



Policy Advisory Committee (Education Committee)

10 October 2017

**European School of Osteopathy – Recognised Qualification review
specification and appointment of Visitors**

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	<p>Approval of the Review Specification for the renewal of the Recognised Qualifications review at the European School of Osteopathy commencing in spring 2018.</p> <p>The appointment of the Visitors for the European School of Osteopathy Recognised Qualification Review.</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the review specification for the European School of Osteopathy renewal of RQ review.2. To agree to appoint Seth Crofts, Manoj Mehta and Liz Elander as Visitors for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy and the Master of Osteopathy qualifications offered by the European School of Osteopathy.
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2018-19 financial year.
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	The review specification will be shared with the QAA and School and will be publicly available.
Annex	Draft European School of Osteopathy review specification
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Background

1. The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) currently provides the following recognised qualifications (RQs) which are due to expire on 31 August 2019:
 - a. Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy – four years full time
 - b. Master of Osteopathy –four years full time.
2. The ESO programmes are currently validated by Buckinghamshire New University for new entrants as from September 2017, and remaining years are validated by the University of Greenwich.
3. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in spring 2018. 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 GOsC and agree suitable dates with the ESO, taking account of the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.
4. This paper asks the Committee to agree the review specification and to appoint the Education Visitor team.

Discussion

Review Specification

5. The QAA will conduct the review visit on behalf of the GOsC, based on a review specification. A draft of the review specification is presented at the annex for the Committee to approve.
6. There are no outstanding conditions attached to any of these courses.
7. However, it may be helpful for there to be a degree of follow-up in relation to the conditions which were attached originally to this course and which where:
 - a. The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) should:
 - i. complete the mapping of all module intended learning outcomes to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* published by the General Osteopathic Council, by 30 September 2014;
 - ii. complete the mapping of all grading criteria for individual modules presented in the Examiner Handbook to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* published by the General Osteopathic Council, by 30 September 2014;
 - iii. collate information relating to module specifications and course profiles, intended learning outcomes, schemes of work, task summaries and assessment criteria into a format that is clear and simple, and ensure

that this is communicated effectively to all students by 30 September 2014'

8. The ESO submitted an update to its initial action plan to demonstrate progress on meeting the condition the ESO mapped the Learning Outcome for each module taught at the to the OPS. The QAA reported to the Committee that the ESO provided clear documentation demonstrating the mapping of all modules intended learning outcomes to the OPS. The fulfilment of this condition was agreed by the Committee in October 2014.
9. In addition the review 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* (OPS) continues to be maintained. These areas include:

Implementation of the new assessment strategy

10. The ESO has been under a period of extensive changes in staffing and assessment since their last RQ in 2013. The Committee has been concerned whether these changes could impact on the delivery of the OPS. The Committee wanted more depth information about the implementation of the changes and identified the need to monitor this implementation of the assessment strategy as a whole.
11. Matters reviewed by the Committee during this period include:
 - a. The way the ESO evaluates (through external examiner reports and other sources) changes made to the assessment strategy ensuring that will continue to deliver the OPS. (reported to the Committee in March 2015)
 - b. The monitoring of the implementation of the assessment strategy as a whole and how component modules map against and deliver the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* as a whole to allow these changes reported in the annual return to be seen in context and provide evidence on how this is been carried out.(noted by the Committee in March 2016)
 - c. The monitoring of the apparent grade inflation and other assessment issues raised by external examiners to the Committee in March 2016 exploring how the School is being supported by its validating partner including how student module feedback is collated and addressed and also further granularity about how the identified areas for improvement have been incorporated into the Programme Monitoring Report. (noted by the Committee in March 2016)
12. Evidence in relation to all these matters was considered by the Committee in June 2016 and it was assured that standards were being met. The Committee agreed to follow up with an update on implementation as part of the Annual Report due at the end of 2016.

13. In March 2017, the Committee considered the QAA analysis of the annual report and noted that as a result of a new validation with Buckinghamshire New University, further changes were being made to the curriculum and assessment for year 1. A further update on this is being considered in more detail on the private agenda.
14. It is therefore important that the RQ review specification focusses on the curricula in force for the different years, assessment and also the implementation of this in light of the new staffing structures and this has been reflected in the draft review specification. (See also below).

Governance review

15. Matters reviewed by the Committee during this period included:
 - a. The progress of the governance review following changes to the trustees. (noted by the Committee in June 2016 and March 2017)
16. The Committee should require an update as to the effectiveness of the governance mechanisms in place as part of the RQ review and this has been reflected in the draft review specification.

Student Fitness to Practice

17. The ESO redrafted their Fitness to Study Policy and a revised Disciplinary Policy and trained panel members (noted as completed by the Committee in June 2016).
18. The Committee should continue to monitor the effectiveness of the training for panellists as part of the student fitness to practise procedures as part of the RQ review and this has been reflected in the draft review specification.

Patient Feedback

19. Matters reviewed by the Committee as part of this period included:
 - a. The provision of further detail about how patient feedback is gathered and analysed and fed into the quality management process to be provided in the next annual report due in December 2017 (noted by the Committee in March 2017).
20. The Committee should require consideration about how patient feedback is gathered, analysed and fed into the quality assurance process as part of the RQ specification and this is reflected in the draft review specification at the annex.

Next steps

21. This draft 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.

Appointment of Visitors

22. Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'The Education Committee may appoint Visitors to.... report to the Education Committee on the nature and quality of instruction and such other matters as he was required to report on by the Committee.'
23. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of the ESO qualifications as outlined in the RQ Review Specification at the annex.
24. The visit is scheduled to take place 18 to 20 April 2018 at the ESO The proposed Visit Team is:
 - Seth Crofts, Lay Visitor, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Edge Hill University
 - Manoj Mehta, Osteopath
 - Elizabeth Elander, Osteopath.
25. The Visiting Team comprises a mixture of existing and new Education Visitors in GOsC/QAA reviews. These recommended Visitors are members of the QAA / GOsC Visitors pool (comprising lay people and osteopaths) administered by the QAA who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all Visitors on our behalf. All new Visitors were appointed through a rigorous process and have participated in training within the last 12 months.
26. We have checked that the osteopaths are currently registered. We have also checked the Visiting Team with the ESO which has confirmed that they are not aware of any conflicts. The proposed Visiting Team have not declared any conflicts in undertaking the review of the ESO. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these Visitors.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the review specification for the European School of Osteopathy renewal of RQ review.
2. To agree to appoint Seth Crofts, Manoj Mehta and Elizabeth Elander as Visitors for the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy and the Master of Osteopathy qualifications offered by the European School of Osteopathy.

Draft Review Specification for the European School of Osteopathy – Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualifications Draft as at 11 August 2017

Background

1. The European School of Osteopathy (ESO) currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 31 August 2019:
 - a. Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy
 - b. Master of Osteopathy
2. The ESO wishes to renew both of these qualifications. A copy of the current Recognised Qualification award and the last Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Report is attached for information.
3. Copies of Committee papers relating to the ESO are attached to this specification for information.

QAA Review

4. The GOsC requests that the QAA schedules a combined renewal of recognition review of the following qualifications:
 - a. Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathy
 - b. Master of Osteopathy
5. 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.
6. 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/>). 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/>).

7. In addition to the usual review format, the Committee would like to ensure that the following areas are explored:

Implementation of the new curriculum and assessment strategies

8. The ESO has been under a period of extensive changes in staffing, curricula and assessment since their last RQ visit in 2013. There have been changes to the assessment strategies and also subsequent revalidation of new curricula and assessments with Buckinghamshire New University. The Committee have been concerned to ensure that the effective implementation of these changes delivers the OPS. The Committee wanted more depth information about the implementation of the changes and identified the need to monitor this implementation of the assessment strategy as a whole to ensure delivery of the OPS.

Governance review

9. The ESO has made some significant changes to governance since the last RQ review. The Committee is concerned to ensure that the governance structures now in place are effective in monitoring the delivery of the OPS.

Student Fitness to Practice

10. The ESO redrafted their Fitness to Study Policy and a revised Disciplinary Policy and trained panel members. The Committee are concerned to ensure that the training remains effective.

Patient Feedback

11. The Committee would like further detail about how patient feedback is gathered and analysed and fed into the quality management process.

Review Specification and Provisional timetable

12. 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.
13. The provisional timetable for the European School of Osteopathy RQ review will be as follows:
 - October 2017 – Committee agreement of review specification and appointment of Visitors.

Annex to 11

- October 2017 – Committee approval of Visitors and scheduling review timetable and visit dates
- February 2018 – Submission of self-evaluation document
- Visit in April 2018 – Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
- May 2018 – Draft Report sent to ESO for comments (report needs to be finalised by September 2018) – statutory period.
- June / July 2018 – Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any).
- October 2018 – Recommendation from the Committee to Council to recognise the qualifications.
- February 2019 – Recognition of Qualification from the General Osteopathic Council.
- Before July 2019 – Approval from the Privy Council.

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the ESO, GOsC and the QAA to ensure mutually convenient times.