



General
Osteopathic
Council

SIOM monitoring review specification

Agreed at 4 August 2015

Background

1. The Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine (SIOM) at the North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT) currently provides the following recognised qualifications (RQs) which are due to expire on 31 October 2018:
 - a. Bachelor of Osteopathic Medicine
 - b. Master of Osteopathic Medicine
 - c. BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine
2. SIOM is making some significant changes to its RQ Master of Osteopathic Medicine (M.Ost) provision by introducing a certification of prior learning (CPL) pathway. The CPL process would be applied by SIOM on a case by case basis for any applicant to its RQ M.Ost. However, SIOM has mapped a CPL pathway for the 'typical' diplomats from the International College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM), Italy. SIOM anticipates that ICOM diplomates will comprise the majority of CPL applicants.
3. SIOM seeks to commence the CPL pathway in May 2016.
4. Copies of the recent GOsC Education and Registration Standards Committee (ERSC) papers relating to this change at SIOM are attached to this specification.

QAA Review

5. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a monitoring review of SIOM's proposed CPL changes to its RQ M.Ost. The format of the review will follow the description of 'unscheduled monitoring reviews' provided in the QAA/GOsC *Review of osteopathic courses and course providers* handbooks (2011)¹. The reason for the review, as expressed in the handbooks, is 'because of some important development in the course or provider'.
6. The primary objective of this monitoring review is to:

¹ The QAA/GOsC *Review of osteopathic courses and course providers* handbooks (a) for providers and b) for visitors) are available here: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/GOsC-handbook-providers.pdf> and <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/GOsC-Handbook-visitors.pdf>

- Provide assurance that SIOM's proposed CPL changes are designed to ensure that the RQ M.Ost will maintain the delivery of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* (OPS), patient safety and public protection at SIOM for all students (that is, students taking the new CPL pathway and students taking the standard entry pathway) and patients.
7. The primary reference point is the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. The QAA's *UK Quality Code for Education*, including the *Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy*, provides academic benchmark information.
8. The areas of focus for the monitoring review to meet the objective above are:
- **Certification of prior learning process**
It will be important for SIOM to demonstrate that the CPL process is designed to ensure that students graduating from this pathway will have demonstrated all areas of the OPS. This requires effective mapping of the prior learning evidence to the SIOM curriculum and assessment strategy, and in turn to the OPS.
 - **CPL students – support for entry and integration**
It will be important for SIOM to demonstrate the adequacy of its plans to deliver targeted support for international students undertaking the CPL pathway, especially in terms of language and cultural differences in osteopathic education and practice compared with the UK. This includes areas identified by SIOM and ERSC such as: capability for critical and reflective thinking; command of English and wider ability to communicate effectively and to understand how the UK healthcare sector works.
 - **'Standard entry pathway' students**
SIOM should demonstrate whether changes proposed to be made to the current provision to facilitate the CPL pathway – such as mixed cohort teaching or resource reallocation – pose any risks to current students on the standard entry pathway in terms of their ability to meet the OPS. Mitigating actions should be shown to be adequate and in sufficient detail.
 - **Staffing – capacity and expertise**
SIOM should show that there is sufficient staffing planned – in all aspects of its teaching provision - to support increased numbers of students across all of the OPS. In particular, SIOM should demonstrate its capacity to provide effective research/dissertation supervision for the planned additional numbers of students.
 - **Patients – numbers and diversity**
It will be important for SIOM to demonstrate that sufficient patient numbers, and diversity of patients, will be achieved to meet the planned increase in student numbers. It is expected that this would require an increase from current patient numbers. This is especially important given SIOM's ongoing RQ condition:

'To implement a marketing plan which is linked to forecast student numbers, underpinned by strengthened commitments to ensure that students are gaining the requisite breadth and depth of experience to deliver the OPS and address ways of building relationships with existing patients.' SIOM is expected to report on this ongoing condition on an annual basis, which should include a yearly figure for patient numbers to illustrate implementation.

- **Quality assurance**

It will be important for SIOM to demonstrate a robust approach to ongoing quality assurance, including its plans to monitor and evaluate the changes to its provision and make changes where required.

- **Additional**

If in the course of their analysis the Visitors identify any further key areas of risk which relate to the objective of the monitoring review – that is, to provide assurance of the continued delivery of the OPS, patient safety and public protection for all students and patients (see paragraph 6) - then these should also be addressed in the review report.

9. The monitoring review is proposed to take place in advance of the introduction of the changes to the RQ M.Ost; it is therefore concerned with SIOM's planning in these areas. It is not envisaged that teaching observation would form part of this monitoring review.
10. The reduced scale of the review should be reflected in the appointment of a smaller review team. If possible, a Visitor from the previous RQ review of SIOM will be appointed.
11. The self-evaluation document (SED) would be shorter than a typical RQ SED. It should be targeted to address the areas of focus for the monitoring review stated above.
12. The possible outcomes of the monitoring review are expressed in the QAA/GOsC *Review of osteopathic courses and course providers* handbooks (2011) but should relate specifically to the areas of focus of the monitoring review. The Visitors' report should also be structured to reflect the areas of focus of the monitoring review. Please note that if Visitors find that conditions are required then these will be expressed as 'monitoring conditions'. If Visitors have significant concerns about the RQ then mechanisms for removal of the RQ are available.
13. The provisional timetable for the SIOM RQ monitoring review will be as follows:
 - Summer 2015 – Agreement of review specification.
 - September 2015 – Approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable.

Annex A to 11

- October 2015 – Submission of self-evaluation document (SED). Note that the SED would be expected to be targeted to the areas of focus for this monitoring review and would be shorter than a typical RQ SED.
 - November 2015 – Monitoring review period including Visit (with opportunities for discussions with staff and students). It is not envisaged that teaching observation would form part of this monitoring review.
 - December 2015 – Submission of draft report and statutory 28 days for comment on the report.
 - January/February 2016 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet review recommendations (if any).
 - March 2016 – Outcomes of monitoring review considered by Education and Registration Standards Committee (ERSC).
14. This timetable will be the subject of negotiation between SIOM, the GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.
15. If the review culminated in a change to RQ status then further stages would be required, involving the GOsC's ERSC and Council and the Privy Council.