



**Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)**

**12 June 2018**

**Swansea University – Recognised Qualification review specification and appointment of Visitors**

<b>Classification</b>	Private
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	<p>Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualification review at the Swansea University at the end of the year 2018 or beginning of 2019.</p> <p>The appointment of the Visitors for the Swansea University Recognised Qualification Review.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To agree the review specification for the Swansea University of RQ review.</li><li>2. To agree to appoint Jill Lyttle, Lucy MacKay Tumber and Simeon London as Visitors for the Master of Osteopathy offered by Swansea University.</li></ol>
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2018-19 financial year.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	The review specification will be shared with the QAA and the University and will be publicly available.
<b>Annex</b>	Draft Swansea University review specification
<b>Author</b>	Angela Albornoz

## Background

1. The Swansea University currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 14 December 2019: Master of Osteopathy – 4 years full time
2. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in Summer 2018. Before the review is scheduled, we also need to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors, drawn from the pool recruited and trained by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the GOsC and agree suitable dates with Swansea, taking account of the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.
3. This paper asks the Committee to agree the review specification and to appoint the Education Visitor team.

## Discussion

### *Review Specification*

4. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on a review specification. A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.
5. There was one RQ condition for the course, which has been fulfilled.
6. However, the Committee at its meeting on 15 March agreed that the following matters raised by the QAA analysis should be explored as part of the RQ review:
  - The implementation of the new assessment arrangements – detailed scrutiny of the underpinning evidence.
  - The clarity and consistency of the presentation of the data provided in relation to student numbers and progression compared to previous years and implications in terms of progression and standards – this is important to understand progression and standards.
  - The way in which the external examiners are appointed (external examiners follow through an individual cohort rather than considering the whole course as a whole) to explore any implications which may arise from this model. This is a wider university approach and would best be explored, in terms of implications for standards, if any, as part of the RQ review.
  - The process of completion and monitoring of the annual monitoring report and equivalent to provide assurance that the feedback mechanisms and actions identified are being followed through to maintain standards. Whilst there are only limited actions which do not have an update, this is an important issue as ensures that actions are monitored and progressed shows that issues are managed and monitored at an early stage rather than being managed at crisis point.

*Next steps*

7. This review specification may be subject to change due to changing circumstances prior to the review. Any changes to the specification will be notified to the Committee.

*Appointment of Visitors*

8. Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'The Education Committee may appoint Visitors to ... report to the Education Committee on the nature and quality of instruction and such other matters as he was required to report on by the Committee.'
9. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of the Swansea qualification as outlined in the RQ Review Specification at the Annex.
10. The visit is scheduled to take place during December 2018/January 2019 at Swansea. The proposed Visit Team is:
  - Jill Lyttle, Lay Visitor and independent
  - Lucy MacKay Tumber, Osteopath
  - Simeon London, Osteopath.
11. The Visit Team comprises a mixture of existing and new Education Visitors in GOsC/QAA reviews. These recommended Visitors are members of the QAA / GOsC Visitors pool (comprising lay people and osteopaths) administered by the QAA who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all Visitors on our behalf. All new Visitors were appointed through a rigorous process and have participated in training within the last 18 months.
12. We have checked that the osteopaths are currently registered. We have also checked the Visit Team with Swansea which has confirmed that they are not aware of any conflicts. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflicts in undertaking the review of Swansea. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these Visitors.

**Recommendations:**

1. To agree the review specification for the Swansea University of RQ review.
2. To agree to appoint Jill Lyttle, Lucy MacKay Tumber and Simeon London as Visitors for the Master of Osteopathy offered by Swansea University.

### Draft Review Specification for Swansea – Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualification Review

Draft as at 24 May 2018

#### Background

1. Swansea University currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 14 December 2019: Master of Osteopathy – 4 years full time.
2. Swansea wishes to renew this qualification. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Report is attached for information.

#### QAA Review

3. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined renewal of recognition review of the following qualification: Master of Osteopathy – 4 years full time.
4. The format of the review will be based on the GOsC/QAA Handbook (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/how-we-review-higher-education/general-osteopathic-council-review> and the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/standards/>). Associated guidance will also include the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* (2015) (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/becoming-an-osteopath/guidance-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/>)
5. In addition to the usual review format, the GOsC would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:
  - a. The implementation of the new assessment arrangements - detailed scrutiny of the underpinning evidence.
  - b. The clarity and consistency of the presentation of the data provided in relation to student numbers and progression compared to previous years and implications in terms of progression and standards – this is important to understand progression and standards.
  - c. The way in which the external examiners are appointed (external examiners follow through an individual cohort rather than considering the whole course as a whole) to explore any implications which may arise from this model. This is a wider university approach and would best be explored, in terms of implications for standards.
  - d. The process of completion and monitoring of the annual monitoring report and equivalent to provide assurance that the feedback mechanisms and actions identified are being followed through to maintain standards. Whilst there are only limited actions which do not have an update, this is an important issue as ensures that actions are monitored and progressed shows

that issues are managed and monitored at an early stage rather than being managed at crisis point.

6. The provisional timetable for the Swansea University RQ review will be as follows:
  - June 2018 – Committee agreement of review specification and statutory appointment of Visitors.
  - October/November 2018 – Submission of self-evaluation document
  - Visit in December 2018/January 2019 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
  - February/March 2019 – Draft Report sent to Swansea for comments– statutory period.
  - March 2019 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
  - June 2019 – Recommendation from the Committee to Council to recognise the qualification.
  - July 2019 – Recognition of Qualification by the General Osteopathic Council.
  - Before December 2019 – Approval by the Privy Council.

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with Swansea, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.