



**Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)**

**13 March 2019**

**London School of Osteopathy (LSO)- Renewal of Recognised Qualification (RQ) (reserved)**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	<p>The London School of Osteopathy (LSO) is seeking renewal of its current RQs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Master of Osteopathy</li><li>b. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)</li></ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>To agree to recommend that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) awarded by the London School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2019 until 30 August 2024 subject to the general conditions outlined in paragraph 16.</p>
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	<p>This planned 'recognised qualification' review was included in our 2018-19 financial schedule, with a budget of £20,476, and this is included in our 2018-19 budget.</p>
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	<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 the London School of Osteopathy (LSO) qualifications will be considered on the public agenda of Council on May 2019.</p>
<b>Annexes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. LSO review specification</li><li>B. QAA/GOsC review report for the LSO (Final) dated December 2018</li></ul>
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## Background

1. This London School of Osteopathy (LSO) RQ provision for context is outline below:

i. Courses with RQ status	a. Master of Osteopathy b. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
ii. Awarding body	Anglia Ruskin University
iii. RQ period	1 September 2014 to 30 August 2019. This paper deals with the renewal of this recognition from 1 September 2019 to 30 August 2024
iv. Review dates	This LSO visit took place in September and October 2018.
v. Status of any specific RQ conditions attached to the course/s	There are no outstanding conditions. However, the specification agreed by the Committee in June 2018 outlined the following matters for exploration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the implementation of the new assessment strategy and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate this.</li> </ul>

2. This paper outlines the findings of the final GOsC/QAA LSO recognised qualification (RQ) report and asks the Committee to make a statutory recommendation to Council to renew the 'recognised qualifications' 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 the LSO 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 October 2018.
6. The visit report was drafted and sent to LSO on the 12 November 2018 for a period of no less than one month in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 1993.

7. LSO responded with factual corrections on 20 November 2018 and was considered by the Education Visitors.
8. The final report of the Visitors is attached at Annex B dated December 2018. 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 extensive and responsive formal and informal feedback mechanisms that align to the students' mode of study (paragraphs 15, 33, 38 and 67)
- the embedding of the importance of patients' values within the curriculum and across the School's activities (paragraphs 16 and 42)
- the senior management team's awareness of the osteopathic external operating environment and the sharing of this understanding with staff and students (paragraphs 16, 30 and 69)
- the use of well-informed, non-osteopathic teachers to enrich the students' experience at levels 4 and 5 (paragraphs 32, 38 and 53)
- the focus on developing students as autonomous and reflective learners within a supportive study environment (paragraphs 26, 31, 35 and 65)
- the proactive and effective management of change to maintain the continuity of the students' learning experience (paragraph 62)
- the highly effective working relationship between the School and Anglia Ruskin University to underpin the students' learning experience (paragraphs 19 and 63).

#### *Areas for development*

- continue the process of reviewing, editing and updating module handbooks to ensure coherency and consistency across all curriculum documentation with the appropriate level of challenge for students (paragraphs 12 and 13)
- make more explicit the requirements for students to achieve the programme learning outcomes, within the framework of Anglia Ruskin University's assessment regulations (paragraph 21)
- develop a more explicit process to inform clinic tutors as to the students' expected capability at each stage of their programme of study (paragraph 18)
- introduce a system for the further dissemination, in full, of the external examiner reports to all staff and students to raise the awareness of learning points arising from these reports (paragraphs 23 and 66)
- develop further the process for systematically gathering and analysing data on the experience and views of patients (including complaints), in line with the introduction of the updated Osteopathic Practice Standards (September 2019), to enhance the quality of service delivery and contribute to the development of the curriculum (paragraphs 19, 41, 55 and 68)

- develop a formal system for identifying and supporting staff development to meet the current and future needs of osteopathic (academic and clinical) teaching and learning (paragraphs 40 and 69)
- develop further the arrangements for improving the students' understanding of their role as health professionals together with the wider career opportunities open to them (paragraphs 29, 30 and 52).

### *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 qualifications as outlined below:
  - a. Master of Osteopathy
  - b. Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons)
12. The Committee is asked to decide whether to recommend that Council:
  - a. Recognises the qualifications without conditions.
  - b. Recognises the qualifications with conditions.
  - c. Refuses recognition of the qualifications.
13. The Visitors' report recommends approval without specific conditions. This means that their Visitors have determined that the courses will deliver graduates who meet the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. The LSO had no specific conditions during its previous renewal of recognition review.
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 the conditions under the Osteopaths Act 1993 and is content to recommend them as appropriately worded conditions to the Committee.
16. The conditions are as follows:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The London School of Osteopathy 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.	<p>The London School of Osteopathy 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. substantial changes in finance</li> <li>ii. substantial changes in management</li> <li>iii. changes to the title of the qualification</li> <li>iv. changes to the level of the qualification</li> <li>v. changes to franchise agreements</li> <li>vi. changes to validation agreements</li> <li>vii. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery</li> <li>viii. substantial changes in clinical provision</li> <li>ix. changes in teaching personnel</li> <li>x. changes in assessment</li> <li>xi. changes in student entry requirements</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>xiv. changes in teaching accommodation</li> <li>xv. changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision</li> </ul>
c.	<p>The London School of Osteopathy 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>,</p>

	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 the London School of Osteopathy giving not less than 9 months notice.
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*Recognition period*

17. For established OEIs 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 qualifications outlined in paragraph 11 a and b are approved from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2023.

**Recommendation:** to agree to recommend that, subject to the approval of the Privy Council, Council recognises the Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) awarded by the London School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2019 until 30 August 2024 subject to the general conditions outlined in paragraph 16.