



**Policy Advisory Committee (statutory Education Committee)**

**13 October 2016**

**Recognised Qualification review specification – The British College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM)**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	Agreement of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualifications review at the BCOM commencing in autumn 2017.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To agree the review specification for the BCOM renewal of RQ review.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	This planned 'recognised qualification' review was included in our 2018/19 financial schedule, with a budget of £21,871
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	The review specification will be shared with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the BCOM.
<b>Annex</b>	Draft BCOM review specification.
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## Background

1. The current BCOM RQ provision and context for the review is outlined below.

Courses with RQ status	Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) – 4 years full time Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) – 4 years full time Diploma in Osteopathy – 4 years full time
Awarding bodies	Plymouth University (year 1, 2 and 3 validation)  London Metropolitan University (year 3 and 4 validation). From the start of the academic year 2017-18, BCOM will not have a validation relationship with London Metropolitan University.
RQ period	1 October 2013 to 30 September 2018. This paper deals with the renewal of this recognition from 1 October 2018 – 30 September 2023
Status of any specific RQ conditions attached to the course/s	No specific conditions.
The statutory Education Committee specific requests for information in the Annual Report return	2016 annual report to include an update on methods of implementation of the new assessment strategy for staff and students (including training) and financial strategy for continuing to reduce the deficit.  2017 annual report to include an update on mechanisms to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the revised assessments from September 2016 in order that any necessary adaptations can be made before they impact on the following year.

2. The last RQ visit to BCOM took place in January 2013 and this report is available at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/bcom-qa-review-of-osteopathic-courses-and-course-providers-jan/>
3. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in summer 2017. Before the review is scheduled, the Committee will also be asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors in accordance with s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993. We will also agree a suitable timeline with the BCOM, taking account of the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.

## Discussion

4. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on a review specification in accordance with the GOsC/QAA Review process. This process is set out at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/how-we-review-higher-education/general-osteopathic-council-review>. An initial draft of the review specification is presented to the Committee to approve.
5. There are no specific RQ conditions for the courses leading to the qualifications.
6. Since 2013, the Committee has considered the following matters in relation to BCOM:
  - a. Report of changes to the assessment strategy, implementation and evaluation.
  - b. The strategy for continuing to reduce the deficit now that there is no longer a 'fallow' year.
7. In addition the specification takes into account recent discussion of the following areas at the previous Committee meetings, which the Committee wished to follow up as part of the next GOsC Review, ensuring that delivery of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* continues to be maintained, including:
  - a. The robustness of the BCOM financial situation, taking into account the impact of a previous fallow period, although it is noted that previous annual report has shown the impact from this period was being mitigated.
  - b. The impact of BCOM's new assessment strategy.
8. This review specification may be subject to change prior to the review. Any changes to the specification will be notified to the Committee.

**Recommendation:** to agree the review specification for the BCOM.

### **GOsC Review Specification for the review of qualifications awarded by the British College of Medicine**

#### **DRAFT**

**7 September 2016**

#### **Background**

1. BCOM currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 30 September 2018:
  - a. Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) – 4 years full time
  - b. Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) – 4 years full time
  - c. Diploma in Osteopathy – 4 years full time
2. BCOM wishes to renew all of these qualifications. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification approval and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review report of 2013 for BCOM is attached for information.

#### **QAA Review**

3. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined renewal of recognition review of the following qualifications with RQ status:
  - a. Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) – 4 years full time
  - b. Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) – 4 years full time
  - c. Diploma in Osteopathy – 4 years full time
4. 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/>). Reference points for the review will also include the GOsC Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (2015) (<http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/training/guidance-for-osteopathic-pre-registration-education/>
5. In addition to the usual review format, the statutory Education Committee would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:
  - a. The robustness of the BCOM financial situation, taking into account the impact of a previous fallow period which has now concluded. It is noted that the deficit has continued to reduce and that mitigating actions are being taken.
  - b. The impact of BCOM's new assessment strategy.

6. The provisional timetable for the BCOM RQ review to be completed before the end of the current RQ period in September 2018 will be as follows:
  - 13 October 2016 – statutory Education Committee agreement of review specification
  - March 2017 - statutory Education Committee approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates
  - July - August 2017 – Submission of self-evaluation document
  - October 2017 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
  - November 2017 – Submission of draft report and statutory 28 days for comment on the report.
  - December 2017-January 2018 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
  - March 2018 – Renewal of RQ considered by statutory Education Committee
  - Spring 2018 – Decision to Recognise RQ considered by Council
  - Summer 2018 – Approval of Council decision to recognise RQ by Privy Council.
  
7. This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the BCOM, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.