

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

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.
7. The format of the review will be based on the interim GOsC/QAA Handbook (2018) (see <http://www.qaa.org.uk/reviewing-higher-education/types-of-review/general-osteopathic-council-review#>) and the *Osteopathic Practice*

¹ Enclose all relevant LCOM papers since date of last RQ Report (n.b. not included in this Annex)

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 available from <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/ops> 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:
 - 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 dates confirmed as 30 November, 1 December and 3 December – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)

Annex A to 5

- 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.