



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

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issues	<p>The London School of Osteopathy (LSO) is seeking renewal of recognition for its Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) qualifications.</p> <p>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 29 November and 1 December 2013. Their report is reproduced here for consideration by the Education and Registration Standards Committee.</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 Osteopathy (Hons) awarded by the London 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 – LSO review specification
Annex B – QAA report from the LSO review
Annex C – Comments from the LSO on the original QAA
draft report

Author

Marcus Dye

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 London School of Osteopathy (LSO). The LSO 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. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) – 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy – 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2014.
3. The QAA was asked to conduct a review of both qualifications offered by the LSO (Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)), based on the specification at Annex A. This commenced in mid August 2013 and concluded with a visit to the school between 29 November 2013 and 1 December 2013. The final version of the review report is at Annex B.
4. An earlier draft version of the QAA report was issued to LSO 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. The ERSC should note that Recognised Qualification reports would normally contain a section related to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* reporting on how the course addresses these. While we are confident that this work was undertaken by the QAA and therefore the basis for using this report, we have requested a supplement to the report be produced to make this more explicit.
6. The recommendation of the QAA review visitors for both of the qualifications is 'approval without conditions'.

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 without specific conditions, but with the following general conditions which apply to all osteopathic education institutions:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The LSO 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.	<p>The LSO 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> <ol 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
c.	<p>The LSO 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 LSO giving not less than 9 months notice.</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 Osteopathy (Hons) awarded by the London School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2019 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 7.

London School of Osteopathy (LSO) – review specification

3 January 2013

Background

1. The LSO currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 August 2014:
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) – 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy – 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2014.
2. The LSO wishes to renew both of these qualifications. Links to the current Recognised Qualification (RQ) award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review report of December 2009 for the LSO are provided at Annexe A.
3. A copy of all Education Committee and Council papers relating to the LSO since the last RQ review are attached to this specification.

QAA Review

4. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined review of the following qualifications:
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) – 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2014
 - b. Master of Osteopathy – 1 September 2009 – 31 August 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. The specific areas are as follows:
 - a. The accelerated learning pathway for students with prior qualifications and/or experience, including assessment at the point of entry and prior to the award of a qualification.
 - b. Meeting the guidance on students seeing at least 50 new patients for the duration of the course. There has been some discussion with the LSO over the recommendations of the Benchmark Statement for 50 new patients and 1000 clinic hours. As with other institutions, it has been confirmed that the Benchmark is guidance only and if the institution can demonstrate that students still meet the outcomes of *Osteopathic Practice Standards* at the point of graduation having not attained these figures, then this would still be acceptable. The onus would be on the institution to provide evidence that this is the case.

Annex A to 13

- c. Meeting the guidance of a minimum of 1000 clinical hours for each student for the duration of the course. See comments under point b.
 - d. Changes to the delivery pathway of the course from a mixed part-time/full-time pathway to exclusive part time and full time pathways. This includes special focus on the ability to manage the change and the related resource implications.
 - e. Innovative educational delivery methods.
 - f. Two new clinical premises in London and the phasing out of one set of premises.
7. The provisional timetable for the LSO RQ review will be as follows:
- Winter 2012 – Agreement to review specification
 - Spring 2013 – Approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates.
 - 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 LSO, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.

Annex A

- QAA report 2009:
http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/lso_qaa_report_dec2009.pdf
- RQ Approval Order, December 2009:
http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/lso_approval_letter_march20%2011.pdf
(Conditions B and C have been fulfilled. Conditions A, D, E are generic conditions which apply to all recognised courses and are fulfilled on an annual basis.)

Annex A to 13

- Education Committee papers and minutes – December 2009-December 2012 (attached)
- Council papers and minutes – December 2009-December 2012 (attached)

Comments from the LSO on the original QAA draft report

The LSO annotated a number of minor comments on the report (their email response is shown below but not the full response). None of the comments made by the LSO were material to the Committee's consideration of the recommendations.

From: Fiona Hamilton [mailto:hamilton.f@lso.ac.uk]

Sent: 29 December 2013 12:07

To: Marcus Dye

Cc: Simon Ives Q01159

Subject: Re: Draft QAA report for comment

Dear Marcus,

Please find attached our response as requested. The report is thorough and fair. There are some minor inaccuracies, mostly in section D. They are all marked as 'comments' to make it easy to accept or delete them.

We have also taken on board the comment regarding the AV policy, and have had discussions with the ICO. Whilst they are happy for students to keep material for the seven years we outline for the LSO, we have decided that it would be more manageable if they only keep it whilst they are enrolled students. This has two benefits:

- 1) they are governed by our regulations during this time
- 2) we can prompt them to securely dispose of the material on completing of their studies.

The updated AV policy is attached. The Visitors may feel reassured to see it.

Kind regards,
Fiona

Fiona Hamilton
Acting Principal
London School of Osteopathy