



Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)

12 June 2018

London College of Osteopathic Medicine – Recognised Qualification review specification and appointment of Visitors

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	<p>Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualifications review at the London College of Osteopathic Medicine on 30 November, 1 December and 3 December.</p> <p>An update on the appointment of the Visitors for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine Recognised Qualification Review.</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the updated review specification for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine renewal of RQ review.2. To note the update on the appointment of the Visitors.
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the review have been included in the budget for the 2018-19 financial year.
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	The review specification has been shared with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the London College of Osteopathic Medicine and will be publicly available.
Annex	Draft London College of Osteopathic Medicine review specification
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Background

1. The London College of Osteopathic Medicine currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 31 December 2019: Member of LCOM.
2. The College does not hold academic validation.
3. An accelerated review was agreed by the Committee in March 2018. We must schedule the review, approve Visitors from 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 the LCOM, taking account of the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.
4. This paper asks the Committee to agree the updated review specification and to note the update in the appointment of the Education Visitor team.

Discussion

Review Specification

5. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on a review specification. A draft of the review specification is attached at the Annex. This has been updated from that previously seen by the Committee to incorporate the updated visit timetable.
6. We have made progress with scheduling the LCOM review and the dates of the visit have been agreed as 30 November, 1 December and 3 December 2018.

Appointment of Visitors

7. 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.'
8. Some members of the visiting team have been agreed, but we are currently in the process of identifying the remaining members for appointment by the Committee. The team will comprise at least one Visitor who is a member of the current pool.
9. We anticipate that the team will be finalised in July and at this point, we will ask the Committee to appoint the Visitors for this review electronically.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the updated review specification for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine renewal of RQ review.
2. To note the update on the appointment of the Visitors.

Draft Review Specification for the London College for Osteopathic Medicine – Accelerated renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualification Review

Draft as at 5 June 2018

Background

1. The London College of Osteopathic Medicine (LCOM) currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 31 December 2019:

Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine

2. The LCOM 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.
3. This specification is for an accelerated RQ renewal and the relevant matters are outlined below.
4. Copies of Committee papers relating to the LCOM are attached to this specification for information.¹

QAA Review

5. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined renewal of recognition review of the following qualification:

Member of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine

6. The aim of the GOsC Quality Assurance process is to:
 - Put patient safety and public protection at the heart of all activities
 - Ensure that graduates meet the standards outlined in the *Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)*
 - Make sure graduates meet the outcomes of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (2015)* and the *Quality Assurance Subject benchmark statement: Osteopathy (2015)*
 - Identify good practice and innovation to improve the student and patient experience
 - Identify concerns at an early stage and help to resolve them effectively without compromising patient safety or having a detrimental effect on student education
 - Identify areas for development or any specific conditions to be imposed upon the course providers to ensure standards continue to be met
 - Promote equality and diversity in osteopathic education.

¹ Enclose all relevant LCOM papers since date of last RQ Report.

7. 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/>) and also the Student fitness to practise Guidance available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/guidance-professional-behaviours-and-ftp-students/> and <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/sfpguidanceforoei/>. As the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards (2018) will be published in summer 2018 and will be in force from October 2019, the review will also incorporate a plan to implement these standards with effect from October 2019.
8. In addition to the usual review format, the GOsC would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:

Governance and risk management

9. LCOM has not been able to demonstrate a clear process for identifying, managing and monitoring issues related to standards and finance. The GOsC is concerned to ensure that appropriate internal governance arrangements are in place to provide assurance that standards are being delivered and that finance is being appropriately monitored systematically. Such scrutiny will also explore processes of review of the risk register and associated documentation and also staff communication and training.

Student fitness to practise procedures and processes and the Osteopathic Practice Standards

10. The GOsC is concerned to ensure that admissions procedures are robust and in accordance with the student fitness to practise guidelines. The GOsC requires evidence that the processes used to ensure that students are suitable to enter the course and are capable of practising to the competence, conduct and ethical standards set out in the Osteopathic Practice Standards by the end of the course in terms of both competence and conduct.
11. The GOsC is concerned to ensure that there are processes for dealing with the fitness to practise of students throughout the course and that staff and students are clear about how to raise concerns.
12. The GOsC is concerned to ensure that only students meeting the Osteopathic Practice Standards are awarded a 'Recognised Qualification'.

Finance

13. The accounts remain in deficit. The GOsC is concerned to ensure that the course will be viable during the next RQ period and that there are mechanisms in place to monitor viability effectively.

Patient Feedback

14. The GOsC would like further detail about how patient feedback is gathered and analysed and fed into the quality management process with clear outcomes and actions.

Arrangements for external examining / assessment of the course to ensure that these are fit for purpose.

15. The GOsC are concerned to ensure that the external examining/assessment mechanisms in place ensure comparability of standards throughout the course. The GOsC notes that there is no mechanism for external examining of the whole programme which means there is a potential risk of a lack of opportunity for scrutiny of areas such as the comparability of standards. There is also a potential risk that the current arrangements may limit the opportunity for further external scrutiny of the programme which could provide additional developmental benefits as well as assurance in relation to academic and *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.

Revised arrangements for clinical practice (i.e. students working together)

16. LCOM has made revised arrangements in relation to clinical practice for students. LCOM has prepared a risk log and mitigating actions. The GOsC is interested to ensure that the revised arrangements are being appropriately implemented and monitored.

Impact of changes made to the course, for example distance learning undertaken prior to the course commencement

17. LCOM has made changes to the course, for example the distance learning provision undertaken prior to the course start. The GOsC is interested to ensure that the revised arrangements are being appropriately implemented and monitored.

Review Specification and Provisional timetable

18. 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 GOsC.
19. The provisional timetable for the London College of Osteopathic Medicine RQ review will be as follows:

Annex to 11

- March 2018 – Committee agreement of review specification.
- July 2018 – Committee approval of Visitors (to be undertaken electronically) and scheduling review timetable and visit dates
- September 2018 – Submission of self-evaluation document
- Visit in November 2018 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
- January 2018 – Draft Report sent to LCOM for comments– statutory period.
- February 2019 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
- March 2019 – Recommendation from the Committee to Council to recognise the qualification.
- May 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 the LCOM, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.