



**Policy Education Committee**  
**07 December 2020**  
**College of Osteopaths - RQ Specification (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 College of Osteopaths.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To agree the review specification for the College of Osteopaths RQ Review
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The costs of the review will be budgeted for within the 2021-22 financial year are incorporated into our current contract with Mott MacDonald at a cost of £14,308.185.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality and diversity issues are explored as part of the RQ renewal process and are explicitly referenced as part of the review criteria set out in the Interim Quality Assurance Handbook at Item 2 of this agenda.
<b>Communications implications</b>	The review specification is shared with the College of Osteopaths, Mott MacDonald and will be shared with the Visiting Team when they are appointed and it is publicly available.
<b>Annex</b>	Draft review specification for the College of Osteopaths Renewal of Recognition review.
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## Background

1. The College of Osteopaths currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 30 April 2022.

Staffordshire University:

- Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst Part-time)
- Master of Osteopathy (MOst - Part-time) (last cohort entry 2018/19)

University of Derby

- Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time) (first cohort entry 2019/20)

2. The last RQ visit took place in May 2016 and the Education Committee agreed to recommend renewal of the RQ with specific conditions at its meeting on 13 October 2016 from 1 May 2017 until 30 April 2022. This recommendation was agreed by Council at its meeting on 2 November 2016 and the College's qualifications listed (above) received Privy Council approval on 20 December 2016.
3. In order to renew the recognition of the qualifications before they expire, a GOsC RQ Review should commence in 2021. Before the review is scheduled, the Committee will be asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993. Suitable dates will be agreed with the College of Osteopaths, taking into account the indicative timetable outlined in the review specification at the Annex.
4. This paper asks the Committee to agree the review specification.

## Discussion

### *Review specification*

5. Mott MacDonald will conduct the review on behalf of the GOsC, based on the review specification. A draft review specification is presented at the Annex for the Committee to approve.
6. The College of Osteopaths RQ approval for the Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst Part-time) and Master of Osteopathy (MOst-Part-time) from 1 May 2017 - 30 April 2022 has three specific conditions and three general conditions attached. The Conditions are listed in the table below:

CONDITIONS	
a.	The College of Osteopaths must reinforce the awareness and understanding of student practitioners in seeking, articulating and obtaining valid patient consent in line with the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
b.	The College of Osteopaths must develop and implement an academic

.	misconduct policy to strengthen the understanding, detection and management of plagiarism within assessment.
c.	The College of Osteopaths must articulate a strategic plan, post 2016, that sets a clear direction for osteopathic education at the College in line with its foundation and that is disseminated to all stakeholders.
d.	The College of Osteopaths 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.
e.	<p>The College of Osteopaths 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>• substantial changes in finance</li> <li>• substantial changes in management</li> <li>• changes to the title of the qualification</li> <li>• changes to the level of the qualification</li> <li>• changes to franchise agreements</li> <li>• changes to validation agreements</li> <li>• changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery</li> <li>• substantial changes in clinical provision</li> <li>• changes in teaching personnel</li> <li>• changes in assessment</li> <li>• changes in student entry requirements</li> <li>• 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>• 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>• changes in teaching accommodation</li> <li>• changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision</li> </ul>
f.	The College of Osteopaths 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 College of Osteopaths giving not less than 9 months notice.

7. The Policy Advisory Committee agreed that conditions a, b and c had been fulfilled at its meeting in June 2019.
8. The RQ Visit report also recommended five areas for development which the College reported on as part of their 2018-19 Annual Report submission.

	<b>Areas for development</b>
1	Identify opportunities for raising further the awareness of the distinction between the BOst and MOst with staff and students.
2	Review the effectiveness of the processes used to ensure the consistent delivery of lectures at both sites.
3	Develop further the management of new patients to provide students with the opportunity for providing continued treatment.
4	Develop the use of technology to enhance the learning opportunities available to students.
5	Review the reporting lines within the deliberative committee structure to ensure due consideration is given to annual monitoring documents before final signed off by the Quality Review Board.

9. In 2019, the College entered a validation agreement with the University of Derby to validate the Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time). The College has decided to no longer offer the M.Ost programme. The Committee raised some concerns at its June 2019 meeting about the reduction in the number of credits in the new Derby validated programme. Members were concerned about the risk to the delivery of the OPS and the ability of students on the new programme to meet the requirements of the OPS as a result of the reduction in the number of credits offered on the University of Derby Programme. These issues were clarified at the Committee's October 2019 meeting, when it was agreed that the College has demonstrated that the Osteopathic Practice Standards continued to be sufficiently delivered within the new University of Derby programme.

