



Council
2 May 2017

The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) – Initial Recognition of Qualification (RQ)

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issues	<p>The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) is seeking initial recognition of qualifications for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Master of Osteopathic Medicine (full-time)b. Master of Osteopathic Medicine (part-time)
Recommendation	<p>To recognise the Master of Osteopathic Medicine qualifications awarded by the University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 16 from 1 September 2017 to 31 January 2021 and to seek approval of the Privy Council.</p>
Financial and resourcing implications	<p>This unplanned initial 'recognised qualification' review was funded through allocation from reserves brought forward from the previous year, at a cost of £20,476.</p>
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	<p>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.</p>
Annexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. MARJON review specificationB. Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA / General Osteopathic Council (GOSc) report from the MARJON review (October 2016)
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¹ See section 14(5) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 which provides that 'The General Council shall maintain and publish a list of the qualifications which are for the time being recognised under this section.'

Background

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 from the statutory Education Committee (the Committee) that Council recognises the Master of Osteopathic Medicine qualifications awarded by MARJON. MARJON will be one of nine educational institutions offering osteopathic courses which are recognised by the GOsC.

Discussion

5. The Committee agreed the RQ specification for the MARJON review on 3 March 2016 and this is attached at Annex A. The specification agreed by the Committee recognised that this was a new course and that we were looking at readiness at this stage of development of the course, taking into account that the first students would not be in place until September 2017.
6. On 12 May 2016, 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 visit component of the review took place in October 2016.
7. The Visit report was drafted and sent to MARJON on 28 November 2016 for a period of no less than one month in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 1993. MARJON responded on 19 December 2016.
8. On 3 March 2017, the Committee considered the MARJON response to the report and the final Visitor report. The responses from MARJON to the Visitor report focussed on points of clarification. The final report of the Visitors, taking into account these comments, is attached at Annex B.
9. The Committee considered the final Visitors report and noted the strengths, good practice and areas for development outlined as part of the cover paper. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Visitors, that specific conditions in relation to the provision should be imposed as proposed by the

Visitors. These proposed specific conditions are outlined at paragraph 16a to 16f below.

10. In all cases where specific conditions are recommended, the institution is invited to submit an Action Plan which will enable the Committee, at a future date, to consider whether evidence submitted by MARJON to evidence fulfilment or progress with a condition deals with the expectations of the Committee and the Visitors at the time the condition was set.
11. At their meeting on 3 March 2017, the Committee also considered the MARJON Action Plan, and the Visitor comments based on that Action Plan and also supporting documentation submitted by MARJON. Whilst content with the conditions, the Committee concurred with the comments of the Visitors and asked for an updated Action Plan to include greater granularity, more detail about risk log, control measures and timescales and more detail about how greater privacy in the osteopathic clinic will be assured when this comes on board in 2019.
12. The updated Action Plan and evidence of progress will be considered at the next Committee meeting which will take place in June 2017. It is of note that the development of the MARJON course is also supported by regular discussions between GOsC executive, QAA staff and MARJON leads. In the event that there are matters arising from the progress updates which require the earlier attention of the Committee, the Executive would take immediate steps to bring these to the attention of the Committee for consideration in accordance with our usual procedures.
13. The Committee agreed that the general conditions, applying to all RQs should also be attached to this RQ. These conditions are outlined at paragraph 16g to 16i below.
14. All proposed conditions have been reviewed by the GOsC in-house lawyer who is content to recommend them as appropriately worded.
15. The Committee recommended that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathic Medicine qualifications subject to the following conditions outlined from 1 September 2017 to 31 January 2021.
16. The conditions are as follows:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must revisit and comprehensively map external reference points, including the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)</i> , the <i>Guidance for Osteopathic pre-registration Education (GOPRE)</i> and the <i>Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy</i> , by May 2017, and ensure that their requirements are fully embedded throughout the programme (paragraphs 12 to 15).
b.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must implement a

	phased strategy for ensuring that external clinical placements are available from September 2019, consistent with the requirements of the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy, sufficient to meet projected student numbers and underpinned by service level agreements that articulate clinical arrangements and responsibilities, and the support and mentoring to be provided for placement supervisors and their students (paragraph 33, 50, 58, and 59).
c.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must implement, by September 2017, a fitness to practise policy that reflects current General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) guidance, and ensure that key staff, including external placement supervisors, are trained to participate in relevant stages of the process (paragraph 48).
d.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must implement, by May 2017, a phased five-year clinic infrastructure development strategy that meets the requirements of the <i>Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy</i> and the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)</i> , consistent with initial development requirements and planned growth in student numbers, as part of a comprehensive plan for learning resources and programme expansion (paragraphs 50 to 54).
e.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must implement, by August 2017, a marketing strategy linked to forecast student numbers, to ensure that an appropriate range and diversity of patient presentations are available to meet students' learning needs, consistent with the expectations of the <i>Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy</i> and the <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i> (paragraphs 60 to 62).
f.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) must implement, by March 2017, a comprehensive phased strategy for the recruitment, appointment and training of specialist staff, to provide students with a diversity of exposure to a range of osteopathic perspectives, so that staff are in post three months prior to programme start (paragraphs 64 to 66).
g.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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: <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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<p>The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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: <i>Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, 2015</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 the MARJON giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

Recommendation: to recognise the Master of Osteopathic Medicine qualification awarded by the University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 16 from 1 September 2017 to 31 January 2021 and to seek approval of the Privy Council.