



Council
1 May 2014
European School of Osteopathy – Renewal of Recognition

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issues	<p>The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) is seeking renewal of recognition for its Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy qualifications. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) conducted a review which began in mid August 2013 and ended in a Visit to the School between 5th and 7th November 2013.</p> <p>Its report was considered by the Education and Registration Standards Committee who recommend renewal of recognition, subject to conditions.</p>
Recommendation	To agree the recommendation of the Education and Registration Standards Committee to renew the recognition of the qualifications Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy awarded by the European School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2019 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 7.
Financial and resourcing implications	The annual report analysis and the Recognised Qualification review are 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' 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

Annex A – ESO review specification
Annex B – QAA report from the ESO review
Annex C – Comments from the ESO on the original QAA
draft report

Author

Marcus Dye/Monika Obara

Background

1. The Osteopaths Act 1993 requires that the Council seeks the advice of the Education Committee before deciding whether or not to recognise a qualification.
2. This paper considers the request to renew the Recognised Qualification (RQ) status for all of the current qualifications provided by the European School of Osteopathy (ESO). The ESO is one of ten educational institutions offering osteopathic courses which are recognised by the GOsC. It currently has the following qualifications with RQ status:
 - a. BSc (Hons) Osteopathy – 1 January 2012 to 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy (MOf) – 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014.
3. The QAA was asked to conduct a review of both qualifications based on the specification at Annex A. This commenced in mid August 2013 and concluded with a visit to the school between 5th and 7th November 2013. The review report is at Annex B.
4. An earlier draft version of the QAA report was issued to European School of Osteopathy for comment, in accordance with the requirements of the section 12(7) of the Osteopaths Act 1993, and their response is attached at Annex C.
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 for all of the qualifications is 'approval with conditions'. This is qualified by recommendations by the GOsC Head of Regulation in conjunction with the ESO and the QAA visit team and is discussed later on in the paper.

Discussion

Renewal of Recognition

7. The Education and Registration Standards Committee considered the QAA report at its meeting of 27 February 2014 and agreed to recommend to Council that the recognition of the qualification is renewed from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2019 with the following conditions:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. complete the mapping of all module intended learning outcomes to the Osteopathic Practice Standards published by the General Osteopathic Council, by 30 September 2014 (paragraph 12)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. complete the mapping of all grading criteria for individual modules presented in the Examiner Handbook to the Osteopathic Practice Standards published by the General Osteopathic Council, by 30 September 2014 (paragraph 12) iii. collate information relating to module specifications and course profiles, intended learning outcomes, schemes of work, task summaries and assessment criteria into a format that is clear and simple, and ensure that this is communicated effectively to all students by 30 September 2014 (paragraph 13)
b.	The ESO 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.
c.	<p>The ESO 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.	The ESO 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 ESO giving not less

than 9 months notice.

8. For established OEIs seeking recognition of a course, the general policy is to recognise for five years unless there are any serious concerns. It is recommended that the qualifications are approved from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2019, following the expiry of the existing recognition on 31 August 2014.

Recommendation: to agree the recommendation of the Education and Registration Standards Committee to renew the recognition of the qualifications Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy awarded by the European School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2019 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 7.

European School of Osteopathy (ESO) – review specification

Background

1. The ESO currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 August 2014:
 - a. BSc (Hons) Osteopathy – 1 January 2012 to 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy – 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014.
2. The ESO wishes to renew both of these qualifications. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review report of November 2009 for the ESO is attached for information.
3. A copy of recent Education Committee papers relating to the ESO is attached to this specification.

QAA Review

4. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined review of the following qualifications:
 - a. BSc (Hons) Osteopathy – 1 January 2012 to 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy – 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014.
5. The format of the review will be based on the [GOsC/QAA Handbook \(2011\)](#) and the [Osteopathic Practice Standards](#).
6. In addition to the usual review format, the Education Committee would like to also explore the following areas:

a. ESO finances

The effectiveness of the following processes in relation to the ESO's finances:

- i. The cost reduction plan, which has been implemented by reducing rates of pay to academic staff. Although two members of staff left, replacements were secured and the School notes that there has been no adverse effect on student training or patient care.
- ii. The Trustees' policy to build up free reserves, which was reviewed in 2011. The Trustees decided that, given the strength of the balance sheet, there was no need to build up a free reserve and their policy would be to pay down the bank loans and continue high level investment in repairs and maintenance.
- iii. The development of ESO's future plans and their financial impact, which the School asserted would be reviewed regularly by the Trustees. These reviews would inform the annual strategic review and enable the School to meet the challenges developing in UK higher education in the medium term.

