

### Review Specification for the European School of Osteopathy – Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualifications

#### 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 A to 9**

- 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.