



**Council**  
**16 May 2024**  
**NESCOT – Renewal of Recognition of Qualifications (RQ)**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	Renewal and recognition of the M <sup>O</sup> st and B <sup>O</sup> st (full time) qualifications awarded by NESCOT and initial recognition of the B <sup>O</sup> st (part time) awarded by NESCOT.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To renew recognition of the M<sup>O</sup>st and B<sup>O</sup>st (full time) awarded by NESCOT with no conditions and no expiry date, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.</li><li>2. To recognise the B<sup>O</sup>st (part time) qualification without an expiry date, and with no conditions, subject to the approval of Privy Council.</li></ol>
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The RQ Visit was included in the 2023-24 financial schedule, with a budget of c£15,000.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality and diversity issues are reviewed as part of the visit process.
<b>Communications implications</b>	<p>We are required to maintain and publish a list of the qualifications which are for the time being recognised to ensure sufficient information is available to students and patients about osteopathic educational institutions awarding 'Recognised Qualifications' quality assured by us.</p> <p>The Visitor report will be published on our website in due course.</p>
<b>Annexes</b>	<p>A. Nescot review specification</p> <p>B. RQ Visit report</p>
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## Key Messages

- Council is responsible for recognising qualifications under the Osteopaths Act 1993, on recommendation from the Policy and Education Committee and subject to the approval of the Privy Council.
- At its March 2024 meeting, the Policy and Education Committee agreed to recognise recognition of the BOst part time. There are no conditions attached to this RQ.
- As part of the BOst (part time) visit, the Committee also noted that there was evidence that the previously agreed conditions to the MOst and BOst full time courses had been met. They therefore also agreed to renew recognition of the MOst and BOst (full time and part time) without an expiry date. There are no conditions attached to this RQ.
- Council is asked to make decisions about recognition of these qualifications, following the recommendation of the Policy and Education Committee and subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

## Background

1. Nescot' existing Recognised Qualifications are:
  - Master of Osteopathic Medicine (M.Ost)
  - Bachelor in Osteopathic Medicine (B.Ost Hons)
2. These have an existing recognition period of 1 November 2023 - 31 October 2028 approved by letter of the Privy Council in July 2023.
3. A draft RQ specification for a new part time BOst was initially approved by the Policy and Education Committee at its March 2023 meeting. A separate visit was required to be undertaken for this course by the Committee.
4. The appointment of visitors was approved by the Policy and Education Committee at its June 2023 meeting.

## Discussion

5. The Committee agreed reviewed the RQ Specification for the Nescot visit and appointed a team of three Education Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 to undertake the review in November 2023 and the specification is attached as Annex A.
6. The visit took place in November 2023. The visit report was drafted and sent to Nescot on 13 December 2023 for a period of no less than one month in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 1993. An additional two weeks was added to this to take into account the Christmas Holidays.

7. Nescot responded on 25 January 2024, highlighting two grammatical errors. No issues were highlighted from the report.
8. A copy of the final visitor report, taking into account these corrections, is attached at Annex B.

### **Consideration of the Visit Report**

9. Many strengths and good practice are outlined in the final report at Annex B. The report also outlines evidence that the conditions attached to the MOst and BOst (full time) RQs have been addressed.
10. There are also recommendations. Recommendations may be made by visitors when they consider that there is an opportunity for improvement, but a condition is not necessary. These areas should be monitored by the provider and the recommendations implemented, as appropriate. These areas must be reported on as part of the providers annual report submission to the GOsC but would not be published on the Action Plan. Nescot is asked to provide a progress update about these specific areas as part of their 2023-24 Annual Report submission in December 2024.
11. The existing RQ for the MOst and BOst full time report had the following conditions attached:
  - a. The College must refine their data capture and reporting methods to ensure coherent monitoring and forecasting of patient numbers as well as ensuring the attainment of the required hours in clinic.
  - b. While clinical audit is undertaken on a monthly basis, there does not appear to be a clear strategy to ensure the quality of the breadth of patient interactions that students encounter. The College must improve their recording of patient audit data, and management of student exposure to a full range of musculoskeletal and non-musculoskeletal presentations, to ensure that students see a sufficient depth and breadth of patients.
12. The report for the BOst (part time) RQ attached at Annex B evidences that these conditions have been addressed.
13. The Committee considered all of the above and agreed to recommend that Council recognise the MOst and BOst (full & part time) without an expiry date, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

**Recommendations:**

1. To renew recognition of the MOst and BOst (full time) awarded by NESCOT with no conditions and no expiry date, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.
2. To recognise the BOst (part time) qualification without an expiry date, and with no conditions, subject to the approval of Privy Council.