



Education and Registration Standards Committee

18 June 2015

Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The Annual Report of the Education and Registration Standards Committee to Council.
Recommendation	To agree the Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report to Council for 2014-15.
Financial and resourcing implications	None arising from this report.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity issues have been taken account of in policy development and implementation.
Communications implications	None arising from this report.
Annex	Terms of reference of the Education and Registration Standards Committee
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Background

1. This paper sets out a review of the work of the Education and Registration Standards Committee (ERSC) in the financial year 2014-15. The report is due to be considered by Council at its meeting on 16 July 2015.
2. The Terms of Reference of the ERSC are annexed to this paper.

Introduction

3. The Education and Registration Standards Committee (the Committee) performs the role of the statutory Education Committee under the Osteopaths Act 1993. The Committee has a 'general duty of promoting high standards of education and training in osteopathy and keeping provision made for that training under review'. It also has a key role to give advice to the Council about educational matters including the recognition and withdrawal of 'recognised qualifications'. (See Section 11 of the Osteopaths Act 1993). The Committee also has a role to contribute to the development of standards of osteopathic practice and to contribute to ensuring that only those appropriately qualified are able to register with the GOsC.
4. The Education Committee met three times during the period under review – in June 2014, October 2014, and March 2015. This report summarises the work of the Committee. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.

Quality assurance of 'recognised qualifications'

5. During the course of the year, the Education Committee advised Council that the following qualifications should be recognised or renewed based on Visitors' Reports prepared by the QAA:
 - Renewal of the recognition of the qualification Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine awarded by the London College of Osteopathic Medicine from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2019.
 - Renewal of the recognition of the Master of Osteopathy qualification awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2014 until 14 December 2019.
 - Extension of the recognition of the qualifications of Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy awarded by Oxford Brookes University from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2017.
6. During the course of the year, as part of our active approach to advising the Council about the recognition of qualifications and ensuring standards, the Committee considered in relation to all OEIs the following:

Activity	June 2014	October 2014	March 2015
Agreement to RQ specifications	None	None	None
Consideration of reports and evidence submitted in relation to general and specific conditions	Two OEIs	Four OEIs	Four OEIs
Consideration of annual report analysis (including external examiner reports and internal annual monitoring reports and information about student fitness to practise.)	Five OEIs	One OEIs	Ten OEIs

7. As well as considering individual Annual Reports, at its March 2015 meeting, the ERSC considered an overview report considering the themes that had been identified across the sector.
8. Two institutions have ceased to recruit to their osteopathic courses. The last graduates at Oxford Brookes are expected to graduate in 2016. The last graduates at Leeds Metropolitan University are expected to graduate in 2017. The Committee is monitoring the continuing maintenance of standards in these institutions through regular reports and updates on the closure plans. A new course closure reporting process was agreed by the Committee in October 2014.
9. At its October 2014 and March 2015 meetings, the Committee was updated on the RQ review method evaluation, Visitor performance review and Visitor training activities undertaken in conjunction with the QAA. *Major Quality Assurance Review*
10. The Committee continued to make progress with its major review of quality assurance. A phased approach to consultation was developed to seek initial views on the proposed objectives and underpinning principles of a new QA system and then on operational processes. The work will be continued in 2015-16 in conjunction with our quality assurance provider.

Quality Assurance tender

11. A major tender exercise was undertaken for the provision of quality assurance services. The tender was awarded to the Quality Assurance Agency for a further period of three years.

QAA Subject Benchmark Review

12. The Committee gave its views on the revised Osteopathy Benchmark Statement produced by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration Education

13. The Committee received the report on the consultation on Guidance for osteopathic pre-registration education and recommended to Council that the new guidance should be published. The Committee also considered the next steps in the implementation of the Guidance.

Professionalism

14. The Committee was kept up to date with work in relation to professionalism. This included:
- a. Pre-registration/undergraduate professionalism tools which explore views about lapses of professional behaviour in students and enable students to calibrate their own views about lapses with those of their cohort, osteopathic and medical students in general, patients and faculty.
 - b. E-learning tools with automated feedback for the osteopaths – these tools explore a range of short and longer scenarios focussed around communication and consent as well as other areas of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.

