



Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)

12 June 2019

Swansea University Renewal of Recognised Qualification (RQ) (reserved)

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The Swansea University is seeking renewal of its current Recognised Qualification (RQ) for the Master of Osteopathy programme
Recommendation	To agree to recommend that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy awarded by Swansea University from 15 December 2019 until 30 November 2024 subject to the general conditions outlined in paragraph 16.
Financial and resourcing implications	This planned 'recognised qualification' review was included in our 2018-19 financial schedule, with a budget of £21,871 and this was included in our 2018-19 budget.
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	<p>We are required to 'maintain and publish' a list of the qualifications which are for the time being recognised in order to ensure sufficient information is available to students and patients about osteopathic educational institutions awarding 'Recognised Qualifications' quality assured by us.</p> <p>The decision to recognise Swansea University qualifications will be considered on the public agenda of Council in July 2019.</p>
Annexes	<p>A. Swansea University review specification</p> <p>B. QAA/GOC review report for the University of Swansea (Final) dated February 2019.</p>
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Background

1. This Swansea University RQ provision for context is outline below:

i. Courses with RQ status	Master of Osteopathy
ii. Awarding body	University of Swansea
iii. RQ period	15 December 2014-14 December 2019. This paper deals with the renewal of this recognition from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024.
iv. Review dates	This Swansea University visit took place in February 2019.
v. Status of any specific RQ conditions attached to the course/s	There are no outstanding conditions.

2. This paper outlines the findings of the final GOsC/QAA Swansea University recognised qualification (RQ) report and asks the Committee to make a statutory recommendation to Council to renew the 'recognised qualification' for a further period subject to the general conditions only. Further information is outlined below.

Discussion

3. The Committee agreed the updated RQ specification for Swansea University on 12 June 2018 and this is attached at Annex A.
4. On 12 June 2018, the Committee appointed a team of three Education Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 to undertake the review.
5. The visit took place in February 2019.
6. The visit report was drafted and sent to Swansea University on the 15 March 2019 for a period of no less than one month in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 1993.
7. Swansea University responded with factual corrections on 10 April 2019 and these were considered by the Education Visitors and incorporated into the final report.
8. The final report of the Visitors is attached at Annex B. The recommendation of the Visitors for the programmes is approval without specific conditions.
9. The following is a summary of the visitors' main conclusions:

Strengths

- the embedding of research and evidence-based learning which is applied and contextualised for students in practice and in the classroom setting (paragraph 19)
- the extensive support provided by the Programme Team, the College and the University which enables students to achieve (paragraphs 30 and 31)
- the use of various methods of communication, which effectively engage the clinic and academic staff team (paragraph 41)
- the effectiveness of the academic mentors, their ability to deal with students in a timely manner and liaise among staff and University support systems, is well embedded within the department (paragraphs 47, 48 and 49)
- the Listening Forum, which provides students with the opportunity to express their views directly enables actions to be dealt with promptly (paragraph 75).

Good practice

- the peer mentoring process in the clinic which is used as an evaluative and supportive mechanism for new and existing tutors that facilitates the sharing of good practice (paragraphs 39, 40, 41 and 55)
- the clinical provision which provides students with a diverse range of patient interactions within NHS settings and enhances the student learning experience (paragraph 57).

Areas for development

- demonstrate that account is taken of all reference points for the professional aspects of osteopathic pre-registration education (paragraphs 11 and 36)
- develop and implement a mechanism to ensure that actions arising from all quality assurance processes, both internal and external, are consistently collated, actioned and reviewed (paragraphs 16, 17, 70 and 72)
- develop additional assessment guidance, which is consistent and appropriately detailed across all modules (paragraphs 22 and 26)
- integrate progression and performance data within the annual reporting cycle to enable trends in achievement to be identified and acted upon (paragraph 33)
- develop and implement guidelines for effective assessment feedback, which facilitates student achievement and progression (paragraph 50).

Approval

10. As the Osteopaths Act 1993 refers to qualifications, we have, in this section, simply referred to the named qualifications rather than the descriptions of the different courses.
11. The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations of the QAA Report and this paper for the renewal of recognition of the following qualification as outlined below:
 - a. Master of Osteopathy

12. The Committee is asked to decide whether to recommend that Council:
- Recognises the qualifications without conditions.
 - Recognises the qualifications with conditions.
 - Refuses recognition of the qualifications.
13. The Visitors' report recommends approval without specific conditions. This means that the Visitors have determined that the course will deliver graduates who meet the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
14. All 'recognised qualifications' are approved with 'general conditions'. General conditions set out key matters that could impact on the delivery of the Osteopathic Practice Standards and that need to be reported to the Committee along with an analysis of the impact on delivery of the Osteopathic Practice Standards through our RQ change notification process. These general conditions are outlined at paragraph 16 below.
15. The GOsC Director of Regulation has previously reviewed these conditions and is content to recommend them as appropriately worded conditions to the Committee.
16. The conditions are as follows:

CONDITIONS	
a.	Swansea University must submit an Annual Report, within a three month period of the date the request was first made, to the Education Committee of the General Council.
b.	Swansea University must inform the Education Committee of the General Council as soon as practicable, of any change or proposed substantial change likely to influence the quality of the course leading to the qualification and its delivery, including but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> substantial changes in finance substantial changes in management changes to the title of the qualification changes to the level of the qualification changes to franchise agreements changes to validation agreements changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. substantial changes in clinical provision ix. changes in teaching personnel x. changes in assessment xi. changes in student entry requirements xii. changes in student numbers (an increase or decline of 20 per cent or more in the number of students admitted to the course relative to the previous academic year should be reported) xiii. changes in patient numbers passing through the student clinic (an increase or decline of 20 per cent in the number of patients passing through the clinic relative to the previous academic year should be reported) xiv. changes in teaching accommodation xv. changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision
c.	<p>Swansea University must comply with the General Council's requirements for the assessment of the osteopathic clinical performance of students and its requirements for monitoring the quality and ensuring the standards of this assessment. These are outlined in the publication: <i>Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy, 2015</i>, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and <i>Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education, 2015</i>, General Osteopathic Council. The participation of real patients in a real clinical setting must be included in this assessment. Any changes in these requirements will be communicated in writing to Swansea University giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

Recognition period

17. For established osteopathic educational institutions seeking recognition of a course, the general policy is to recognise for five years unless there are any serious concerns. It is recommended that the qualification outlined in paragraph 11a is approved from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024.

Recommendation: to agree to recommend that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy awarded by the Swansea University from 15 December 2019 until 14 December 2024 subject to the general conditions outlined in paragraph 16.