



**General  
Osteopathic  
Council**

## **Consultation**

### **Students with a Disability or Health Impairment: Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions**

**Xx March to xx June 2016**

### About the General Osteopathic Council

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the regulator for the osteopathic profession in the UK. Our role is to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy which we do by setting standards of education, training, conduct and competence and keeping a register of those who have qualified and met those standards.

### Student health and disability guidance

We currently issue guidance on student health and disability for students, prospective students and osteopathic educational institutions in the following documents:

- a. *Guidance for Applicants and Students with a Disability or Health Impairment*
- b. *Students with a Disability or Health Impairment: Guidance for osteopathic educational institutions.*

The aim of the guidance is to assist applicants, students and osteopathic educational institutions with issues relating to disabilities and health impairments in students and prospective students. This will help students, and those considering becoming students of osteopathy, understand the type of support available and adjustments that might be made to help them throughout their studies. For osteopathic educational institutions, their obligations under equality legislation are clarified, and guidance given on the provision of support for students with a range of disabilities and health impairments. Provision is made for the entire student journey, from application to graduation.

### Reviewing the health and disability guidance

The current student health and disability guidance was written when the *Equality Act 2010* was introduced, and its provisions were therefore new. A review process has been implemented to update the guidance generally, and in the light of developments within education.

### Proposed changes in the draft guidance

There has been a growing awareness of mental health issues among students in recent years as evidenced by the General Medical Council's *Supporting medical students with mental health conditions* (2013)<sup>1</sup>, and University UK's Good Practice Guide: *Student mental wellbeing in higher education* (2015)<sup>2</sup>. The emphasis in these documents is on supporting students with mental health conditions, and acknowledging that such issues are common, and not necessarily a bar to successful completion of a healthcare programme of study.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/23289.asp>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/StudentMentalWellbeingGuide.aspx#.Vp4lm\\_mLQy4](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/StudentMentalWellbeingGuide.aspx#.Vp4lm_mLQy4)

In the revised GOsC guidance under consultation, we have:

- made greater reference to mental health issues, and how osteopathic students might be supported in this respect.
- retained two separate documents, one aimed at students and prospective students, and one aimed at osteopathic educational institutions.
- added some case examples to help contextualise the guidance, providing more examples about the types of reasonable adjustments that can be made in the context of osteopathic education.
- added a section on 'Fitness to Study' processes.
- increased the section on types of discrimination in both documents to provide a greater explanation of these.
- made reference to the updated Quality Assurance Agency's *Benchmark statement for osteopathy*<sup>3</sup> and GOsC's *Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (GOPRE)*<sup>4</sup>.

We are now seeking wider views on this revised draft guidance for osteopathic educational institutions on students with a disability or health impairment.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Osteopathy-15.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/guidance-for-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/>

### How to respond

You can send us your views by responding to our online consultation at:

[Insert link]

by emailing us at: [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk) or by post to:

Student Health and Disability consultation  
General Osteopathic Council  
Osteopathy House  
176 Tower Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 3LU

Copies of the draft guidance for osteopathic educational institutions (OEIs) on students with a disability or health impairment, and this consultation response form, are also available on request in other formats by contacting the GOsC via email at: [standards@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:standards@osteopathy.org.uk) or 020 7357 6655 x??.

We are asking some specific questions that we would like responses to, but you are welcome to offer any comments you wish. All feedback will be taken into consideration.

We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your response not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **xx June 2016**.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Thank you.

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**Consultation Questions:**

1. Name of individual or organisation (optional)

2. Are you happy for the GOsC to publish your response to this consultation?

Happy for the GOsC to publish my response

I would prefer my response to be published in a non-attributable form

3. Do you think the draft guidance is clear?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

4. a) Are the case examples within the guidance helpful?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

4.b) Could the case examples be expanded?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

4.c) Are there any other scenarios that would be useful in this context?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your suggestions for improvement.

5. Is it helpful to have the expanded sections in the guidance on different types of discrimination?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

6. Is the expanded reference to mental health issues sufficient?

Yes

No

If no, how could this be enhanced?

7. From the perspective of osteopathic educational institutions (OEIs), are there any aspects which may need greater emphasis in helping OEIs fulfil their obligations and promote good practice in this area?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

8. Do you think that any aspect of this draft guidance may adversely impact on anyone because of their gender, race, disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any other aspect of equality?

Yes

No

If yes, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

9. Please provide us with any other comments you may have.

**Thank you for your response to this consultation.**

We would also like to ask some questions about you. Completing the diversity questionnaire [\[insert link\]](#) is optional, but we would welcome information about our respondents.

The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of analysing the consultation responses.