#### *Next Steps*

10. The 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*

11. 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 was required to report on by the Committee'.
12. The Visitors are in the process of being appointed and members will be asked to confirm their appointment electronically in January 2021.

13. The visit is scheduled to take place in April 2021 through the use of a blended approach of remote and physical visits to the various sites used to deliver the programmes including at Staffordshire University, University of Derby, and the teaching clinics in Stoke and Borehamwood.

**Recommendation:**

To agree the review specification for the College of Osteopaths of RQ Review.

### **Draft Review Specification for the College of Osteopaths- Renewal of Recognition of Recognised Qualification Review**

#### **Background**

1. The College of Osteopaths (the College) currently provides the following qualifications which are due to expire on 30 April 2022:
  - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time) – Awarded by Staffordshire University (last cohort entry 2018/19)
  - b. Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time)- Awarded by Derby University. (first cohort entry 2019/20)
2. The College wishes to renew the RQ for 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.

#### **Review Specification**

3. The GOsC requests that Mott MacDonald schedules a monitoring review for Visitors to report on the following qualifications:
  - a. Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time) and Master of Osteopathy (MOst - Part-time) – Awarded by Staffordshire University
  - b. Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst - Part-time)- Awarded by Derby University.
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).
  - 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 interim Mott MacDonald Handbook reported to the Committee for approval under item 2 at this meeting, and the Osteopathic Practice Standards (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 a 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. The impact of the change of validator from Staffordshire University to the University of Derby, including plans for teaching out the Staffordshire programme to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning and delivery of standards is maintained.
  - b. The implementation of the Derby BOst - Part-time programme, which features a reduction in the length of the course, the number of credits within the programme and reduction in clinical hours compared to the former curriculum.
  - c. The varied learning experience of students based at the Staffordshire, Derby and London campuses and clinics.
  - d. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the delivery of programmes, and the changes and modifications made as a result of this.

**Table 1- Outstanding Conditions**

CONDITIONS	
a.	The College of Osteopaths must reinforce the awareness and understanding of student practitioners in seeking, articulating and obtaining valid patient consent in line with the Osteopathic Practice Standards. <b>The requirements of this Condition have been fully fulfilled.</b>
b.	The College of Osteopaths must develop and implement an academic misconduct policy to strengthen the understanding, detection and management of plagiarism within assessment. <b>The requirements of this Condition have been fully fulfilled.</b>
c.	The College of Osteopaths must articulate a strategic plan, post 2016, that sets a clear direction for osteopathic education at the College in line with its foundation and that is disseminated to all stakeholders. <b>The requirements of this Condition have been fully fulfilled.</b>
d.	The College of Osteopaths 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.
e.	The College of Osteopaths 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• substantial changes in finance</li> <li>• substantial changes in management</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes to the title of the qualification</li> <li>• changes to the level of the qualification</li> <li>• changes to franchise agreements</li> <li>• changes to validation agreements</li> <li>• changes to the length of the course and the mode of its delivery</li> <li>• substantial changes in clinical provision</li> <li>• changes in teaching personnel</li> <li>• changes in assessment</li> <li>• changes in student entry requirements</li> <li>• 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>• 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>• changes in teaching accommodation</li> <li>• changes in IT, library and other learning resource provision</li> </ul>
f.	<p>The College of Osteopaths 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 College of Osteopaths giving not less than 9 months notice.</p>

**Table 2- Areas for development**

	<b>Areas for development</b>
1	Identify opportunities for raising further the awareness of the distinction between the BOst and MOst with staff and students.
2	Review the effectiveness of the processes used to ensure the consistent delivery of lectures at both sites.
3	Develop further the management of new patients to provide students with the opportunity for providing continued treatment.
4	Develop the use of technology to enhance the learning opportunities available to students.
5	Review the reporting lines within the deliberative committee structure to ensure due consideration is given to annual monitoring documents before final signed off by the Quality Review Board.



**Provisional Timetable**

7. The provisional timetable for the College of Osteopaths review will be as follows:

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Action/Decision</b>
December 2020	Committee agreement of review specification and visitors
January 2021	Committee agreement and statutory appointment of visitors
10 weeks before the visit (January / February 2021)	Submission of mapping document
April 2021	RQ Visit (including observation of teaching and learning both clinical and academic and opportunities for discussions with staff and students.)
5 weeks following visit (June 2021)	Draft Report to College of Osteopaths for comments- statutory period.
July 2021	Preparation of Action Plan to meet proposed conditions (if any)
October 2021	Recommendation from the Committee to Council to whether to approve the RQ programme
November 2021	Recognition of Qualification by the General Osteopathic Council
March 2022	Privy Council Approval

This timetable will be the subject of negotiation with the College of Osteopaths, GOsC and Mott MacDonald to ensure mutually convenient times