



Education and Registration Standards Committee

25 June 2014

Quality Assurance Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy – 2014 Review

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) is reviewing its existing Subject Benchmark Statement.
Recommendation	To note the development of a revised Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy.
Financial and resourcing implications	None
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	None
Annex	None
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Background

1. The first Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy was published in 2007. The Benchmark Statement is available at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Osteopathy07.pdf>
2. As part of its rolling review of benchmark statements, the QAA is currently reviewing this benchmark statement.
3. This paper provides an update about the review and the next steps.

Discussion

4. The QAA convened a group of experts from within the osteopathy education sector to undertake an initial review of the existing Benchmark statement.
5. The group consists of the following:
 - a. British College of Osteopathic Medicine – Ian Drysdale
 - b. British Osteopathic Association – Steven Hartshorn
 - c. British School of Osteopathy – Charles Hunt
 - d. College of Osteopaths – Amanda Phillips/Rachel Ives
 - e. European School of Osteopathy – Rebecca Morrison
 - f. General Osteopathic Council – Marcus Dye/Fiona Browne
 - g. Leeds University – Diana Pitt
 - h. London College of Osteopathic Medicine – Judith Neaves
 - i. London School of Osteopathy – Fiona Hamilton
 - j. National Council for Osteopathic Research – Dawn Carnes
 - k. Osteopathic Alliance – Nick Woodhead/Renzo Molinari
 - l. Oxford Brookes University – Stephen Castleton
 - m. QAA Chair of group – David Gale
 - n. QAA – Cathy Kerfoot/Ruth Burchell
 - o. Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine – Marcus Walia
 - p. Swansea University – Bob Davies.

6. The group met initially on 25 February 2014 and discussed which sections of the current Benchmark statement should be reviewed. The sections were divided between the participants to update and the amendments were considered at a further meeting of 22 May 2014.
7. The document will be shared with student and osteopath readers (potentially someone working within the NHS) prior to the group meeting one further time to finalise the benchmark for consultation in summer 2014. The consultation will take place in September 2014.
8. The existing QAA Subject Benchmark Statement was previously endorsed by the GOsC Education Committee and incorporated as a reference point within the current Quality Assurance review. The development of the new benchmark statement will be monitored in terms of its relationship to the GOsC Quality Assurance process both as part of the existing framework and after the Quality Assurance Review, as well as its relationship to the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education (GOPRE).
9. The intention of the GOPRE is for the provision of guidance about the professional expectations of an osteopath. The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement represents a consensus of the academic community about the academic content of an osteopathy degree. It positions osteopathy within the higher education framework. The consultation on the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement has been planned to take place after the GOPRE consultation to ensure that the two documents can complement each other.

Recommendation: to note the development of a revised Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy.