



Education and Registration Standards Committee
12 March 2015
Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	<i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education: next steps.</i>
Recommendation	To note the progress of the implementation of the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education.
Financial and resourcing implications	The <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education</i> consultation was undertaken in-house and so costs primarily comprised staff time and a small amount of travel along with expert advice on equality and diversity matters. The total costs are less than £1000.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity issues have been explicitly explored in the consultation as well as seeking specific advice from groups of osteopaths declaring a disability and from an equality and diversity consultant, Agnes Fletcher, to assess the impact of the proposals. The equality impact assessment was finalised with the assistance of Agnes Fletcher.
Communications implications	None at this stage.
Annexes	Annex A – Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Annex B – Minutes of the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group meeting of 27 November 2014.
Author	Fiona Browne

Background

1. The Corporate plan 2013 to 2016 states that we will ‘... promote public and patient safety through proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity.’ As part of this, we have committed to ‘ensure that initial education and training is of high-quality and fit for purpose in an evolving healthcare and higher education environment.’ One of the ways in which we will contribute to this goal is to ‘produce guidance for osteopathic pre-registration education, developed with a wide variety of stakeholder input, publishing proposals, consulting and implementing changes in partnership with the osteopathic profession, patients and others.’
2. The 2014-15 Business Plan states that we will:
 - Complete a consultation on the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*, analyse the results and consider it in the context of the current landscape (e.g. revised QAA Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, work on values underpinning practice, joint regulatory work on candour), and publish new guidance (FR).
 - Identify any further steps that need to be taken in relation to *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration education*.
 - Develop and undertake an implementation and awareness strategy.
3. In January 2014, the Council agreed to publish the draft *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* for consultation.
4. The consultation on the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* took place from February to May 2014.
5. On 25 June 2014, the Education and Registration Standards Committee considered an emerging analysis of that consultation. In light of the responses to the consultation, the Committee asked the Working Group to invite nominees of the Institute of Osteopathy and the Osteopathic Alliance to join it to consider the responses and to finalise the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*.
6. Although it was hoped that the working group would reconvene in September ahead of the Education and Registration Standards Committee meeting in October; unfortunately, the availability of participants meant that the meeting took place, instead, on 27 November 2014. At this meeting, the Working Group included representation from the Osteopathic Alliance and the Institute of Osteopathy and the group considered the consultation responses and the analysis, in depth, before finalising the *Guidance*.
7. In January 2015, the Chair of the Education and Registration Standards Committee agreed that the *Guidance* should be considered for publication at Council at its meeting on 4 February 2015. He agreed that the *Guidance for*

Osteopathic Pre-registration Education had been through an extensive process, that we had sought a variety of views and had done our best to accommodate the availability of the various interests that we had consulted. He also noted that the response of the working group post meeting – one small amendment – to the latest circulation suggested that should we postpone, the benefits from any further delay might not outweigh the disadvantages.

8. Consequently, the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* was considered by Council at its meeting on 4 February 2015 and Council agreed to the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* for publication and it also agreed to ask the Education and Registration Standards Committee to consider further the recommendations of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group* about implementation and in particular, the recommendation of the working group that noted that more explicit standards for delivery of education and particularly, assessment, may be required.
9. This paper provides an update about the publication of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*, and the next steps.

Discussion

10. The publication of *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* marks an important moment in osteopathic regulation and education. While the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* remain, in law, the standard for entry onto the register (and the exit point of a recognised qualification for UK trained graduates), the *Guidance* enables us to set out for the first time, more explicitly, the outcomes and experience expected to deliver the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
11. The *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* agreed by Council is attached at Annex A. The *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education* is currently being proof read and designed ahead of electronic publication. It is anticipated that the *Guidance* will be circulated to all osteopathic educational institutions and to all students and faculty through the osteopathic educational institutions. We may also consider making newly qualified osteopaths aware of the *Guidance* at the point of registration as it contains useful information about the transition into practice, that it features as part of our student presentations and is highlighted on our website. We will discuss ways of publicising the *Guidance* with the OEIs.
12. The minutes of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group* are attached at Annex B. They agreed that the issue of measurability highlighted by some consultation responses should be kept under review. More explicit standards for delivery of education, and particularly assessment, may be required.

13. We intend to review this issue again, following publication of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy*.

Recommendation: to note the progress of the implementation of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education*.