b. External examiner reports

To monitor the staff development activities that have taken place since the previous external examiners' reports drew attention to issues including lack of meaningful feedback from internal examiners, inconsistencies between the rationale for the mark and the grade awarded, and discrepancies between first and second markers.

c. General changes in provision

The effectiveness of the following general changes in provision:

- i. The introduction of a PAYE model in line with sector norms.
 - ii. The signing off of the Review Conditions for the Integrated MOf by the University of Greenwich in March 2011.
 - iii. The phasing in of the new curriculum in 2011-12, which will be completed in 2014. The School stated that it was too soon to be able to evaluate the impact of the curriculum review outcomes.
 - iv. The loss of 6 experienced teaching staff in 2010-11. ESO stated that the reduction in the number of replacements was the consequence of a decision to employ fewer staff for more days per week.
 - v. The replacement of the requirement for Biology A level with a science A level, in response to the proposed changes to HE funding.
 - vi. A substantial increase in the size of one teaching room and the improvement of audio visual equipment in three rooms. Plans were underway to introduce a VLE.
 - vii. The holding of three in-house training and development days and the funding of up to seven staff annually to complete a PG Cert HE offered by the University of Greenwich. The School was seeking to introduce the Standardised Data Collection Tool to improve the use of clinical data in research.
 - viii. The successful application for an Erasmus University Charter. Although none of the School's students decided to participate, three students from the College International d'Osteopathie based in St Etienne, France will join ESO for 2011-12. The impact, if any, on the delivery of the Osteopathic Practice Standards on students participating in a student exchange programme with the College International d'Osteopathie (CIDO). Please refer to previous Education Committee paper from September 2012 in relation to this.
 - ix. The reversion of the Year 2, one station, 1.25 hour practical exam to four 20 minute stations. The final Clinical Assessment now contributed to the final award and the learning portfolio will become compulsory in 2011-12 when it will be included in the Personal and Professional Development Modules.
7. The provisional timetable for the ESO RQ review will be as follows:
- Winter 2012 – Agreement to review specification
 - Spring 2013 – Approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates.

Annex A to 12

- Summer 2013 – Submission of Self-evaluation document
- Autumn 2013 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students)
- Winter 2013 – Submission of draft report and statutory 28 days for comment on the report
- Winter 2013 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
- February 2014 – Renewal of RQ considered by Education Committee
- March 2014 – Decision to Recognise RQ considered by Council
- Spring/Summer 2014 – Approval of Council decision to recognise RQ by Privy Council.

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

Comments from the ESO on the QAA report

Marcus Dye
 Professional Standards Manager
 General Osteopathic Council
 176 Tower Bridge Road
 London SE1 3LU

14th January 2014

Dear Marcus,

Thank you for sending the draft QAA report regarding ESO's M.Ost and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy Renewal of Recognition Review which took place on 5th, 6th, 7th November 2013.

Our comments on factual inaccuracies and misrepresentations are as follows:

General points:

1. The BSc (Hons) Osteopathy award is referred to throughout the draft report as an alternative award. However, in all ESO and University of Greenwich documentation it is referred to as the "fall back award".

Specific Points:

	Section of Report	Page	Paragraph	Content
1	B: Findings; Good Practice	3	Bullet point 2	Practitionership is miss-spelt
2	B: Findings; Areas for Development	3	Bullet point 2	The draft report refers to the project to reduce the assessment load for students. To be more accurate, it is the "summative" assessment load that the project is looking to reduce.
3	E: Commentary on the provision	10	33	There are other senior members of faculty who are on Doctorate programmes that have not been included in this paragraph. A senior lecturer is on the EdD programme at Greenwich [SED pg 9] and the M.Ost Research Co-ordinator is studying on a PhD programme at Kent University. [SED pg 14]
4	E: Commentary on the provision	11	38	The draft report states "The basis on which this support is provided is not clear." This was discussed in one of the meetings and it was explained that the early morning practical sessions are supervised practise sessions which are extra-curricular.
5	E: Commentary on the provision	12	48	There is an error in the title "Head of Leaning and Quality" instead of "Head of Learning and Quality"