



**Council**  
**25 November 2021**  
**Renewal of College of Osteopaths Recognition Qualification**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	The College of Osteopaths is seeking renewal of its current Recognised Qualification (RQ) for the Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) and Masters of Osteopathy (M.Ost part-time) award by Staffordshire University and Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) awarded by University of Derby.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To renew the recognition of the Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) and Masters of Osteopathy (M.Ost part-time) awarded by Staffordshire University and Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) awarded by University of Derby, from 1 May 2022 with no expiry date, and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	This planned 'recognised qualification' review was included in our 2021-22 financial schedule, with a budget of £21,871.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality and diversity issues are reviewed as part of the RQ renewal process.
<b>Communications implications</b>	We are required to 'maintain and publish' a list of the qualifications which are recognised in order to ensure sufficient information is available to students, patients and others about osteopathic educational institutions awarding 'Recognised Qualifications'.
<b>Annexes</b>	A. The College of Osteopaths review specification  B. Mott MacDonald/GOsC review for the College of Osteopaths (Final) dated May 2021
<b>Author</b>	Kabir Kareem

### **Key messages from the paper:**

- The RQ Visit to the College of Osteopaths took place in May 2021. A report was produced and sent to the College who offered no observations. This was presented to the Policy and Education Committee in October 2021.
- Due to the short timescales set out in their recommended conditions, the College had provided evidence to demonstrate progress or fulfilment of the conditions recommend by the Visitors.
- The Committee considered the evidence before it and concluded that no conditions should be placed on the RQ.
- The Committee recommend to Council the approval of the RQ with no expiry date.

### **Introduction**

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 of the Education Committee. The GOsC Policy and Education Committee undertakes the functions of the statutory Education Committee and this Committee is referred to as the 'the Committee' in remainder of this paper.
5. This paper describes the Committee recommendation that Council renew the Recognised Qualification (RQ status) for the current qualification awarded by the College of Osteopaths (the College). The College of Osteopaths is one of the nine educational institutions offering osteopathic courses recognised by the GOsC.

## Discussion

6. The Committee agreed the RQ specification for the College on 07 December 2020.
7. On 10 May 2021, 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 review specification is attached at Annex A. The Visit component of the review took place in May 2021.
8. The visit report was drafted and sent to the College on 12 August 2021 for observations allowing a period of not less than one month. The College offered no observations and the final report is attached in Annex B. The report outlines the visitor's conclusions, including specific conditions, strengths areas of good practice and areas for development. The recommendation of the Visitors for the programme is approval with conditions.
9. The Committee considered the visitors report at its meeting on 07 October 2021. The College provided an action plan against the specific conditions which were reviewed by the Visitors who did not make further comments.
10. Due to the short timescales set out in their recommended conditions, the College had provided evidence to demonstrate progress or fulfilment of the conditions recommend by the Visitors. During the meeting, the Committee considered the evidence and took a view about the conditions that need to be imposed on the provider at the point of its recognition by Council.
11. The Committee were provided with the following option to consider when reviewing each condition, taking consideration of the actions taken so far:
  - a. keep the condition as it is (if the Committee is satisfied that the condition remains outstanding);
  - b. amend the condition (if the Committee is satisfied that the Condition has been partially fulfilled and amendment is required to deal with significant concerns still outstanding to provide the Committee with assurance);
  - c. remove the condition from its recommendation to Council and continue ongoing monitoring in the same way as for an issue arising from an annual report (if the Committee is satisfied that the Condition has been fulfilled and / or there are no significant concerns still outstanding);
  - d. remove the condition from its recommendation to Council (if the Committee is satisfied that there are no significant concerns still outstanding and that there is no requirement for ongoing annual monitoring on this issue).
12. The conditions recommended by the visitors are set out in the table below, together with the Committee's decision in each case:

Visitor's recommended condition	Committee decision based on action plan progress demonstrated
<p>Condition A: <i>To ensure that the delivery and management of the CoO programmes are not compromised, and that the delivery of the OPS are not compromised, the actions from the governance and management audit should be monitored and implemented in line with the agreed timeframes. An update should be provided to the PEC in October 2021, followed by monitoring at the March 2022 PEC. Ongoing monitoring of implementation should be through the annual reporting process.</i></p>	<p>The institution have implemented a schedule to implement an action plan which can be monitored through the Annual Reporting and other monitoring processes. Committee agreed to remove the condition from its recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>Condition B: <i>To ensure there is clear direction for the CoO's ambitions in developing osteopathic education, a 2021-2026 strategic plan must be produced for the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year. The plan should be agreed by the BoG and subsequently disseminated to all stakeholders by January 2022. An update should be provided to the PEC in October 2021, followed by monitoring at the March 2022 PEC. Ongoing monitoring of implementation should be through the annual reporting process.</i></p>	<p>This requirement to be included as part of the institution's Annual Reporting process and with continuing monitoring of progression.</p> <p>Committee agreed to remove the condition from its recommendation to Council and continue ongoing monitoring in the same way as for an issue arising from an annual report.</p>
<p>Condition C: <i>Minimum standards of clinical education, such as the inclusion of patient numbers and clinical hours in student logs, relating to the attainment of the OPS should be monitored on a regular basis. An update should be provided to the PEC in October 2021, followed by monitoring at the March 2022 PEC. Ongoing monitoring of implementation should be through the annual reporting process.</i></p>	<p>Updates and evidence provided by the College suggest that the processes have been put into place in relation to the Condition and that implementation and ongoing monitoring remains outstanding. Committee agreed to remove the condition from its recommendation to Council.</p>
<p>Condition D: <i>To ensure that the student voice in the maintenance of academic standards is realised, and that there is</i></p>	<p>Committee agreed that it was content with the actions taken to date and that on balance the condition should not remain</p>

Visitor's recommended condition	Committee decision based on action plan progress demonstrated
<i>ongoing evaluation and monitoring of any risks to the OPS, student feedback should be monitored from SSLMs and the implementation and monitoring of actions arising demonstrated. An update should be provided to the PEC in October 2021, followed by monitoring at the March 2022 PEC. Ongoing monitoring of implementation should be through the annual reporting process.</i>	as student issues would be captured via standard reporting.  Committee agreed to remove the condition from its recommendation to Council.

### *Recognition period*

13. The Committee were reminded of the policy outlined in the Interim Handbook which states that for existing providers, GOsC will usually recognise qualifications without an expiry date in the following circumstances:

- an existing provider without conditions, or
- an existing provider with fulfilled conditions and without any other monitoring requirements, or
- an existing provider who is meeting all QA requirements (providing required information on time) or an existing provider with outstanding conditions, an agreed action plan and which is complying proactively with the action plan and an existing provider engaging with GOsC.

14. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council agree to renew the recognition of the Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) and Masters of Osteopathy (M.Ost part-time) awarded by Staffordshire University and Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) awarded by University of Derby, with no specific conditions and no expiry date. In accordance with our usual processes, the action plan, incorporating the general requirements, will be published alongside the RQ order with no expiry date.

15. In the case of renewal visits of an RQ programme without an expiry date, visits should take place between years 4 and 6 of the visit cycle, considering the context of the course, for example, to align with validation events, changes to curricula or assessment or other key events.

16. It is the duty of the Committee to bring to the attention of Council any information which may indicate that the qualification is no longer or will no longer be evidence that graduates with that recognised qualification meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards under s16(1) of the Osteopaths Act 1993. The

Committee has an extensive range of ongoing monitoring mechanisms to ensure standards. Section 16(1) means that if at any point, the Committee has information that the qualifications do not meet our standards, the Committee must bring this to the attention of Council.

**Recommendation:** To renew the recognition of the Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) and Masters of Osteopathy (M.Ost part-time) awarded by Staffordshire University and Bachelor of Osteopathy (B.Ost part-time) awarded by University of Derby, from 1 May 2022 with no expiry date, and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.