



**Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)**

**13 March 2019**

**Plymouth Marjon University – RQ specification for renewal of recognition of qualification (reserved)**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualification (RQ) review at the Plymouth Marjon University.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To agree the review specification for the Plymouth Marjon University RQ review.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2019-20 financial year and are incorporated into our current contract with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) at a cost of £21876.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	The review specification is shared with the QAA and the University and will be publicly available.
<b>Annex</b>	Draft review specification for the Plymouth Marjon Renewal of Recognition review
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## Background

1. The Plymouth Marjon University (Marjon) currently provides the following qualifications which is due to expire on 31 January 2021: Master in Osteopathic Medicine – full time and part time.
2. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in 2019. 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 Marjon, 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. The Committee will be asked to appoint a review team at their next meeting.

## Discussion

### *Review specification*

4. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on the review specification. A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.
5. The University of St Mark and St John (now known as Plymouth Marjon University) (Marjon) was granted RQ approval for the Master in Osteopathic Medicine qualifications by the Privy Council in August 2017 from 1 September 2017 to 31 January 2021 and approved six specific conditions and three general conditions imposed by the General Council. These conditions reflected that the review took place before the course admitted students and so were appropriate to the stage of development of the course. These conditions are listed in the table below:

i.	Revisit and comprehensively map external reference points, including the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS), the Guidance for Osteopathic pre-registration Education (GOPRE) and the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy, by May 2017, and ensure that their requirements are fully embedded throughout the programme (paragraphs 12 to 15).
ii.	Implement a phased strategy for ensuring that external clinical placements are available from September 2019, consistent with the requirements of the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy, sufficient to meet projected student numbers and underpinned by service level agreements that articulate clinical arrangements and responsibilities, and the support and mentoring to be provided for placement supervisors and their students (paragraph 33, 50, 58, and 59).
iii.	Implement, by September 2017, a fitness to practise policy that reflects current General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) guidance, and ensure that key staff, including external placement supervisors, are trained to

	participate in relevant stages of the process (paragraph 48).
iv.	Implement, by May 2017, a phased five-year clinic infrastructure development strategy that meets the requirements of the Subject Benchmark Statement for osteopathy and the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS), consistent with initial development requirements and planned growth in student numbers, as part of a comprehensive plan for learning resources and programme expansion.
v.	Implement, by August 2017, a marketing strategy linked to forecast student numbers, to ensure that an appropriate range and diversity of patient presentations are available to meet students' learning needs, consistent with the expectations of the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy and the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education.
vi.	Implement, by March 2017, a comprehensive phased strategy for the recruitment, appointment and training of specialist staff, to provide students with a diversity of exposure to a range of osteopathic perspectives, so that staff are in post three months prior to programme start.
vii.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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.
viii.	<p>The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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>a. substantial changes in finance</li> <li>b. substantial changes in management</li> <li>c. changes to the title of the qualification</li> <li>d. changes to the level of the qualification</li> <li>e. changes to franchise agreements</li> <li>f. changes to validation agreements</li> <li>g. changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery</li> <li>h. substantial changes in clinical provision</li> <li>i. changes in teaching personnel</li> <li>j. changes in assessment</li> <li>k. changes in student entry requirements</li> <li>l. 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>m. 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>n. changes in teaching accommodation</li> <li>o. changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision</li> </ul>

ix.	The University of St Mark and St John (MARJON) 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 the MARJON giving not less than 9 months notice.
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6. The initial recognition visit was completed in October 2016. The programme will be delivered over four years as a full time and over six years as a part-time course.
7. The first cohort of students was admitted in 2017 and full-time students are expected to graduate from summer 2021. Fourteen students were initially enrolled in the 2017/18 programme, and 28 were enrolled on the 2018/19 programme. This review will take place a few months into year 3 when the first students have entered the clinic but before any students have reached year 4 and graduated.
8. In terms of the conditions attached to the RQ, the Policy Advisory Committee has been monitoring these closely. The Committee agreed that condition 1 had been fulfilled during the June 2017 meeting and agreed that condition 3 had been fulfilled during the March 2018 meeting. It was also agreed the March 2018 meeting that Marjon should provide an update on the progress of the implementation of outstanding conditions in the Annual Report due in December 2018. The review specification includes all matters related to the conditions – both fulfilled and outstanding.
9. Currently a range of other health and related courses are delivered at Marjon. These include BSc Sports therapy, BSc Rehabilitation in Sport and Exercise and BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy (regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council).
10. The renewal of recognition of qualification visit to Marjon needs to take place within this time frame to allow the sufficient time for the running of the clinic to be established.