Values and standards

15. Work commenced during 2014-15 looking at professional values in osteopathy. Working with Professor Bill Fulford and Professor Stephen Tyreman, a seminar was held exploring professional values.
16. The ERSC also considered the work on values and other aspects of our standards to inform initial thinking on the scope of the anticipated review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* to take place over the next two years.

Registration Assessments

17. The Committee considered the commencement of a major review of international registration assessments, which in part arises from the amendment of the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications' Directive. The review will include:
- a. Registration processes and assessments for EU/EEA rights applicants: alignment with revised Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPQ) Directive and its transposition into law.
 - b. Clinical responsibility at practical assessments (Assessment of Clinical Performance aptitude tests).

- c. Transition of international applicants into practice.
- d. Registration Assessor appraisal and training.

New registrants' survey

18. The Committee considered the findings of a survey of new registrants that took place in 2014. The survey found that new registrants were largely satisfied with the information and service they received but identified a number of areas of the process that could be improved further.

Fitness to practise case trends

19. In October 2014, the Committee noted a paper containing detailed information about fitness to practise case trends in 2013-14 to inform policy development for pre-registration education.

Engagement

20. During 2014-15, the Chair of the Education and Registration Standards Committee chaired four meetings with the OEIs and met regularly with the Chair and acting Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions. These meetings enabled the Education and Registration Standards Committee programme of work to be informed by OEIs and provided good opportunities keep the OEIs informed about external developments and to work in partnership to continually enhance the quality of osteopathic education for the benefit of patients and students.

21. A wide range of topics were discussed at the GOsC/OEI meetings including:

- Patient and public involvement in education
- International Journal for Osteopathic Medicine
- Quality assurance
- Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration Education
- Professionalism
- Values
- Effectiveness of regulation
- Health Education England
- Induction programme for internationally qualified new registrants
- Student transfers between osteopathic educational institutions
- Continuing fitness to practise
- Boundaries and safeguarding
- Common classification of complaints
- Clinical assessment

Membership

22. During the period April 2014 to March 2015 the Education Committee membership comprised:

Name	Member details	Dates of membership	Meetings attended
Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas (Chair)	Council lay member	All year	3/3
John Chaffey	Council registrant member	From July 2014	2/2
Dr Jorge Esteves	Council registrant member	All year	3/3
Dr Jane Fox	External lay member	All year	3/3
Professor Bernadette Griffin	External lay member	All year	3/3
Joan Martin	Council lay member	All year	2/3
Mr Robert McCoy	External registrant member	All year	3/3
Mr Brian McKenna	Council registrant member	Until July 2014	1/1
Mr Liam Stapleton	External lay member	All year	1/3
Ms Alison White	Council lay member	All year	3/3

Cost of Education and Registration Standards Committee-related work

23. It is estimated the costs of running the Education and Registration Standards Committee and its related activities, excluding staff time, is approximately £91k. This is calculated as follows:

Activity	Cost £
Committee member: fees and expenses	4,580
Working groups (OEI)	512
Quality assurance	62,340
Student fitness to practise	4,213
Registration Assessments	19,152
Total	90,797

Recommendation: to agree the Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report to Council for 2014-15.

Education and Registration Standards Committee (ERSC)

Terms of reference

The role of the Education and Registration Standards Committee is to contribute to the development of standards of osteopathic practice and to contribute to ensuring that only those appropriately qualified are able to register with the GOSC. To do this it will:

- a. Advise Council on all matters relating to pre-registration education and training of osteopaths, including the standards of osteopathic practice required for registration.
- b. Advise Council on the recognition of qualifications in accordance with section 14(6) of the Act.
- c. Appoint and manage the performance of visitors to conduct the evaluation of courses under section 12 of the Act.
- d. Advise Council on the standards required for initial registration and appropriate means for assessing those standards.
- e. Advise Council on matters relating to the withdrawal of recognition of a qualification in accordance with sections 16(1) and 18(5) of the Act.
- f. Exercise powers to require information from osteopathic educational institutions in connection with its statutory functions in accordance with section 18 of the Act.
- g. Monitor reports from fitness to practise panels and information from other relevant sources in developing policy on undergraduate education.
- h. Ensure that the views of the fitness to practise committees are incorporated into the work of the Committee where appropriate.
- i. Advise Council on any research needs to support the work of the Committee.
- j. Make an annual report for Council on the work of the Committee.