to providing information to students in Welsh and does not affect access to GOsC's Welsh Language services.

However, we are inviting feedback on these considerations as part of this consultation – please see questions below.

### How to respond

The deadline for responses to this consultation is XXXXXXXXXX 2024

- You can send us your views by emailing your [responses to the consultation](#) questions to: [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk)
- We also welcome responses or comments on any aspect of the draft documents without having to respond to every question – you can also email these direct to [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk).

Information in responses, including personal information, may need to be published or disclosed under the access to information regimes (mainly the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your name not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The GOsC is a data controller registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. We use personal data to support our work as the regulatory body for osteopaths. We may share data with third parties to meet our statutory aims and objectives, and when using our powers and meeting our responsibilities under the Osteopaths Act and the associated rules made under the Act. We may use personal data to update the Register, administer and maintain the Register, process complaints, compile statistics and keep stakeholders updated with information about our work.

### Consultation questions

1. Your name or your organisation if replying on behalf of an organisation (optional)

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2. Did you find the draft Guidance clear and accessible? Please tick Yes/No according to which version you read.

	Yes	No
Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any suggestions about how the draft guidance might be made clearer and specify which version you read:

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3. Do you find the case scenarios helpful in explaining the issues outlined in the guidance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Please provide any additional comments regarding the case scenarios below and specify the version you read:

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4. Do you think that anything is missing from the draft guidance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes, please let us know below what you think should be added:

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5. Do you think that the guidance could be enhanced in any way?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes, please provide suggestions below:

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6. Do you consider that the approach proposed in this consultation supports our overarching objective of public protection? This includes:
- a. protecting, promoting and maintaining the health, safety and well-being of the public
  - b. promoting and maintaining public confidence in the profession of osteopathy
  - c. promoting and maintaining proper professional standards and conduct for osteopaths

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments below:

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7. Do you feel diverse needs have now been adequately addressed?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Please provide additional comments below:

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8. Is the language clear, consistent and easy to understand?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments below

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9. Are communication and reporting processes between students, institutions and GOsC clear and feasible?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments below

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10. Is it clear what the routes are to seek additional welfare support?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments below

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11. Have reasonable adjustments been clearly explained in the guide?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tick which version/s you read:

Student version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educator version	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy Read	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments below

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12. On pages four to five we explain how we have considered the possible effects of this guidance on opportunities for students or osteopathy educators in Wales to use the Welsh language. Do you agree with our assessment?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please explain your views below:

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13. What, if any, changes could we make to the guidance to improve the opportunities available to students and osteopathy educators to use the Welsh language?

Please provide additional comments below

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As set out above, we are asking some specific questions that we would like responses to, but you are welcome to offer any other comments you wish – any comments or feedback can be sent to [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk).

All feedback will be taken into consideration.

### Diversity questionnaire

We would like to ask some questions about you. Completing the diversity questionnaire is optional but we would welcome information about our respondents. We ask for this information to help us analyse the consultation responses to help ensure we are not inadvertently discriminating against any particular group. We are also required as an organisation to monitor diversity.

It would be very helpful to us if you would provide this information. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Please complete the [diversity questionnaire](#)

**Thank you for your response to this consultation**