#### *Next steps*

11. 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.

**Recommendation:** To agree the review specification for the Plymouth Marjon University RQ review.

### Draft Review Specification for Plymouth Marjon University – Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualification Review

Draft as at 27 February 2019

#### Background

1. Plymouth Marjon University (Marjon) currently provides the following qualification which is due to expire on 31 January 2020: Master in Osteopathic medicine qualifications – full time and part time.
2. Marjon 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 monitoring review of the following qualifications:
  - a. Master in Osteopathic Medicine (full time)
  - b. Master in Osteopathic Medicine (part time)
4. 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*
  - 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.
5. The format of the review will be based on the updated GOsC/QAA Handbook 2019 and the updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* (2018) (<https://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/osteopathic-practice-standards/updated-osteopathic-practice-standards/>) which come into force on 1 September 2019. 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/>).

6. In addition to the usual review format for an renewal of recognition review (appropriate to the stage of development of this course), the Committee would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:
  - a. Update on clinical provision, and clinical education, to include:
    - Update on progress made and effectiveness of clinical placement provision, including service level agreements that articulate clinical arrangements and responsibilities, and mentoring provision for supervisors and students. (Condition 2)
    - How the potential risk of patients being treated external to the university environment is mitigated (including ensuring appropriate supervision of students and quality assurance of placements, relevant complaints policies etc)
    - Provision of a teaching clinic infrastructure and resources, sufficient to meet current requirements and consistent with planned growth in student numbers. (Condition 4)
    - Implementation of a clinic marketing strategy sufficient to ensure that there is an appropriate range and diversity of patients in order to meet students' needs, consistent with the expectations of the Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy and the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education. (Condition 5)
  - b. An update on staffing to include:
    - Progress on the phased strategy for recruitment, appointment and training of specialist staff to provide students with a diversity of exposure to a range of osteopathic perspectives. (Condition 6)
    - Training for staff, including external placement supervisors, in relation to the student fitness to practise policy. (Condition 3)
  - c. An update on the areas for development recommended in the QAA Visitors' Report from October 2016, which were:
    - Ensure that comprehensive formative and summative assessment information is provided in all module handbooks prior to the start of the programme.
    - Articulate more clearly within the programme specification, module descriptors and handbooks how the programme teaching and learning strategy progressively facilitates students' integrated competence development throughout the levels, by ensuring that the clinical education experience is effectively structured, including external placements in supporting in-house clinical education, and that students' development of their knowledge, skills and professional attributes are similarly structured within the other core programme themes. Implement a plan for engaging service users in the development and enhancement of the programme and the clinical experience.

- Include in the programme specification clear criteria for the recognition of prior learning, including available modules, procedures to identify any further gaps in applicants' incoming competence profiles and, where appropriate, their record of osteopathic clinical education practice.
- Include in the programme specification particular arrangements for inducting and orientating UK and non-UK students entering with advanced standing, consistent with the requirements of Osteopathic Practice Standards, and addressing any deficiencies in their incoming competence profiles.

### Provisional Timetable

7. The provisional timetable for the Marjon RQ review will be as follows:

Month/Year	Action/Decision
March 2019	Committee agreement of review specification
June 2019	Committee agreement and statutory appointment of visitors
November 2019	Submission of self-evaluation document.
January 2020	RQ Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
February 2020	Draft Report to MARJON for comments-statutory period.
March 2020	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
June 2020	Recommendation from the Committee to Council to whether to approve the RQ programme
July 2020	Recognition of Qualification by the General Osteopathic Council
Before December 2020	Privy Council Approval

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the University of St Mark Marjon, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NB: This specification has been drawn up using edited extracts from the QAA Handbook and the QAA Benchmark Statement adapted appropriately for the stage of development of this course.